



HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES' UNION

BARGAINING BULLETIN

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Community Social Services workers return strong strike mandate

Community social services workers around the province have voted overwhelmingly in favour of job action to back their bargaining demands.

Members in General Services voted 85 per cent in favour of strike action. Members in Community Living Services voted 90 per cent in favour.

The vote gives the multi-union bargaining committee a strong strike mandate, which sends a clear message to the provincial government that community social services workers are ready to stand up for a fair and reasonable settlement.

Negotiations broke down in early June.

Outstanding issues include: wages, benefits, sick leave and reimbursable expenses. The employer had also demanded concessions and wanted to remove improvements negotiated in the last round of bargaining.

“Community social services workers are among the lowest paid workers in the broad public sector,” says HEU secretary-business manager Bonnie Pearson. “They deserve a fair, reasonable deal that reflects the important work they do for some of B.C.’s most vulnerable citizens.”

The Community Social Services Bargaining Association includes 10 unions, which represent 15,000 community social services workers.

The Community Social Services Employers’ Association represents 220 agencies in the sector.

Members are asked to keep in touch with their local executive members and stay tuned to the union website for further updates.

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