



BULLETIN

Bargaining team needs your continued support

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by RICK LAMPSHIRE

As the Paramedical Professional Bargaining Association heads into mediation, I want to take this opportunity to thank all HSA members for their strong support during these negotiations.

Many of our key issues are complicated and not easy to communicate in a 30-second sound bite. Unlike other health tables, HSA does not have a single issue to rally around. Rather, we are fighting to protect and enhance our existing collective agreement so that it reflects the ever-changing health care landscape and the needs of health care professionals. Our classification system, hours of work, and seniority provisions are what make our collective agreement unique and relevant to members. We want to maintain and improve these benefits, and will strongly oppose any attempt by the employer to take them away.

The appointment of Mediator Brian Foley came as welcome news to the bargaining team. After nine months of negotiations, it became clear that HEABC is void of any creative solutions for reaching a collective agreement. In fact, they seem hell-bent on dismantling any progress we have made over the past 10 years. HEABC's intransigence at the nursing bargaining table put the health care system under a great deal of strain. Last week, it became obvious that employers were prepared to risk further disruption rather than engage in meaningful negotiations.

Mr. Foley's involvement is a positive step. However, we still have a long way to go. If the mediation process is not successful we will have no other option but to initiate job action. To ensure we are well-prepared, I have asked stewards to keep their strike action committees up and running. Your bargaining team will take whatever action is required to ensure paramedical professionals get a fair and reasonable contract, but we need your continued involvement and support.

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