



99% endorse bargaining platform – negotiations begin

Between April 24 and 26 hundreds of members attended proposal vote meetings to hear from their bargaining committee and give feedback. After receiving a strong member mandate, bargaining began with Good Samaritan Canada the following week on May 2 and 3.

Committee members delivered opening statements to the employer's negotiating team, which communicated top bargaining priorities. Here's what they said.

“We are your front-line workers, and we deserve a quality employer who values their employees and can ensure continuity of care for residents,” said Erin Muxlow, a care aide working at Victoria Heights. **“That’s why we’re proposing a total and complete ban on subcontracting. We know that subcontracting is not part of Good Samaritan’s values and it’s time to put it in writing.”**



Speaking about the impact of chronic short-staffing, Cheryl Wright from Village by the Station asked the employer to take action. **“Almost every day we are working short-staffed and struggling with increasing resident needs and subsequent workload,”** she said. **“It’s important that you hear me, you hear what matters, and you take action on what needs to change.”**

And Tracy Okert, an LPN at Heron Grove shared her thoughts on the turnover of new staff. **“It’s concerning that we invest in new hires only to have them move on because they’re overwhelmed with workload,”** she said. **“Adequate training and orientation will ultimately result in retention of staff and greatly improve continuity and quality of care.”**



HEU bargainer Laurel Albina says there is still much to be discussed and a long way to go.

“During the two days, we delivered the entirety of the bargaining team’s non-monetary proposals and reviewed the employer’s proposals,” she said. “We didn’t come to an agreement, but with a strong membership mandate our team has clear objectives and is ready to resume talks.”

Bargaining will resume May 22 and 23 at the Coast Capri Hotel in Kelowna. Members are welcome to attend as observers but must RSVP with the bargaining committee in advance. For a list of bargaining committee members, visit <heu.org/good-samaritan-bargaining>

The union is seeking renewed contracts at six assisted living and long-term and care facilities at five locations – Christenson Village, Heron Grove, Hillside Village & Pioneer Lodge, Village Heights and Village by the Station.

May 7, 2018