



HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES' UNION

BARGAINING BULLETIN

PLEASE POST

Unions table monetary proposals in Community Social Services talks

June 4 bargaining week will be critical

The multi-union bargaining committee presented its monetary proposals to the employer during the latest week of bargaining, including wage and benefit demands and all proposals related to the Aboriginal Services sector.

The employer will table their wage and benefit proposals and respond to ours when bargaining resumes the week of June 4.

We have made it clear that Community Social Service workers deserve a fair and reasonable deal, including a wage increase. We are also pushing back on concessionary demands by the employer, including revisiting improvements gained in the last round of bargaining with respect to job selection and layoff.

However, the employer – the Community Social Services Employers Association (CSSEA) – has already indicated that they are bound by the government's "co-operative gains" mandate, whereby modest wage increases can be found only by finding savings within existing budgets.

Regarding health and welfare benefits improvements, your bargaining committee has now finished reviewing proposals for improvements. As part of our due diligence, we met with several benefit carriers as well as with WorkSafeBC – the Workers' Compensation Board of B.C.

Essential service levels for all agencies are being negotiated and should be completed soon.

In summary, it appears that the parties may be far apart, especially on monetary issues. Even with bargaining dates scheduled until end of June, it is clear that the next bargaining session scheduled for the week of June 4 will be critical.

Accordingly, it is particularly important that your local executive has up-to date contact information for all members – especially home email and phone numbers.

Please stay tuned for further updates from the bargaining table the week of June 4.

May 27, 2012

