



## CSS returns to bargaining table after two weeks of successful job action

*Latest strike actions in Community Social Services impacted 3,900 members*

After two successful weeks of large-scale job action in community living and family services, the employer has invited the multi-union bargaining association back to the bargaining table.

This week, nearly 500 family service workers were on strike in Vancouver, North Vancouver, Kamloops, Nelson, Castlegar, Trail, Cranbrook, and Vernon.

And last week, nearly 3,400 community living workers went on strike. The job action affected the two largest community social service agencies in the province – the Developmental Disabilities Association (DDA) and PosAbilities – as well as numerous agencies in Victoria, Prince George, the Kootenays, Coquitlam, Surrey and Vancouver.

On January 30, DDA's Executive Director spoke out to the media in support of the striking workers, improved pay and better government funding for the sector.

The actions generated considerable media coverage, including television, radio and print.

See Globe and Mail article at (<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/british-columbia/community-living-workers-picket-for-better-wages/article8029256/>). Also see the Province article at (<http://www.theprovince.com/health/Thousands+social+service+workers+walk+wage+fight/7895276/story.html>) and regional media.

To view a photo gallery of the community living job action, check HEU's website at (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/bcgeu/sets/72157632651912927/>).

The bargaining committee wants to express its thanks to the hundreds of members who were out on the picket lines, the picket captains and others who made it all happen. The picket actions were a strong display of solidarity.

Our high profile strike activity has resulted in the employer inviting us back to the bargaining table.

We believe that the escalating job action finally caught the attention of the provincial government, which in turn urged the employer – the Community Social Services Employers' Association (CSSEA) – to return to the table to find a deal.

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Your bargaining committee is currently establishing possible bargaining dates. We will keep you informed when we return to the table. In order to send a message of good faith, your bargaining committee has indicated to the employer that we will not engage in any strike action next week and while we are bargaining with the employer during the weeks of February 18th and 25th.

We are hopeful that this return to the table will result in a fair and reasonable tentative agreement, including a wage increase, for the caring professionals in our sector.

*February 8, 2013*