



Bargaining Bulletin

HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES' UNION

THE HEART OF HEALTH CARE

Tentative settlement for Pro Vita workers at Arranglen boosts wages, secures benefits

*Union bargaining committee recommends members
vote yes to the negotiated contract*

Care aides at Arranglen Gardens in Qualicum Beach have a tentative agreement with their employer, Pro Vita Care Management, that secures their vacation entitlement and health and dental benefits while providing an immediate hourly wage increase of 75 cents an hour.

Negotiations with Pro Vita began last January. The union bargaining committee, which reached a tentative settlement with the employer late Monday night, is recommending members ratify the tentative contract.

A membership ratification vote will be held Tuesday, September 26 from 1:30pm-5pm at Qualicum Heritage Inn (Assembly Room), 427 College Road.

Pro Vita says it will inform the union of the status of its commercial contract with Chartwell—the operators of Arranglen—on September 22. As a result, members will know whether Pro Vita will keep their contract with Chartwell before voting on the agreement.

Upon ratification of the contract, wages will rise by 75 cents an hour and by a further 50 cents on September 1, 2007, in a deal that expires on August 31, 2008.

The increases apply to care aide, team leader and probationary wage rates.

Under this agreement, members can accumulate up to 100 hours of sick leave. Any accumulations over 100 hours will be paid out on January 17 of each year.

Members' dental, extended health, and LTD plans, as well as the four-week vacation entitlement, have been secured in writing in the tentative agreement.

The employer will continue to pay 75 per cent of the benefit plans' costs, while employees will continue to pay their own MSP premiums.

"This was a very tough round of bargaining," says HEU bargaining spokesperson Susan Fisher. "I really want to acknowledge and thank members for their exceptional

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patience during this difficult and stressful process.”

A comprehensive report with the new collective agreement’s language and details will be available at the worksite on Friday, September 22, 2006.

HEU Bargaining Committee

Darlene Whitlock

Christine Ballegeer

Susan Fisher – HEU bargaining representative