



HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES' UNION

NEWSLETTER

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HEU locals celebrate support workers across British Columbia – May 17

In a series of events across the province, HEU locals will mark Support Workers' Day – May 17 – by recognizing this occupational group's essential contribution to the health care team.

HEU support workers make up 13 per cent of the union's membership, and work in about 35 job classifications – including cook, baker, dietary aide, food service worker, building security officer, housekeeping supervisor, laundry worker, stores attendant, logistics supervisor, and transportation attendant.

May 17 is an opportunity to raise awareness of support workers' important roles, such as ensuring patients and residents receive proper nutrition; establishing hazard-free health care environments through implementing universal infection control precautions; and making sure clean laundry is stain-free, sterilized and delivered to the appropriate destination.

Support workers are also responsible for handling critical and bio-hazardous materials in a safe and timely manner, sterilizing surgical tools and equipment, plus receiving and delivering supplies/products – from pens and stationary orders to hip replacements and pacemakers.

Several events are happening on Support Workers' Day. Check your HEU local bulletin boards for information on activities at your work site. And watch HEU's website for an upcoming report back on events around the province.

May 16, 2007

