



Solidarity Report



APRIL 9, 2010



BC Care Aide and Community Health Worker registry

The Ministry of Health launched the BC Care Aide and Community Health Worker registry at the end of January.

The mandate of the registry includes the implementation of provincial training standards for all public and private education programs for care aides and community health workers; and a standardized, transparent process for investigating abuse allegations.

The broader mandate of the registry means greater protection for care aides (CAs) and community health workers (CHWs). It recognizes the value of high-quality training and the important contribution you make in supporting many of B.C.'s most vulnerable citizens.

Your union will be involved in the Advisory Committee which oversees the registry to ensure that it carries out its mandate in a fair, timely, and transparent way.

All CAs and CHWs working for publicly-funded employers - with or without a certificate - need to apply.

Any health care worker who is employed as a CA or CHW (or is off on WCB, LTD, or any other leave), and/or has a CA/CHW certificate, should register.

Registration allows you to demonstrate that you are eligible to be hired at B.C.'s publicly-funded care facilities.

Registration is optional. It is not a requirement to continue your employment with your current employer.

However, if you leave your current employer, you will need to be registered to be hired at another publicly-funded employer.

Current CAs and CHWs have until April 28, 2010 to register with their current education credentials. After that time, you will be required to have a care aide or community health worker certificate to register.

Registration is easy and it's free. You'll need to complete an Application and Consent Form. Visit www.cachwr.bc.ca for more information.

FOR DEVOLVED MEMBERS

There will be a meeting of all devolved or 11th Master (Public Sector) members who are working under the Community Health contract. These are members who are either former employees of the Ministry of Health or members whose wages or benefits are tied to the 11th Master contract or members who are wage protected.

During the recent round of bargaining these members raised questions about the contract and expressed the desire to meet and discuss issues related to the 11th Master Superior Benefits Memorandum.

Meetings and/or teleconferences will be set up over the next few weeks to obtain input from these members.

Twelve representatives from this group will be selected from the various regions of the province and these representatives will meet with members of the component executive in Burnaby on June 10, 2010.

The representatives will review issues related to the superior benefits memorandum and make recommendations to the component executive.



Moving forward



BROWN

BY BRENDA BROWN

Although bargaining has concluded for many of our members, with two-year agreements in place, it won't be long before we need to start preparing for the next round.

Hopefully, the economy will have improved significantly by 2012 and we'll be in a better position to get

much-needed improvements to the contracts.

Until then, your component executive will be representing you on the policy tables that were established this round and addressing issues that you raised in bargaining and through the ratification process.

• *Brown is chairperson of the Health Services Component 4 which represents 13,000 health care workers, and serves on BCGEU's Provincial Executive.*

community health

Strong support for new contract

A strong majority of the BCGEU Community Health members voted in favour of the latest tentative agreement in early March 2010. The BCGEU is the lead union in this sector representing 8,800 of the 14,000 members.

During the ratification process, members of the bargaining committee along with Component 4 activists made direct contact with over 3,000 members. Members were pleased to get a call from the union and the bargaining committee was grateful for members' feedback.

The Community Bargaining Association is working to identify dates to begin meetings with the employer for the scheduling subcommittee. Carla Dempsey, chair of the BCGEU bargaining committee and 1st Vice of Component 4 will lead the discussion at that table.

independent health services

A growing sector

Members in the independent sector work for private employers with site specific collective agreements. BCGEU has been the union of choice for many health care workers making this the fastest growing sector in our union - with almost 3,000 BCGEU members who work for 18 employers.

Component 4 has recently established a committee made up of independent health sector members from across the province. These members will meet to discuss work-related issues and exchange information from collective agreements on such items as wages, hours of work, scheduling, holidays and travel allowances with a view to improving and standardizing contracts.

The component is providing an opportunity to build a strong link between the members in this sector and its leadership in order to listen to issues, work on solutions and support the members in this sector.

health science professionals

Bargaining update

The Health Sciences Bargaining Association (HSPBA) has made a proposal to HEABC to form a joint committee - made up of two representatives from the HSPBA and two from HEABC - to negotiate changes to the current classification system.

The committee would take most of the next year to work on the classification system. If the joint committee were unable to come to an agreement on changes to the classification system, a mediator/arbitrator would have the power to make binding recommendations to the committee, which could go back to the HSPBA bargaining committee and the employer bargaining committee for approval to send out to the membership for ratification.

HEABC is expected to respond to this proposal when negotiations resume March 30, 2010.

facilities

Positive bargaining outcomes

Despite a difficult round of bargaining, our focus on job security produced some worthwhile initiatives.

The chair of the BCGEU committee, Bobbi Pettett and the component chair Brenda Brown helped ensure that there were positive outcomes including a Memorandum of Agreement that gives members an opportunity to work with employers to develop rotations and schedules that suit the needs of health care workers.

There will be a joint engagement committee made up of senior level reps from the FBA, health authorities and the ministry to implement cost-effective and sustainable system-wide improvements across health care. As well, the patient/resident handling techniques committee was developed to reduce the injury rate to health care workers by demonstrating proper techniques.



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