



# Community Social Services: Monetary items remain outstanding, job action likely

September 25, 2012

Job action in Community Social Services is likely in the coming weeks, unless the government mandate regarding monetary issues changes significantly.

BCs Minister of Finance, Mike de Jong, made a pessimistic pronouncement about the state of the provinces finances last week, indicating the deficit is on the rise and costs have to be contained. In the governments quarterly financial update on September 13, de Jong said the province will be reviewing its current bargaining mandate, which dictates that all public sector workers must find "savings" in their contracts to fund any wage increase.

On September 17 and 18, the multi-union bargaining committee for community social services met with the employer -- the Community Social Services Employers Association (CSSEA). Progress was made on non-monetary issues, and the committee was able to fight off a number of concessions.

Because of the government mandate, CSSEA has not presented any monetary offer. Monetary items -- such as wages, benefits and employment security (for example: priority hiring, portability) that were identified as important by the membership -- remain outstanding.

The bargaining committee has established a strike coordinating committee that is preparing for job action and planning other actions in support of a fair deal. The September 13 rally in support of community social service workers was a great success. Photos are available on the BC Community Social Service Workers Facebook page.

The bargaining committee will keep you posted of future actions, and encourages you to take part.

In the event job action begins, please support the bargaining committee at the local level.

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You can help by:

- Making sure your contact information is up to date by logging on at [hsabc.org](http://hsabc.org) or by email to [memberlist@hsabc.org](mailto:memberlist@hsabc.org)
- Reading updates from your union
- Participating in local meetings
- Spreading the word about the importance of the work you and your colleagues do every day
- Posting bargaining bulletins
- Talking with coworkers

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