

REPORT ON BARGAINING

Mobile Crisis/Safety Services Bargaining Unit

January 2006

Over the past several months, our bargaining unit has experienced some major changes in addition to preparing for contract negotiations with the employer.

SGEU staffing

In June 2005, Susan Jeannotte, our SGEU staff representative, passed away after a short illness. Colin Byas has assumed the duties of our Agreement Administrator Advisor (AAA) on a temporary basis.

Safety Services joins Mobile Crisis Bargaining Unit

In March 2005, the Labour Standards Branch of Saskatchewan Labour ruled that Safety Services was part of the Certification Order for Mobile Crisis, making Safety Services part of our bargaining unit. Since that time, the Executive of Mobile Crisis Bargaining Unit has met with members of Safety Services to develop a plan to implement this change. We hope to present our plan to the membership in January. We believe that any problems arising from the amalgamation can be dealt with through the collective bargaining process using language in the current collective agreement and developing new language for our new collective agreement.

Joint Mobile Crisis Unit meetings

The three Mobile Crisis Units have been meeting to develop a common bargaining strategy to address our shared concerns. We have also met with management and some board members in an attempt to jointly develop a strategy to convince government to address chronic under-funding and the wage disparity in mobile crisis services compared to other public service counterparts.

Bargaining/Call for Proposals

As we prepare for the new round of bargaining, we now formally ask for proposals from members. Proposals must be submitted to the Negotiating Committee by February 17th, 2006. Please contact any of the committee members, Norma Sorenson, Bronwyn Hingston, and Trudy Crane for Proposals Forms or more information.

Once a proposals package has been collated, we will hold membership meetings to discuss the proposals and ratify the package. Watch for announcements about upcoming membership meetings. We hope to be at the bargaining table early in 2006.

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Increased funding for CBOs

Over the last several months, the provincial government has announced several initiatives that will see increased funding for community-based organizations (CBOs). The additional funds are intended to increase the wages of workers in CBOs. SGEU is currently gathering more information in order to determine the financial impact on our bargaining unit.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact the members of the Negotiating Committee.

Respectfully submitted:

Mobile Crisis/Safety Services Negotiating Committee
Norma Sorensen
Bronwyn Hingston
Trudy Crane