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SGEU Health Providers Bargaining Update

Your SGEU Health Providers and CUPE Bargaining Committees met with representatives of the Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations (SAHO) in Regina on May 7, 2019 to discuss how to proceed with implementing the recently ratified collective bargaining agreement (CBA). SEIU-West did not ratify the agreement so they will engage in further negotiations for their union. The three Unions are very much in support of one another and continue to work together towards an association document for the future.

Your SGEU Health Provider Negotiating Committee has been busy proofreading the CBA and preparing it for printing. The wage implementation is effective as of May 26, 2019, with retroactive pay to be received on a separate cheque on or around July 19, 2019, pending any complications.

Following the conclusion of the negotiation process, a couple items were brought to our attention with respect to recent changes to the Saskatchewan Employment Act (SEA). We are working with SAHO to agree upon language surrounding these changes. The articles affected are meal break language and interpersonal violence leave. The SEA now states that the Employer must provide an unpaid meal break of at least thirty minutes duration within every five (5) hours of work. The government also recently enacted Bill 172, *The Saskatchewan Employment (Paid Interpersonal and Sexual Violence Leave) Amendment Act, 2019, which allows employees who are survivors of interpersonal or sexual violence to take five paid days and five unpaid days off to seek medical attention, access supports or relocate.*

We also want to note some changes that have occurred within our negotiating committee and staff assigned to represent our members. Audrey Yaremy, Labour Relations Officer (LRO) in the Prince Albert office, retired recently. On behalf of all of our members, we wish Audrey all the best in her retirement and thank her for her years of work and service with the SGEU health providers. Kim Nordmarken, Vice Chair of the Health Providers Negotiating Committee, has accepted the Prince Albert LRO position. We thank Kim for her work and dedication as an elected member and look forward to working with her as a LRO staff representative. We also saw the retirement of one committee member last December. We congratulate Cynthia Roney on her retirement and thank her for the work she has done with the SGEU Health Providers.

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Your current SGEU Health Providers Negotiating Committee members are:
Bonnie Erickson, Chair (KTHR), Sherri Hanson (KTHR), Tracey Sauer (KTHR),
Ryan Favel (KYRHA) and Wendy McPhail (MCRHA).

The SGEU Health Providers Negotiating Committee would like to thank members
for their ongoing support.

In Solidarity,

Bonnie Erickson, Chair
Health Providers Negotiating Committee