



HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES' UNION

BARGAINING BULLETIN

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CSS bargaining team and CSSEA exchange proposals

Negotiations for a new collective agreement covering the province's 15,000 community social services workers continued on May 18 when the unions' bargaining team and the Community Social Services Employers' Association (CSSEA) met in Richmond to exchange proposals.

The Community Social Services Bargaining Association (CSSBA) tabled a comprehensive package of proposals that seeks to regain lost rights, improve working conditions, restore sick leave benefits and move toward wage parity with the community health sector.

The proposal package covers CSS workers in the Community Living Services and General Services sub-sectors. A separate package covering the Aboriginal Services sub-sector will be tabled later.

At the same time, CSSEA tabled a substantial concessionary package which did not include any monetary gains.

Community social services workers are the lowest paid workers in B.C.'s broader public sector. The bargaining team reports that this will be a particularly tough round of contract talks, given that the employer is negotiating within the government's "net zero" bargaining mandate.

Members are encouraged to keep in touch with their local executive and to check the union website for regular updates.

More bargaining dates are set for June 2010.

The current agreement, which expired on March 31, 2010, remains in effect while a new collective agreement is being negotiated.

May 21, 2010

