



## HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES' UNION

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November 12, 2008

Secretary Treasurers

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

**Re: CUPE National Bargaining Women's Equality Conference – Montreal – February 2009**

On February 10-13, 2009, the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) is holding its first ever National Women's Bargaining Conference, in Montreal.

In 2007, after two years of work, the CUPE National Women's Task Force reported on the status of women in our workplaces, society and the union. The Task Force made 54 recommendations, the first of which was to support a women's bargaining agenda.

The upcoming conference has been organized in response to the Women's Task Force and will include panel presentations, discussion and workshops focusing on:

- ❖ Strategies to raise women's wages and benefits
- ❖ Obtaining and improving pensions for women
- ❖ Negotiating leaves to improve work and home balance
- ❖ Bargaining secure jobs
- ❖ Improving provisions to protect women from violence

Health care workers in British Columbia know only too well that the contracting out and privatization agenda of the Campbell Liberal Government has had a disproportionate impact on women and making gains at the bargaining table is a priority for HEU.

In order to support the work of bargaining committees we are encouraging members to apply to attend the CUPE National Women's Bargaining Conference. Members who are interested in attending **MUST** complete both the HEU and CUPE application forms and return them to the **HEU Provincial Office no later than Friday, December 19, 2008.**

We are asking that locals circulate the information and application forms widely and actively seek out members who are interested in learning more about bargaining equality.

In solidarity,

  
Judy Darcy  
Secretary-Business Manager

cc. Provincial Executive; Directors; Representatives  
Chairpersons

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KEN ROBINSON, President • JUDY DARCY, Secretary-Business Manager • DONISA BERNARDO, Financial Secretary  
The BC Health Services Division of the Canadian Union of Public Employees

