



March 16, 2018

Joint health provider bargaining update with SGEU, SEIU-West, CUPE

Your health care provider coalition met during the week of March 12-16, 2018 in Saskatoon with SAHO. Negotiations had previously broken off at the end of November of 2017 when we were unable to agree to a set of principles that would set us on a path to achieving a collective agreement.

This week's round marks the beginning of formal coalition bargaining. We are not bargaining individual union items; we are trying to get down to proposals that will conclude a tentative agreement that meets our members' needs and that our members will accept.

The bargaining committees have been focusing on professional fees; our Extended Health and Dental Plan; a joint trusteeship agreement; workload issues; recruitment and retention; interpersonal violence; a letter of understanding to address a process for transition issues (as we move to the Saskatchewan Health Authority); and a general wage increase. The coalition Unions' bargaining committees maintain a no cuts, no concession, no rollbacks position.

Unfortunately, the parties were not able to reach agreement this week, but we have scheduled additional dates to continue working towards a resolve to a new collective agreement for each union.

Many of our members have told each union, the transition issues are "big," covering: seniority; transfer of benefits and various time banks; co-employment; job postings and biddings, among other things. There is a lot of anxiety and tension among members as we move through the Employer's transition. We want to assure our members that we are working diligently to address those issues as quickly as possible. In the interim, if you have any questions about this process, do not hesitate to call your union for further information. Remember: do not attend a meeting without a union representative present; talk with your union first.

Continue to watch your union bulletin boards, websites and/or Facebook pages for further updates.

Thanks to all of you for your support. Together, we can achieve a fair collective agreement.

In solidarity, on behalf of your SGEU, SEIU-West and CUPE bargaining committees.