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First contract bargaining underway for workers at Ayre Manor Lodge

Negotiations to resume on July 30 and 31

Contract talks between the Hospital Employees' Union and Beckley Farm Lodge Society for a first collective agreement at Ayre Manor Lodge are making steady progress, reports the union's bargaining committee.

The parties met June 11, 23, 24 and July 6, during which time they were able to reach agreement on most non-monetary issues.

HEU members employed at the facility are represented at the bargaining table by Cheryl Wiebe and Mandy Truman with the assistance of HEU bargaining representative Heather Compton.

Chris Curtis and Jean Christiansen were elected as alternate members of the bargaining committee.

In advance of the talks, the five-member committee met on April 20 to discuss priority issues and put together the union's bargaining package.

When the parties meet again on July 30 and 31 the union will table its wage proposal, along with such other monetary items as health and welfare benefits.

HEU was certified to represent Beckley Farm Lodge Society health care workers at Ayre Manor Lodge on January 28, 2009.

There are currently about 50 HEU members providing care to seniors at the Lodge including care aides, housekeepers, dietary, maintenance and clerical workers.

If you have any questions about collective agreement negotiations, please contact a member of the bargaining committee, or call Heather Compton at 1-800-663-5813 (toll-free), 604-456-7034 (direct) or 604-868-0070.

Heather can also be reached by email at hcompton@heu.org.

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