



Bargaining Bulletin

HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES' UNION

THE HEART OF HEALTH CARE

Some progress made in Compass bargaining – VIHA and PHSA

SINCE HEU Compass members in the Provincial Health Services Authority delivered a 99 per cent strike vote in July, there's finally been some progress in bargaining on two fronts.

In the Vancouver Island Health Authority, HEU's bargaining committee and Compass – with the assistance of LRB-appointed mediator Grant McArthur – did address non-monetary language items when they met July 31-August 2 in Victoria. As a result, the mediated talks will continue on August 31 and September 1. At that time, the union expects Compass to table its economic package.

Meanwhile, negotiations for a first contract for HEU Compass members in the Provincial Health Services Authority will resume August 14 for three days. McArthur will continue as mediator.

HEU bargaining spokesperson Heather Compton says that while there is some movement at both tables, it's unfortunate that Compass didn't agree to the union's

proposal to combine the VIHA and PHSA negotiations.

“Our members working in the two health authorities are experiencing the same difficulties – heavy workloads and low wages,” says Compton. “As a result, our bargaining proposals have been the same at both tables.

“Negotiations could have been more efficient, and moved along more quickly, had the two been brought together right from the beginning.”

HEU represents approximately 950 members – 250 in VIHA and 700 in PHSA – employed by U.K.-based Compass Group to deliver housekeeping and dietary services in facilities throughout the two health authorities.

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