



HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES' UNION

NEWS RELEASE

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Lodge on 4th layoffs spark appeal to Ladysmith council to support seniors' care: resolution going to council Monday night

Health care workers and seniors' advocates are asking Ladysmith Town Council to voice its opposition to contracting out and the deterioration of seniors' care in the Cowichan Valley.

A delegation representing residents, family members and laid-off care staff at Lodge on 4th will appear before council at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, May 3 in the Council Chambers at Ladysmith City Hall – 410 Esplanade.

More than 140 health care workers employed at Lodge on 4th – members of the Hospital Employees' Union – have received lay-off notices despite presenting a proposal to the Lodge's owner that is cost-efficient, would maintain quality of care and support services for residents, and would ensure continuity of care.

Workers affected include licensed practical nurses, care aides, cooks and food services workers, laundry workers, and activities, rehabilitation and clerical staff.

This latest disruption in seniors' care follows on the controversial closure of Cowichan Lodge and the contracting out of more than 40 staff at Cerwydden Care in Duncan – members of the B.C. Government and Service Employees' Union.

Council will be asked to pass a resolution recognizing the importance of ensuring quality residential care, as well as the harmful impact contracting out has on maintaining continuity of care for seniors.

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