



HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES' UNION

NEWSLETTER

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HEU in support of B.C. ambulance paramedics

B.C.'s ambulance paramedics – members of CUPE local 873 – began strike action today to back proposals for wage parity with other emergency services workers.

The union's 3,500 members are picketing administrative offices of the B.C. Ambulance Services and taking other actions that target their employer, but will continue to provide emergency services to the public across the province.

CUPE local 873 president John Strohmaier says, "as B.C. Paramedics' wages have fallen behind other emergency services in the province, the system now faces difficulties recruiting and retaining these valued professionals."

At this point, no HEU work sites are affected by CUPE local 873 pickets.

HEU president Ken Robinson encourages HEU locals to seek out local 873 members in their community and offer whatever support they can.

"As part of the CUPE family and the health care team, we share a common interest with local 873 members in bargaining for improved health care services," says Robinson.

"We share with local 873, their concern that recruitment and retention problems threaten to undermine quality public health care. I encourage all HEU members to show their support for our sisters and brothers in the ambulance service."

You can find out more about the issues at stake in this dispute by visiting CUPE local 873's websites:

www.saveourparamedics.com

www.paramedicsofbc.com

April 1, 2009

