

Unions and HEABC meet to resolve April 1 wage increase issue

On Wednesday, May 3, 2006 and Thursday, May 11, 2006, HEABC met with the Hospital Employees'Union (HEU) representing the Facilities Bargaining Association, the BC Government and Service Employees' Union (BCGEU) representing the Community Bargaining Association, the BC Nurses' Union representing the Nurses Bargaining Association, and the Health Sciences Association (HSA) representing the Health Science Professional Bargaining Association, to discuss language within the new Collective Agreements regarding the effective date of wage increases.

The new health sector collective agreement language, which has been recently ratified by both Employers and by a number of health unions, has led to some concern by the Bargaining Associations about the effective date of the wage increases. Health Sector Unions and HEABC met in order to discuss possible solutions to address these concerns.

Both unions and employers were pleased to agree on a solution which will require minor amendments to the collective agreements regarding the effective date of compensation increases:

"For the term of the 2006-2010 Health Sector Collective Agreements, the parties agree to amend the effective date of the wage increases as follows:

- a) For April 2006, the wage increases will be effective on April 1, 2006 (and not on the "first pay period after April 1, 2006);
- b) For April 2007, the wage increases will be effective on April 1, 2007 (and not on the "first pay period after April 1, 2007);
- c) For April 2008, the wage increases will be effective on April 1, 2008 (and not on the "first pay period after April 1, 2008);
- d) For April 2009, no change to the existing language. "No change to the existing language" means that the wage increase is effective on the date after April 1 that coincides with the start of a pay period (as opposed to effective April 1 and paid on the first pay period after April 1)."

May 12, 2006