PLEASE POST

CareSource members vote 97 per cent against tentative settlement

HEU CareSource members working at Nanaimo Seniors Village have overwhelmingly rejected a tentative settlement, outlined in a recent interim report by mediator Stephen Rinfret, by a 97 per cent margin.

Rinfret's report included the employer's 'best' wage offer with modest increases over three years and a two-tier salary schedule. As well, all benefits – sick time, extended health and dental, statutory holiday pay, compassionate leave and more – remained the same with only a slight change in the method of vacation compensation.

Rinfret also provided recommendations on outstanding, non-monetary issues including a labour-management committee, seniority (promotion, transfer, demotion and release), unpaid leave, technological, automation and other changes, and badges and insignia.

CareSource members should stay in touch with their bargaining committee and local executive for the latest news on efforts to reach a first collective agreement.

There are 150 HEU CareSource members at Nanaimo Seniors Village who provide care and support to residents as assisted living (home support) workers, recreation and care aides, and licensed practical nurses.

Rinfret was appointed mediator on December 12, 2006 under Section 55 of the B.C. Labour Relations Code after the CareSource members delivered a 99 per cent strike mandate.

The report's recommendations were rejected at a ratification meeting on January 29, 2007.

January 30, 2007