



## Preparations underway for ratification votes in Community Social Services

*Telephone Town Hall on proposed settlement scheduled for March 21, 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.*

Representatives of the Community Social Services Bargaining Association met earlier this week to nail down the timing and process for upcoming ratification votes, which will be held between mid-March and the third week of April.

A vote schedule, and a comprehensive report outlining the terms and conditions of the proposed collective agreement, will be made available to members later next week.

And in addition to producing written documents detailing the contents of the tentative contract, CSSBA will be holding a one-hour telephone town hall on Thursday, March 21 at 7:00 p.m.

The town hall provides all CSS workers in CSSBA's ten member unions with an opportunity to hear background information on the proposed contract and to ask questions of bargaining team representatives. On March 21 around 7:00 p.m., you will receive a call inviting you to join in on the conversation and ask your questions.

The tentative agreement was reached on March 2, following a marathon 13-day bargaining session.

Highlights of the agreement include:

- Wage increases for all employees:
  - 1.5 per cent on April 1, 2013
  - An extra per cent wage increase for all step 1 employees on April 1, 2013
  - 1.5 per cent on January 1, 2014;
- A labour market adjustment review;
- Mileage increases to 45 cents per kilometre;
- Meal allowance increases;
- Employer-paid Criminal Record check for continued employment;
- Improved coverage for hearing aids;
- Improved language for Union Rights and Layoff and Recall.

Stay tuned for more detailed information on the proposed contract and the ratification vote schedule next week.

*March 8, 2013*

