



Bargaining Bulletin

HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES' UNION

THE HEART OF HEALTH CARE

Compass still dragging their heels in PHSA contract talks

HEU members employed by Compass Group in the Provincial Health Services Authority were back at the bargaining table in May, following the union's application for mediation under BC's Labour Relations Code.

The two sides met on May 2, 12, 15 and 18, 2006 and another four bargaining dates have been set for June.

The parties have been meeting since January 31, 2006 and Compass has still not provided responses to all of the union's proposals. HEU's bargaining committee anticipates the employer's full response by June 19, 2006.

"There's no question, this has been a slow and frustrating process for the bargaining committee and for members, who are anxious to have a first contract in place as soon as possible," says HEU's bargaining spokesperson Heather Compton.

Compton says the committee was disappointed to learn that Compass has appealed the BC Supreme Court decision upholding the BC Labour Relations Board's original decision that Compass must bargain as a single unit.

"This is nothing more than another stalling tactic on the part of the employer. Instead of coming to the bargaining table with the intention of seriously negotiating a first collective agreement, Compass continues to look for ways to shirk its bargaining responsibilities," says Compton.

The union's bargaining committee is meeting on June 12, 2006 to review developments to date and plan for the next round of talks scheduled for June 19, 20, 21, and 22, 2006.

The 250 HEU members employed by Compass in PHSA deliver housekeeping and food services. The majority earn between \$10.25 and \$11.79 an hour. Sick days are limited to two in the first six months of the year and two in the following six months.

The bargaining committee will be providing members with a full report at the next union meeting – Monday, May 29, 2006, between 1 and 4 pm in the Parent Craft Room (behind Tim Horton's) located in the Women's Centre.

May 25, 2006

24-HOUR COMPASS BARGAINING HOTLINE

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