



BARGAINING UPDATE

HEALTH CARE BARGAINING UPDATE #4

April 6, 2021

The CUPE Bargaining Council and the Provincial Health Labour Relations Services (PHLRS) met on March 4, 10, 17 and 31, 2021. The CUPE Bargaining Council and the PHLRS ran into an issue regarding the application of seniority. It was obvious that CUPE's understanding was different from the PHLRS. Bargaining stalled for a few days until we could rectify the misunderstanding. On our last day of bargaining in March CUPE clarified our position regarding seniority. A few more items were agreed to, but many remain outstanding. The next dates we have set to meet with the PHLRS are April 7, 14, 27 and 28, 2021. While bargaining can be a slow process we would like to see it go a bit faster and we continue to push the Employer. The other health care unions are having similar frustrations at the bargaining table.

CUPE and other unions in the public sector have successfully negotiated increases outside the *Bill 28: The Public Services Sustainability Act* mandate. This is good news for us as it lays the ground work to get increases beyond what *Bill 28* allows (0%, 0%, 0.75%, 1%). Previously, we shared that the unions (Partnership to Defend Public Services) had won the court case against the Pallister government and *Bill 28*. The Employers appealed the unions' victory on *Bill 28*. The first court date for that appeal hearing is June 2, 2021.

There has been a lot of talk on social media and questions regarding strike. The Bargaining Council may call on the members for a strike mandate (vote) to support their efforts at the bargaining table. Normally, unions do not call for a strike vote until there is a significant break down in the negotiations. While the Bargaining Council is frustrated that bargaining is going slowly we have not reached a point where a strike vote is necessary. When and if the Bargaining Council does call for a strike vote, information will be shared at that time.

Please make sure we have your most recent **contact information**, including cell phone number and personal email. *We do not use work contact information to reach you for union business.*

If you have any questions or comments, please send an email to healthcare@cupe.ca.

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