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## Community Social Services contract talks break for summer

Following seven days of contract talks during the last two weeks, the Community Social Services Employers' Association (CSSEA) has suspended talks for the summer.

Although this round of bargaining has proven to be very difficult, the HEU bargaining committee says the two parties were able to sign off on a few non-monetary items and are pleased to report that CSSEA withdrew an earlier demand to remove protection on superior benefits and provisions, found in the Collective Agreement's MOA #2 (p 87).

The Community Social Services Bargaining Association will be meeting for three days next week to review bargaining developments.

Currently, members in community living services are seeing another round of cutbacks across the sector related to Community Living B.C.'s efforts to find \$22 million in savings. Several agencies are actively planning for service reductions and potential group home closures.

Members are encouraged to connect with individuals and families and to speak out about the negative impact these cutbacks are having on caring and working conditions throughout the sector.

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