

Service Employees International Union

Report to Membership 2009



Local 1 Canada



PRESIDENT'S EXECUTIVE BOARD SUMMARY: 27 January 2009

SEIU Endorses Horvath

The SEIU Local 1 Canada Executive Board voted to officially endorse Andrea Horvath, MPP for Hamilton Centre, in her bid for the leadership of the Ontario NDP. All of the 4 leadership candidates convened, debated, and explained to the Executive Board (Nov. 27, 2008) their vision for the party and Ontario's future.

Red Cross Bargaining

Bargaining between Canadian Red Cross and SEIU is scheduled to restart in March. To follow up the vote that returned 88% support for a strike if necessary, SEIU is meeting with MPPs to explain the concerns of home care workers in their communities and remind MPPs of the impact a strike will have on home care services.

Hospital Contract Bargaining

Extensive preparations for 2009 provincial hospital contract bargaining are underway.

Ongoing Agenda Items

- Rural Hospital Cutbacks
- Nursing Home Care Standards
- Community Outreach

NEXT MEETING: Mar 2009

Organizing sees 'Sunrising'

2009 marks aggressive rebirth of Sunrise Senior Living campaign

The Executive Board was briefed that the Organizing department is in full swing assisting workers at Sunrise Senior Living retirement homes across the province.

In a campaign called *Profits over People* SEIU Organizers and Member Organizers are currently focusing on 9 Sunrise homes where Sunrise's unorganized staff cite cutbacks to employee hours and laying off staff.

Even though the company that owns Sunrise, Ventas Inc., is making record profits and its CEO earns millions a year in salary and benefits, Sunrise staff are reporting to Organizers that there is less time to care for residents.

The Board agreed that this is unfair to seniors, who are paying many thousands of dollars a year for Sunrise's so-called quality care, and that

it is unfair to staff who value the quality of care they are expected to provide as staffing levels continue to fall around them.

Employees at one Ontario Sunrise retirement home have already formed a union in their workplace. Workers at Sunrise Unionville voted to join SEIU in 2006. But since then Sunrise management has continued to delay settling their employees' first collective agreement. SEIU is keeping up the pressure.

SUNRISING SENIOR LIVING

Profits over People

Making millions of dollars in corporate profits at residents and staff's expense

SUNRISING SENIOR LIVING Sunrise places Profits over People!

Sunrise Senior Living likes to say they value their residents and staff. Here is the real story:

FACT: In 2008 Sunrise was ordered to pay \$2-million to the family of a resident who died of ulcers in a Sunrise home.

FACT: Sunrise has been sued many times for inadequate care of their residents.

FACT: Sunrise's 2007 annual report said lawsuits are just "the normal course of business."

To have your say, contact SEIU at 1-866-919-0003 or info@seiuocal1.org.

Cutback estimates predict as many as 8,000 hospital workers' jobs threatened

SEIU warned the government, along with the Ontario Health Coalition and other Ontario health care unions, that underfunding at currently planned levels translates into a cutback of 5,000 full time jobs and more than 9 million hours of

patient care. Some estimates are as high as 8,000 jobs being threatened.

Every size of hospital and every region may be affected, the Executive Board was told. Local Health Integration Networks' restructuring is considered as one of the causes.