



Bargaining Bulletin

HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES' UNION

THE HEART OF HEALTH CARE

Critical week ahead for contract talks

Talks for a new agreement covering 38,000 hospital and long-term care workers took place over the weekend and continued Monday as union representatives push for a tentative agreement that provides union members with job security and fair wages.

Last week, unions in the Facilities Bargaining Association provided a quick response to health employers on a revised package that made no significant moves on general wage increases or job security.

While health employers have not come back to the table with a counterproposal on wages or job security, discussions have been taking place on other key issues including:

- workload;
- a pilot program to advance trades apprenticeships in health care;

-a secure mandate for the Occupational Health and Safety Agency for Healthcare; and

-an early intervention program providing support for workers who are injured or ill.

HEU secretary-business manager Judy Darcy, the FBA's chief bargaining spokesperson, says there will be "flat out" negotiations this week so that health care workers can have their say on the terms of a new collective agreement in a timely fashion.

"We've made considerable moves in the areas of wages and job security on our side of the table," says Darcy.

"It's time for employers and government to step up to the plate and prove that they're willing to engage in some genuine bargaining on these key issues."

Talks continue Tuesday.

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1-800-909-4994 Toll Free
604-456-7193 (Vancouver)

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