



Community social services workers ratify five-year contract, includes wage adjustments and pay increases

Community social services workers have voted by 85.6 per cent in favour of ratifying a new collective agreement that includes wage adjustments and increases of up to 11.5 per cent over five years.

The new collective agreement will be in effect from April 1, 2014 until March 31, 2019.

Community Living workers ratified the tentative agreement by 83.4 per cent. General Services ratified by 90.6 per cent. Aboriginal Services ratified by 63 per cent.

Under this agreement, about three-quarters of the workers in the community social services sector will receive wage increases of up to 11.5 per cent by 2019, which is a significant step toward closing the gap with the community health sector.

Members without comparability to community health, such as Early Childhood Educators and Family Service Workers, will be eligible for a wage increase in line with the rest of the sector, subject to the results of a classification review.

Aboriginal Service members who work in the Ministry of Children and Families Delegated Programs will receive the same wage increase as their counterparts in the Direct Government Agreement.

Other highlights include modest improvements to health benefits, including vision care and modest increases to mileage and meal allowance reimbursements.

The agreement also maintains current employment security provisions for the duration of the five-year contract and includes an Economic Stability Dividend in four of the five years that may provide further wage improvements.

HEU represents about 1,500 members in the sector.

BCGEU, CUPE, HEU, HSA and six other unions together make up the multi-union Community Social Services Bargaining Association which negotiated the new agreement for 11,000 members in this sector.

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