



HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES' UNION

# NEWSLETTER

PLEASE POST

## Union recognizes valuable contribution of members on Support Workers Day, August 24

Tomorrow, HEU locals across the province will take time to honour our support workers, with a series of events and activities to raise awareness about the crucial role they play on the health care team.

As part of this third annual celebration, the HEU support workers subcommittee is also distributing a workload questionnaire to members in support services. Subcommittee co-chairs Rhonda Bruce and John Evans are asking locals to email photos with a brief description of their Support Workers Day activities to <rbruce@heu.org>.

### Who are support workers?

HEU's support team plays a critical role in B.C.'s hospitals and long-term care homes in work that spans everything from preparing nutritious meals and maintaining clean, sterile environments to transporting biohazardous products, and handling a complex inventory of equipment and supplies.

They work in more than 30 job classifications, including food service, logistics and stores supervisors; building security officers, inventory clerks, transportation and custodial attendants, dietary and nourishment aides; housekeeping, laundry and food service workers, cashiers, cook's helpers, sewing machine operators, among others.

### What do they do?

Support workers – who makes up about 13 per cent of the union – clean and sanitize all areas of a facility, including operating rooms, intensive care units and special care nurseries adhering to infection control protocols in an era of pandemics and superbugs; receive and deliver all supplies and equipment in a timely manner, ensure patients receive proper dietary meals (i.e. renal diet, diabetic, low-sodium, etc. with a texture specific to their medical conditions); launder and sterilize linens, gowns and staff uniforms, and transport and dispose of toxic waste materials.

The support workers subcommittee can be reached at <supportworkers@heu.org>.

*August 23, 2010*

