



HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES' UNION

# NEWSLETTER

PLEASE POST

## We Are One – International Solidarity Event at the Peace Arch on April 2 at 2:00 p.m.

*Rally will bring trade unionists from B.C., Washington, Oregon together to support workers' rights in wake of Wisconsin's anti-labour legislation*

This is a rally call to Hospital Employees' Union members to come out to a cross-border rally on Saturday, April 2 at the Peace Arch on the Canada/United States border to stand in solidarity with our American sisters and brothers. The "We Are One" rally is jointly-organized by the BC Federation of Labour and the Washington and Oregon arms of the AFL-CIO and its labour councils.

HEU has arranged for buses to take members to and from the rally (details below).

On April 2, all across Canada and the United States, workers and their unions will be out in force at similar demonstrations to protest the Republican-dominated state of Wisconsin's destruction of fundamental workers' rights and free collective bargaining through legislation passed on March 9.

The night passage of the Wisconsin legislation comes after several weeks of massive protests in the state capital of Madison as tens of thousands of people jammed the legislative buildings opposing the bill that Republican Governor Scott Walker claimed was essential to address the state's financial troubles.

Wisconsin public sector workers are living their own super-sized version of the BC Liberals' contract-shredding *Bill 29* in 2002 and back-to-work *Bill 37* in 2004, despite widespread opposition and condemnation to Walker's draconian legislation from across America. HEU went all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada to challenge *Bill 29* and as a result, collective bargaining is now a right protected under Canada's *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* for all unions and their members.

Now Wisconsin state workers are facing restrictions to their collective bargaining rights, and more:

- Negotiations no longer cover working conditions, health and safety including workers' compensation, leave entitlements, seniority rules, equality provisions, grievance procedures, representation rights, or pensions and benefits.
- Wage increases are limited to the cost of living. Any salary increases above the cost-of-living will be put to a public referendum.
- Union members must vote annually to remain in their union.

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- Unions must collect union dues directly from members. There is no longer a dues check-off process.
- Workers will pay more toward their pensions and health insurance. Medicaid benefits to all retirees may be cut.
- Key public utilities may be up for sale.

**What: “We Are One” International Solidarity Rally**

**When: Saturday, April 2 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

**Where: At the Peace Arch, Peace Arch International Park, Canada/US border**

Everyone is welcome. This is a family-friendly event with speakers, entertainment, face painters and animal-balloon makers, and more.

HEU has buses going to Peace Arch Park leaving from the union’s Provincial Office and from the Scott Road Sky Train Station. Buses will leave at approximately 12:30 p.m. and return at approximately 4:30 p.m.

To reserve seats on the bus, call the HEU Provincial Office at 604-438-5000 or 1-800-663-5813 (toll free) or email: [heu@heu.org](mailto:heu@heu.org) and write in the subject line “We Are One” rally.

Come out to the rally at the Peace Arch and send a clear message to provincial and federal politicians that “an injury to one is an injury to all”, and we won’t stand by and watch while American workers are attacked, and their hard-won rights destroyed.

*March 17, 2011*