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Contract negotiations between HEU and WestCana move to mediation

Bargaining bulletin for HEU members employed by WestCana at Morgan Place

After several meetings between the Hospital Employees' Union bargaining committee and WestCana management, negotiations for a first collective agreement will continue in the offices of the BC Labour Relations Board (LRB) with the assistance of an LRB-appointed mediator.

Much of the non-monetary language for a new contract has been agreed to, but there is no agreement on improvements to wages and benefits – issues that members identified as bargaining priorities.

The bargaining committee hopes that a mediator will assist in putting together a fair collective agreement proposal for members' consideration.

The committee and the employer last met on July 8. Once the LRB has appointed a mediator, dates will be set for continued negotiations, likely within the next few weeks.

The bargaining committee would like to extend special recognition and best wishes to bargaining committee member Art Bartlett and member Fred Miranda, who were recently laid off, after the owners of Morgan Place removed maintenance duties from WestCana. The committee would also like to thank Art for his role in representing members and bringing their issues forward.

For more information about these negotiations, please contact HEU bargaining committee members Sushil Ram and Barb Turner, or HEU bargaining representative David Durning at 604-456-7020.

July 17, 2008