



# Background

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## Quick facts on bargaining

- 43,000 front-line health care workers in hospitals, long-term care facilities and diagnostic and treatment centres are part of health services and support in facilities subsector bargaining.
- Health services and support workers provide a broad range of direct care and support services.
- Most of these workers provide direct patient and resident care and include licensed practical nurses, care aides, orderlies and activity aides. Health services and support workers also provide critical support services as medical records and nursing unit clerks, housekeeping and laundry workers, cooks and food service workers, trades professionals, lab, x-ray and pharmacy assistants, biomedical technicians and others.
- Eleven unions form the union bargaining association in the facilities subsector. Representatives from the Hospital Employees' Union (40,000), the B.C. Government and Service Employees' Union (2,200), the B.C. Nurses' Union, the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 882 and the Construction and Specialized Workers' Union Local 1611 form the association's bargaining committee and are at the negotiating table.
- The other unions in the bargaining association are the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 230, the United Steelworkers of America Local 9705, the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America Local No. 1598, the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry of the United States and Canada Local 324, the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades Local No. 138 and the Pulp and Paper Workers of Canada.
- HEU secretary-business manager Chris Allnutt is the union bargaining association's chief spokesperson.
- The current collective agreement was freely negotiated in 2001. The provincial government broke that contract in what the *Globe and Mail* referred to as an act of "legislative vandalism" with the passage of Bill 29 on Jan. 28, 2002. The remains of that the 2001 agreement expire March 31, 2004.
- Health employers are represented by the Health Employers Association of B.C.

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