



HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES' UNION

# NEWSLETTER

PLEASE POST

## HEU secures compensation for members impacted by private contractor's bankruptcy

More than 300 HEU members working at Dufferin Care Centre, Nanaimo Seniors Village and Beacon Hill Villa are finally receiving compensation toward monies owed them when their private employer filed for bankruptcy almost a year ago.

At the time of Abbey Therapeutic Services' abrupt financial collapse – November 19, 2009 – HEU was able to successfully negotiate full re-employment and new collective agreements with Well-Being Seniors Services Ltd. for the care aides, activity aides, LPNs and RNs employed at the three sites.

Abbey Therapeutics had been sub-contracted by Well-Being (a company owned by Retirement Concepts) to provide care services at the facilities.

The new agreements included job security and no reductions in wages or benefits for four years.

Although the transition of staff to Well-Being was almost immediate, the battle to secure financial compensation toward members' unpaid wages, vacation, severance, and other costs has taken almost ten months.

Under the federal *Wage Earner Protection Program Act* impacted members will receive payments up to \$3,253 depending on their individual circumstances.

“The good news here is that we were able to minimize some of the damage to our members caused by this private contractor's sudden bankruptcy,” says HEU secretary-business manager Judy Darcy.

“But we remain deeply concerned that staff in privately operated care homes will continue to pay a price when a for-profit employer goes under.”

October 5, 2010

