

AN OPEN LETTER TO BCNU DELEGATES

March, 2010

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Dear BCNU member,

Following a long and expensive raid campaign by BCNU's leadership, the majority of LPNs made a decision to remain members of HEU.

Last month, the B.C. Labour Relations Board released a report from the Industrial Relations Officer (IRO) confirming that BCNU did not produce enough valid signed membership cards to allow their primary province-wide application to proceed.

It also confirmed that BCNU failed to achieve majority support for any of their six alternate raid applications (based on individual health authorities).

It is now very likely that the LRB will bar BCNU from attempting a further raid on this group of HEU members until the fall of 2012.

What you may not know is that despite these facts, your leadership is actively pursuing its campaign to support a future raid.

As an individual RN you may, or may not, agree with the path your leadership has chosen for your union over the next two years.

But we believe that as colleagues in health care and as union members, we share common values and objectives that are worth preserving. And we believe the BCNU leadership's actions undermine what we hold in common.

THIS RAID IS A MAJOR AND DISCOURAGING SHIFT IN DIRECTION FOR BCNU. Despite occasional differences, our two unions have always managed to work together on what matters most to our members and to public health care.

THIS RAID HAS NOT ONLY CONSUMED MILLIONS OF DOLLARS in financial resources, but it has also exacted an enormous toll on relationships in the workplace and between our unions.

THIS RAID IS BLOCKING OUR COMBINED ABILITY to effectively take on the fight against devastating health care cutbacks that are impacting communities across our province.

THIS RAID IS CONTINUING TO FUEL UNNECESSARY DIVISIONS between individual BCNU and HEU members, and throughout the whole labour community.

For all these reasons, we believe there is far more to be gained by working together than by continuing to waste resources and undermine the relationships needed to make a difference for our members and the public.

Thank you for reading this letter and for considering these issues as you plan for the future of your union.

HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES' UNION



P.S. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. Please pass it on to other BCNU members who may be interested.