



HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES' UNION

NEWSLETTER

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HEU members working for Sodexho, Aramark and Compass question what *Bill 29* means for them

Union affirms its role in representing members in all negotiations with employers and government

On June 8, the Supreme Court of Canada struck down key parts of *Bill 29* – the 2002 B.C. government law that stripped HEU members of contracting-out protections in their collective agreements. This is a significant victory for all workers.

For the first time in Canadian history, workers' rights to free collective bargaining are protected under the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

It is also a victory for health care workers in this province, who have been unfairly treated by the B.C. Liberal government's contracting-out and privatization agenda. This includes workers who lost their jobs due to privatization and members who currently work in contracted-out services.

The Supreme Court gave the government one year to consult with unions and to bring their legislation in line with the *Charter*.

Because of the uncertainty about how government will remedy the injustices of *Bill 29* and move forward, many members wonder how their jobs may be impacted.

As your union, HEU is committed to representing you in your workplace, at the bargaining table and in any negotiations with government that impact your employment.

We are serious about our responsibility to represent all members – throughout the union's many diverse classifications – to achieve the best results possible.

Over the coming weeks and months, we will be working with our Provincial Executive and legal team to meet with government regarding the Supreme Court's decision on *Bill 29*.

In the meantime, we have also called for a moratorium on all contracting out and a suspension of any pending or future layoffs.

We are also continuing to build on the union's three major campaigns: enforcing our rights in the workplace, protecting public health care and launching a living wage campaign to prepare for 2008 bargaining with Sodexho, Aramark and Compass.

If you have further questions about this issue, please contact your servicing representative.

June 12, 2007

