



Bill 29 Settlement

PRIVATE SECTOR MEMBERS

February 2008

What does Bill 29 mean for HEU members working for private contractors?

ON JANUARY 28, 2008, HEU reached a tentative agreement with the B.C. government and health employers that deals with last year's Supreme Court decision on *Bill 29*.

Bill 29 was the government law that tore up health care workers' contracts and paved the way for health authorities and care facilities to contract out thousands of jobs to private companies like Sodexo, Aramark, Compass, SimpeQ, Caresource and others.

The future of private-sector jobs and contracting out

This agreement does not affect the jobs of HEU members who currently work for private health care contractors.

The union now has the opportunity to put privatization under the microscope. It will allow us to put forward alternatives to contracting out in cases where it is being proposed for the first time, or in cases where an existing contract is re-tendered. This is not the case where an existing commercial contract is simply renewed.

Who's eligible for compensation?

HEU members who lost their jobs as a result of *Bill 29* and are now working for a private contractor are eligible for compensation under the terms of the \$70 million negotiated settlement. (\$68 million for compensation; \$2 million for re-training).

Who will be voting on this agreement?

The labour adjustment elements of this settlement will be appended to the facilities subsector collective agreement. That's why facilities subsector members will have the chance to vote on the non-monetary elements only.

Members who have collective agreements with private-sector employers will not be voting on this settlement.

Moving forward to improve wages and working conditions

No one knows more about the damages of privatization than the workers who see the day-to-day impacts such as short-staffing, unmanageable workloads, and low wages.

As your union, HEU is committed to representing you and to helping you address these issues in your workplace and at the bargaining table. That's why we are moving forward with projects like Know and Enforce Your Rights, the Living Wage Campaign, as well as new Occupational Health and Safety outreach.

As workers who are on the front lines of privatization, your voices are an essential part of the fight to strengthen the public delivery of health care services for all British Columbians.

BILL 29 AND PRIVATE-SECTOR MEMBERS

- Members' jobs will not be affected by the agreement
- HEU can make a case for bringing work in-house if contracts re-tendered
- Private-sector members are not voting on the *Bill 29* agreement
- Members in the past who lost jobs as a result of *Bill 29* are eligible for compensation
- HEU committed to representing all members to improve wages and working conditions

For more information visit www.heu.org or contact your servicing representative