PLEASE POST

New bargaining preparations underway in Community Social Services sector

Municipal Pension Plan goes into effect April 1, 2010

With the Community Social Services collective agreement set to expire March 31, HEU's bargaining committee will be reconvening to review bargaining priorities in preparation for formal contract talks, which are expected to begin in the next few weeks.

Attempts by the multi-union Community Social Services Bargaining Association (CSSBA) to reach an early settlement with the Community Social Services Employers Association (CSSEA) earlier this year were not successful.

In the meantime, members have worked hard over the past month during Community Social Services Awareness Month to raise the public profile of their work and the valuable services they deliver to many of the province's most vulnerable citizens.

For the second year, HEU members in Victoria have organized a Walk for Community Social Services – March 27 – in partnership with other unions and community organizations in the sector.

And information meetings held during recent weeks indicate enrolment numbers in the Municipal Pension Plan – negotiated in the last round of bargaining – will be high. The vast majority of members attending those meetings are looking forward to enrolment in a plan that will help them build security for their retirement.

The plan goes into effect April 1. Eligible employees will be automatically enrolled, but will be contacted to name a beneficiary.

For more information on the pension plan, members should go to <www.mpp.pensionsbc.ca>. Specific questions can be directed to HEU servicing representative Bob Wilson at

bwilson@heu.org>.

Members are also encouraged to keep informed as bargaining progresses by contacting either your local executive or HEU's representatives on the multi-union bargaining committee – Marilynn Rust, David Huespe and Bob Wilson.

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