



HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES' UNION

BARGAINING BULLETIN

PLEASE POST

Compass-employed members in VIHA, PHSA turn out for strong strike vote

HEU calls on Compass to come back to the table and negotiate on issues critical to decent working conditions and clean, safe hospitals.

The large majority of HEU members working for Compass Group in the Vancouver Island and Provincial Health Services Authorities voted yes to strike action in meetings held over the past week.

In VIHA, members voted 93 per cent in favour of job action and in PHSA members voted 99 per cent in favour.

The HEU-supervised strike votes started March 12. In total, there were 23 balloting opportunities at or near all Compass VIHA and PHSA sites. Ballots were counted at the HEU Provincial Office Friday morning. A total of 710 Compass-employed workers voted, representing approximately 75 per cent of the membership in this sector.

What's next for Compass-employed workers?

Essential services issues are still being discussed at the BC Labour Relations Board, and should be resolved within the next few weeks. Once essential services are established, the union will have the option to issue 72 hours strike notice, should this become necessary.

HEU maintains the position that a negotiated settlement is the best option for workers, patients and the health care team. The union continues to call on Compass to return to the bargaining table and on government and the health authorities to take responsibility for the performance of their corporate contractors.

Housekeepers and dietary workers employed by Sodexo and Aramark in Vancouver Coastal and Fraser Health Authorities are also preparing for strike votes.

In the coming weeks, all members will be asked to mobilize and take part in various bargaining support actions.

In 2008, Compass reported profits of £662 million pounds (\$1.2 billion CDN), an increase of 19 per cent from 2007.

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**24-HR HOTLINE
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