



# Solidarity Report



OCTOBER 2011



## It's time for a fair deal

BY PAUL KOMER



KOMER

This is our first issue of the Component 4 newsletter, Solidarity Report, since I was elected Chairperson of the component in June.

Component 4 includes a range of care providers in the facilities sector, independent health services and health science professionals in communities across the province.

British Columbians of all ages rely on our experience, training and professionalism to improve their quality of life. I'm truly honoured to represent such a diverse and committed group of workers.

Currently, we are preparing for bargaining in 2012 in the Facilities and Health Science Professionals subsectors - Independent Health certifications are ever on the ready as their contracts expire periodically. Our big challenge will be negotiating with a government that has not respected our work in previous contracts and is threatening to disregard our need for a fair deal in this round of bargaining. We need to be well organized and prepared to get a fair deal in 2012.

This fall, leading up to bargaining, your local executive and activists are engaged in member-to-member outreach to talk with you about bargaining, working conditions and necessary services for our patients and clients. We are looking forward to meeting with you. We will be updating current member contact information, asking you for home e-mail addresses and providing information on how to use our website and talk to stewards. We need to streamline communication, update information and improve our ability to stay in touch as communication is key to achieving a fair contract.

*\*Komer is chairperson of Component 4 which represents 7000 Health Services Workers, and serves on BCGEU's Provincial Executive*

visit [www.bcgeu.ca](http://www.bcgeu.ca)  
for more information

## NEWS

With the Community subsector expanding to make its own Component 8, Component 4 charts a new direction in Health Services combining The Facilities subsector, The Health Science Subsector, and Independent Health Services.

Our specialized services in health care make us a diverse and unique provider to improve the health and lives of British Columbians.



Component 4 welcomed 180 Emergency services and BC Bedline workers from Component 12 in a transfer in June.



This year British Columbians recognized 40,000 Health Care Assistants in British Columbia on October 18 as Health Care Assistant Day was proclaimed by the province of B.C.



After its first unsuccessful raid to recruit LPN's from other unions, the BC Nurses' Union (BCNU), alarmed at the gains in wages and scope of practice LPN's are achieving, have started another raid. We are asking members and stewards in BCGEU worksites to report any raiding activities during work hours, or on the work floor to the employer. Email [lpn@bcgeu.ca](mailto:lpn@bcgeu.ca) if you have any questions or if you encounter BCNU raid activity at your worksite.



Bargaining Committee elections for Facilities and Health Sciences are almost complete and bargaining committees will be announced shortly. Members can have their say on bargaining priorities through bargaining proposals, contact with executives and activists during the fall member-to-member drive, telephone and internet polls conducted by the BCGEU and comments on the website. Visit [www.bcgeu.ca](http://www.bcgeu.ca) for more information as bargaining unfolds.



## independent health services

# New Independent Health Committee formed

Independent Health members realized an important milestone on July 25 of this year when an Independent Health Committee was formed in Component 4. These five members who make up the committee all work for Independent Health certifications and creation of this committee fulfilled one of the goals of the first Independent Health Conference held in September 2008. Since that time, the number of Component 4 members from independent health certifications has grown from 2000-3000 making them the fastest growing sector not only in Component 4, but in the BCGEU.

The committee will advocate on issues pertinent to the independent health sector at the Component Executive, provide a link to resources and processes, and compile a working inventory of Independent Health facilities.

New sites are joining the BCGEU all the time. Moberly Manor in Revelstoke and Tla'Amin Community Health Board Society in Powell River are among the most recent sites to join the union.



From left to right: Michele Lamontagne, Helen Bosch, Mandy Defields (recording secretary), Billy Smith (Chairperson), Rose Chee.

## health science professionals

# Let's get organized!

The Health Science Education Fund closed its third and final stage of applications on September 30th. It has been highly successful in giving our members opportunities for career advancement and assistance. This comes at a time where employers have not been doing their part to help our members serve their clients better.

Employers pay lip-service to recruitment and retention issues but they have consistently driven health science classifications down to the lowest standard.

We need to be organized for the upcoming round of bargaining in order to protect the standards of the work that we do. That is why our local executive and activists will be engaged in member-to-member outreach this fall to talk about bargaining and issues important to our sector.

Updates on bargaining will be available at [www.bcg.eu.ca](http://www.bcg.eu.ca).

## facilities

# Working towards a fair deal

The addition of \$1,150,000 to the Facilities Bargaining Association Education Fund expands the opportunities to BCGEU facilities members to advance their career expectations and improve their working practice with patients.

We are headed into bargaining and with health care demands increasing every year we need to be organized and ready to challenge the employers' desire to maintain status quo so that we can continue to grow as a profession.

Your local executive and activists will be starting the member-to-member outreach at your facilities this fall to discuss the upcoming contract negotiations. We need to hear from you about workplace issues important to you, to give us direction in bargaining as we work towards achieving a fair deal.



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