

TOUGH BARGAINING AHEAD

When you receive this your committee will be in bargaining again. There is not much time between bargaining sessions to get this update out. We will be starting bargaining again May 27th. We will be addressing our monetary proposals. We have worked diligently on the scheduling language and left the last round of bargaining with a proposal from the employer. We will respond with a counter offer on our first day back.

We have made some major achievements on the issue of being available 24 - 7 for client calls on weekends. Our purpose at the bargaining table was to create a scheduling system that gives some semblance to a shift for all workers. Every worker in health care has a schedule that resembles a shift and home care should not be an exception. Workers should know when their shift starts and ends. They know that when their shift is over they can plan things with their families, friends and have some sense of normalcy in their life. In the next bargaining update we will expand on what the language will look like. We have been adamant at the bargaining table that Red Cross workers should not be exploited because of their commitment to their work. The employer has agreed with our concept of scheduling employees within shifts.

This is a changing industry which will continue to grow. As we have move away from the elect to work model we can concentrate on home care workers making a decent living and at the same time have a life. We will not walk away from the bargaining table without travel time. If the Red Cross can not recognize the importance of this issue, then we will be prepared to do whatever it takes to achieve it. We will not be held hostage any

more. We will have a conciliator from the Ministry of Labour at the table with us starting on May 29th. Stay tuned and remember the struggle continues for fairness and respect for home care workers.

NEW H & S LANGUAGE ON VIOLENCE - AGREED TO AT THE BARGAINING TABLE

SEIU Local 1Canada was able to achieve new language on health and safety. We have set aside two clauses the employer will not agree upon which deals with modified work and the right to refuse unsafe work. We have not dropped these issues but have put them aside after several rejections from the employer.

The union and the employer have agreed to changes on the following health and safety articles and this is a short synopsis of the changes within that article:

15.02 (b) - Language guaranteeing a minimum of seven hours pay for health and safety representatives to attend meetings.

15.02 (d) - New language requiring health and safety issues to be dealt with immediately and the concern to be recorded on an accident investigation report to be forwarded to the Joint Health and Safety Committee and the worker to be copied if they so requested.

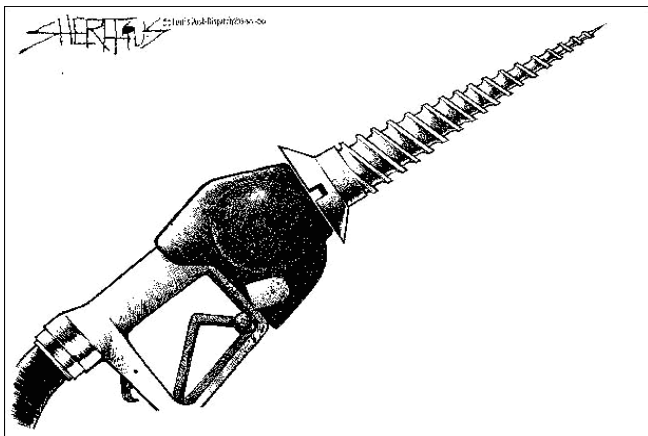
15.02 (e) - Language to deal with health and safety risks associated with lifts.

Article 15.04 - Language to clarify procedures regarding the right to refuse clients who smoke.

Article 15.06 - Language which stipulates the right to protective equipment and the importance of infection control as it relates to its use.

Article 15.07 - New language on protection from violence (same language as negotiated in Central Nursing Home Collective Agreement)

Appendix C - Change in the language to allow greater numbers on the Regional Joint Health and Safety Committee in line with the number of workers in that region. There is no reduction in any region.



HOME CARE WORKERS ON 32 CENTS PER KM

**For more info on the
SEIU Local 1Canada
Home Care Project
Go to - www.seiulocal1.org**

HOME CARE PROJECT ON THE MOVE

PUBLIC HEARINGS ON HOME CARE SET FOR JUNE

SEIU Local 1Canada is sponsoring province wide hearings into homecare reform. The purpose of the hearings is to receive input from a wide range of stakeholders (patients/clients, family members, seniors and advocacy groups, volunteers, providers, workers, interested residents, CCACs, academic community) on the future of the homecare system and what changes or reforms are necessary to make it work for Ontarians.

These hearings will travel to different regions of the province from June 9 to 16, and will feature three eminent panelists receiving oral and/or written submissions on the homecare system.

The panel will consist of Carol Kushner, Pat Baranek and Marion Dewar. They represent a non-partisan approach, and have a wealth of policy knowledge. Together they will formulate an independent report based on the hearings and recommendations for reform presented. The people and groups making submissions to the hearings are invited to base their submissions on a set of discussion items and questions we have formulated in a consultation document that has been set out. We have received endorsements for the hearings from: Canadian Pensioners Concerned, Toronto Health Coalition, Older Women's Network, Care Watch -Toronto, Ontario Coalition of Senior Citizen Organizations, Alliance of Seniors/Older Canadians Network, Ontario Federation of Union Retirees, Congress of Union Retirees Canada, SOAR, ARM Chapter 12- Toronto (Retired Secondary School Teachers)

Hearing Dates

Monday, June 9 - Toronto – Marriott Hotel
Tuesday, June 10 - Sarnia - Holiday Inn
Wednesday, June 11 - Peterborough - Holiday Inn
Thursday, June 12 - Ottawa- Marriott Hotel
Monday, June 16 - Thunder Bay - Valhalla Inn