

CUPE protests arrive in Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley Friday

HEU's Judy Darcy and CUPE National president Paul Moist to speak at rallies in Vancouver and Cloverdale

embers of the Canadian Union of Public Employees in the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley will be off the job on Friday, October 21 in solidarity with BC teachers and CUPE school board members.

Friday's actions will include CUPE members who work in municipalities, libraries, universities and colleges, recreation and other areas.

But in order to keep the protest focused on reaching a settlement for BC teachers, Friday's action will not affect members of the Hospital Employees' Union who provide health care and related services in the community.

HEU is CUPE's health services division in BC.

HEU members who are not scheduled to work Friday are encouraged to attend CUPE-organized rallies scheduled for 10 a.m. at the PNE Coliseum in Vancouver and at 1 p.m. at the Stetson Bowl in Cloverdale.

In addition to HEU secretary-business manager Judy Darcy, scheduled speakers include CUPE BC president Barry O'Neill, CUPE national president Paul Moist and BC Teachers' Federation president Jinny Sims.

"Across the province this week, HEU members have been disciplined in their support for teachers, and made sure that the focus of these protests are classroom conditions and the right to free collective bargaining," says Darcy.

"On Friday, HEU members can continue to show their support for teachers - and for the 25,000 CUPE school board members who've also been on protest lines -- by attending rallies in the Lower Mainland if they're not scheduled to work."

Check back frequently to get the latest updates by calling the HEU bargaining hotline at 604 739 1515 (Vancouver) or toll free at 1 800 663 5813 ext. 1515, or accessing the union's website at www.heu.org.

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