



Bargaining Bulletin

HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES' UNION

THE HEART OF HEALTH CARE

Community health unions table wage package plus measures to make up lost ground

Contract talks for 13,000 workers in the community health sector are focused this week on compensation issues as the unions outlined their plan for a fair pay boost along with measures to make up for lost ground.

Meanwhile, employers countered with an opening offer of a wage increase that fails to keep pace with inflation.

The package tabled by the union bargaining association includes the following increases in a three year contract:

- Year 1: effective April 1, 2006 a three per cent general wage increase, plus restoration of the wage roll back implemented in 2004 which amounts to a 4.21 per cent boost, and a \$3,700 signing bonus on pro rata basis.
- Year 2: effective April 1, 2007 a 3.5 per cent general wage increase plus three per cent for comparability to eliminate the significant wage gap with health facilities.

- Year 3: effective April 1, 2008 a 3.5 per cent wage increase or the cost of living whichever is greater, and three per cent for comparability.

In addition, community health unions are proposing the reclassification of a number of positions including LPN supervisors, practical nursing care workers, schedulers, and audiometric technicians.

The Health Employers Association of BC also tabled its first compensation offer – 1.5 per cent in each of a four-year deal plus a \$3,700 bonus.

The unions say that the employers' pay package doesn't measure up because the offer doesn't even meet the projected rate of inflation.

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