



Bargaining Bulletin

HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES' UNION

THE HEART OF HEALTH CARE

CUPE delegates pass resolution condemning health employers, BC Liberal government

Government's 'vicious attack' on health care workers can't be tolerated, union says

MORE THAN 500 delegates at this week's annual convention of CUPE-BC voted unanimously yesterday for an emergency resolution that condemns health employers and the BC Liberal government while reaffirming the union's support for HEU in its fight for fairness and protection of health care.

The resolution, which received a strong endorsement from CUPE-BC president Barry O'Neill, also calls for delegates to commit to mobilizing members in their locals for such actions as may be necessary to assist HEU.

"The CUPE Health Services Division – Hospital Employees' Union (HEU) has been under an unprecedented attack by the provincial government and its agent the Health Employers' Association of BC (HEABC) for the past three years," the resolution begins.

With nearly 7,000 HEU/CUPE members

losing their jobs to privatization and contracting out, "and thousands of members' jobs currently on the chopping block, HEABC deserves condemnation for unilaterally refusing to consider union proposals on job security in the current round of contract negotiations.

The resolution to condemn HEABC and provincial government follows an 80 per cent strike vote by HEU/CUPE members and HEABC's intransigent refusal to contract on hold or withdraw from their concession demands during meetings that they requested."

HEU president Fred Muzin attended the debate and was asked to take the message of solidarity back to HEU members.

"The overwhelming support from delegates and Brother O'Neill was very heartening and sends a clear message to health employers and the government – negotiate an agreement that protects decent jobs and the future of health care."

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