

Celebrate HEU Clerical Team Appreciation Day – September 22

The HEU clerical subcommittee met on June 14 to wrap up two years of productive meetings.

A new clerical subcommittee will be formed in early 2011, following the 2010 HEU convention this fall.

Discussions were held regarding the upcoming HEU Clerical Team Appreciation Day (September 22). Included in the discussions were designs for a new banner, poster, slogan (“HEU Clerical Team: keeping your public health care journey on track”), and a clerical calendar. The calendar will represent and encompass all clerical workers and the vital roles they play in the delivery of health care.

As in previous HEU clerical day celebrations, the subcommittee strongly encourages active participation and creativity at all local levels on this special day – September 22 – to display appreciation for the skills, aptitude and dedication of clerical workers across the province.

BENCHMARK REVIEW AND SURVEY

The clerical benchmark series review has been completed. Detailed information is available on the union’s website at <www.heu.org>.

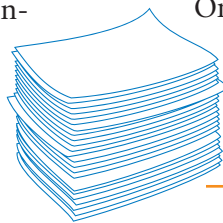
More than 800 clerical workers responded to the recent HEU online survey on clerical re-testing. Many clerical workers have expressed gratitude in seeing HEU address the issue of re-testing and its relevance to job descriptions. Survey data is being gathered and analyzed for release in the coming weeks.

B.C. AND ONTARIO FORM CLERICAL HEALTH CARE WORKER ALLIANCE

In June, clerical representatives from HEU’s Provincial Executive attended a two-day clerical conference in Toronto, hosted by the Ontario Council of Hospital Unions (OCHU). The conference was a success in uniting B.C.’s clerical health care workers with their Ontario counterparts, and addressing each province’s similarities and differences, such as union representation, contracts, salaries and working conditions.

One interesting point of information shared was that, on average, Ontario clerical workers’ hourly wages are higher than in B.C. by

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DID YOU KNOW that Health Records Clerks:

- must successfully complete a Medical Terminology course with a mark of 80 per cent or higher, and be able to type a minimum of 50 wpm?
- walk more than 10,000 steps per day in an average work site to collect charts?
- pull more than 60 patient charts each day for clinics, meetings, studies, reviews, coroners inquests, and physicians?
- process approximately 150 Emergency Room records and 50 Ambulatory Treatment charts every day?
- send vital medical information to other hospitals and clinics to facilitate continuity of patient care?

about \$2 per hour. This reflects a direct correlation to the Gordon Campbell government's *Bill 37* – a 15 per cent wage rollback for B.C. health care workers in 2004. Had those cutbacks not taken place, the salaries of B.C.'s clerical team would be at par with their Ontario counterparts.

The OCHU conference has provided an exciting opportunity to establish an ongoing communication network between Ontario and B.C. clerical

workers, as there is strength in numbers and each can gain from the other's knowledge and experience. It is hoped that OCHU will be represented at the upcoming CUPE National Health Care Conference (October 19 to 22) in Victoria. At this conference, CUPE will be organizing a clerical workers' breakout group.

In solidarity,
HEU clerical subcommittee