

Clerical workers busy with pre-bargaining conference and preparations for Clerical Team Appreciation Day

Welcome to the latest edition of *PaperWork*.



On September 17 and 18, the clerical occupational conference was held at the union's Provincial Office in Burnaby. More than 90 clerical delegates from across the province attended, along with members of the clerical subcommittee.

We celebrated our uniqueness within HEU, as well as our contribution to the health care team.

HEU secretary-business manager Judy Darcy gave the opening speech, and said it best with "We are the solution to health care."

During the conference, there were lots of memorable comments and catchphrases, such as:

- "Clerical people are patient people."
- "Health care starts and ends with us."
- "We are the hub of health care."

- "Clerical workers keep health care afloat."
- "Clerical workers are the nucleus of health care."

Carol Kenzie, HEU's 2nd vice-president and co-chair of the clerical subcommittee, was instrumental in keeping the conference on track and focused. She stressed the importance of demonstrating, at the bargaining table, the critical link between clerical work and patient care.

In small group workshops – as well as large plenary sessions – we streamlined our bargaining priorities and strategized on ways to give clerical staff a voice at the bargaining table. We discussed what the clerical concerns going into bargaining were, and what that would look like on paper. We then voted on bargaining issues presented by all the groups.

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**THE BARGAINING PRIORITIES THAT
CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS DEEMED
MOST IMPORTANT TO US WERE:**

(in order of number of votes):

- We voted to keep our Health & Welfare Benefits intact.
- We voted to support the unit clerks in their bid for higher compensation for their new benchmark.
- We voted for NO MORE re-testing for clerical workers.
- We voted for NO MORE contracting out our jobs.
- We voted for money for training.

Make sure you know who your local's Wage Policy delegates are so that you can talk to them about the bargaining priorities for the clerical team. It's

important to spread the word about the conference and what issues are relevant to clerical workers so that our voices are heard at the bargaining table.

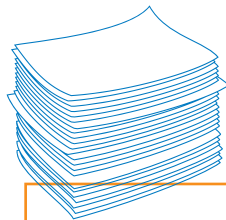
**CLERICAL TEAM APPRECIATION DAY –
NOVEMBER 18, 2009**

Let's make November 18, 2009 special for all clerical workers. Let's get talking, and really focus on the impact we make in health care.

Information packages will be sent out early in November in preparation for a fun day

In solidarity,

HEU clerical subcommittee
clericalworkers@heu.org



DID YOU KNOW THAT:

- The community health sector has a clerical team?
- The union's Wage Policy Conference is November 3 and 4?
- The clerical benchmark review will be completed at the end of October?
- Judy Darcy used to be a librarian in Toronto, and started her union activism as a clerical worker and promoter of women's rights?
- The union's clerical subcommittee is selected via an application process every two years after convention, and includes rank-and-file members, P.E. members and HEU staff advisors to carry out the subcommittee's work and mandate?