



# Bargaining Bulletin

HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES' UNION

THE HEART OF HEALTH CARE

## No movement from HEABC on contracting out, little to say on concessions package

**H**EALTH employers returned to the bargaining table March 4 but they didn't bring much to talk about. They're still refusing to stop-the-clock on layoffs or table a more reasonable set of bargaining proposals.

On March 2, the Hospital Employees' Union and its bargaining partners asked the Health Employers Association of B.C. to withdraw more than 100 pages of concession demands that included wage roll-backs, cuts to sick leave and long-term disability plans and slashed vacation.

Instead, health employers offered minor adjustments to their package and told the unions that privatization and contracting out would continue during bargaining.

"We remain ready for serious bargaining," says HEU secretary-business manager

Chris Allnutt. "But in order for us to engage in productive negotiations, employers must stop threatening our members with pink slips and concession demands that go to the heart of our contract.

"I'm hoping that health employers will recognize that they must exert a little more effort towards restoring trust in collective bargaining," adds Allnutt. "In the meantime, we'll be considering the best way to move talks forward."

Health employers have announced 2500 layoffs since serving notice to bargain.

Contract talks began for 43,000 healthcare workers in B.C.'s hospital and long-term care facilities on January 9. The contract expires March 31.

March 4, 2004

**HOTLINE – 24-HOUR BARGAINING INFORMATION**

sign up for e-mail @[www.heu.org](http://www.heu.org)

1-800-663-5813, ext. 1515 & 1516  
739-1515 or 739-1516 (Vancouver)

HEU web site:  
[www.heu.org](http://www.heu.org)



NUMBER

14