



Community Social Services workers ratify new agreements

HEU members working in Community Social Services, along with their coworkers who are represented by nine other unions in the sector, have ratified new collective agreements.

Members ratified the tentative contracts, which become effective April 22, by 71 per cent in Community Living Services and 84 per cent in General Services.

The two-year agreements, which expire on March 31, 2014:

- protect health and welfare benefits;
- include a general wage increase of 1.5 per cent, effective April 1, 2013 and a further 1.5 per cent on January 1, 2014;
- provide an additional 1 per cent wage increase for all Step One employees effective April 1, 2013; and
- provide for a labour market adjustment review.

In July, CSS members backed their bargaining team with a strong strike vote and undertook three months of rotating job actions that commenced in mid-October.

HEU secretary-business manager Bonnie Pearson says, “Members played a huge role in helping reach contract settlements in such a difficult bargaining climate. We will continue to press government for the resources this sector needs to deliver these critical services and respect the workers who provide them.”

The terms and conditions of the collective agreement are now in effect with the contract’s ratification by both members and employers.

A separate tentative agreement has been reached for Aboriginal Service workers. Ratification vote results in this subsector are expected April 29.

There are 15,000 unionized community social service workers in British Columbia, and two-thirds of them work in community living supporting adults with developmental disabilities.

April 22, 2013

