



Bargaining Update

15 Mar. 2010

SEIU Local 1 Canada

Negotiations at a stand still until OHA provides costings

“The OHA says it wants to move forward and is willing to be flexible, but so far it has refused to provide the costing for what they are proposing. If the dollars and cents have not been presented to SEIU, there is nothing we can do?”

Sharleen Stewart, President, SEIU Local 1 Canada

TORONTO, 15 March 2010 – Talks between leaders of SEIU and the Ontario Hospital Association ended March 5 with SEIU requesting the OHA provide costings for their proposals. To date, the OHA has still not provided the critical financial data.

It is impossible to accept or reject any proposal until the costs can be discussed and agreed upon, says SEIU Local 1 Canada President Sharleen Stewart. The OHA’s lack of a response is unfortunate, Stewart explains, since there are only a few outstanding issues to resolve.

Furthermore, the OHA still seems to want to pigeon-hole SEIU into agreeing to conditions the OHA negotiated with other unions, which SEIU cannot accept without ensuring important SEIU conditions are also agreed upon, says SEIU Chief Negotiator Brad Philp.

“But,” Philp stresses, “I indicated we remain willing to talk and are only a phone call away.”

“SEIU must have a made-for-SEIU contract that meets our members’ needs. We’re still ready and willing to negotiate, but the OHA’s cookie-cutter approach to negotiating no longer works and they have to recognize that,” Stewart adds.

Con’d on back



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“...the OHA’s cookie-cutter approach to negotiating no longer works...”

Con’d from front

“If these few outstanding issues cannot be resolved at the table, then we will have no choice but to have to go to arbitration.”

ON-AGAIN, OFF-AGAIN

Central contract negotiations began late last summer, and have since followed an on-again off-again schedule.

The delays led to SEIU members launching contract actions in January, including two postcard campaigns: one relating to job posting language; the second concerning Article 28 about RPN professional practice. The campaigns required members to fill out postcards, which were then delivered to their hospitals’ CEOs to raise their awareness of the OHA’s tactics to further delay reaching a settlement. The members’ contract actions had a significant impact.

“When our members get mobilized behind a common cause, people take notice! Hospital CEOs, the media, and community members got involved. It’s really true we are so much *Stronger Together*,” says Carol McDowell, SEIU RPN Division Vice-President.

LOCAL BARGAINING

In many of our member hospitals Local Bargaining is already underway. The process of Local Bargaining addresses the issues that are particular to an individual hospital or hospital group, such as staff scheduling or paramedic issues.

Local Bargaining is negotiated

between the individual hospital’s bargaining team (which usually includes the hospital’s HR rep/s) and that particular bargaining units’ Union Representative with stewards’ and members’ guidance.

If required, arbitration will be the next step. An arbitrator has already been selected and an arbitration date is being sought in July.

For additional assistance, call the Member Resource Centre at 1-877-MRC-SEIU or 1-877-672-7348.



Provincial Hospital Bargaining Committee Members

SEIU hospital members were elected on May 19 at the HWC Bargaining Conference.

Representing Region	Elected Committee Member
Thunder Bay & Algonquin	Jean England , Thunder Bay Reg. Health Sciences
Northumberland	Margaret Bourgoin, Quinte Health Care Corp
Northumberland	Betty Fraser, Lennox & Addington County Hospital
Georgian Bay	Jim Andriano, Royal Victoria Hospital
Georgian Bay	Gregory Garratt, North Simcoe Hospital
Greater Toronto Area	Juanita Barrett, Toronto East General Hospital
Greater Toronto Area	Nancy Barrett, Humber River Regional Hospital
Hamilton/Halton	Diane Gray, Headwaters Health Care Centre
Hamilton/Halton	Piera Naddeo, William Osler Health Care
Norfolk/Niagara	Theresa Vaccaro, Niagara Health System
Norfolk/Niagara	Wanda White, Niagara Health System
London & Southern Ontario	Claudette Drapeau, Bluewater Health
London & Southern Ontario	Elizabeth Lannin, Listowel Memorial Hospital

Hospitals included in Provincial (‘central’) Hospital Bargaining are: Alexandra Marine and General Hospital, Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care, Bluewater Health, Brant Community Health-care System, Cambridge Memorial Hospital, Collingwood General and Marine Hospital, Haliburton Highlands Health Services, Halton Healthcare Services, Headwaters Health Care Centre, Hotel Dieu Shaver Health & Rehabilitation, Humber River Regional Hospital, Kirkland and District Hospital, Lennox and Addington County General Hospital, Listowel Memorial Hospital, MICs Group of Health Services, Mount Sinai Hospital, Muskoka-East Parry Sound Health Services, Niagara Health System, North Bay General Hospital (St. Joseph’s Treatment Centre, Nipissing Detox Centre, Crisis Intervention Centre) North Simcoe Hospital Alliance (Huron District Hospital, Penetanguishene Hospital), North York General Hospital, Orillia Soldiers’ Memorial Hospital, Quinte Healthcare Corporation, Runnymede Healthcare Centre, Sensenbrenner Hospital, Southlake Regional Health Centre, St. Joseph’s Care Group, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, The McCausland Hospital, The Royal Victoria Hospital, Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre, Toronto East General Hospital, West Haldimand General Hospital, West Park Healthcare Centre, West Parry Sound Health Centre, William Osler Health Centre, and Women’s College Hospital.

Member Resource Centre - 1-877-MRC-SEIU (672-7348)

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