



Central Bargaining Update

Negotiations between SEIU and the Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) stalled in March after SEIU requested the OHA provide SEIU with financial information explaining how much the union's proposals would cost. Without this information, it is impossible for SEIU to make a decision on a proposals or counter proposals until the costs can be discussed and agreed upon. Arbitration is the next step. See back page story: "Central".



TEGH physio campaign draws dividends

Despite a strong campaign that mobilized the community to keep the clinic open, Toronto East General Hospital still closed its outpatient physiotherapy clinic. SEIU did force the hospital to make sure all of their patients will be financially covered when they move to another clinic.



Admin Professionals Day!

SEIU is celebrating Administrative Professionals' week on April 18-24. If you would like to celebrate an event at your hospital, give the Member Resource Centre a call on -877-MRC-SEIU or 1-877-672-7348.



Nursing Day Draw

SEIU's RPN Division will be holding a draw on May 12 to give away dozens of gift certificates for popular Ontario retail stores. If you want to make sure your name is in the draw please call the MRC at 1-877-MRC-SEIU (672-7348), identify yourself as a RPN and update your contact information. The winners will be notified by a phone call after the draw and their names will be posted on our website at www.seiulocal1.org.



SEIU hospital workers protesting sky-high CEO salaries in downtown Toronto

Hospital CEO Salaries Soar as Budgets Stall

Hospital CEO salaries have reached new records despite a squeeze on budgets and patient services, figures released Mar. 31 on public sector salaries show.

The disclosures show that hospital CEOs' pay is soaring while hospital budgets are stalling.

"Hospital CEOs are behaving like a modern-day French monarchy," said Sharleen Stewart, president of SEIU Local 1 Canada.

The disclosures for 2009 show: Robert Bell, CEO of University Health Network took home \$830,948, a 24% increase over a mere three years; Joseph Mapa, CEO of Mt Sinai

Hospital, came in near the top with a whopping \$724,734; Robert Devitt, CEO of Toronto East General Hospital pocketed \$460,852, enjoying a staggering 53% increase in compensation over 5 years. The massive pay increase was disclosed on the same day the CEO shut the hospital's rehabilitation clinic saying there was no money in the budget.

At St. Michael's Hospital, the new

CEO has walked straight into a half-million-dollar salary.

"With hospital budgets being squeezed, how can you justify a 50% increase in compensation for a CEO?" asked Ms. Stewart. "Hospital CEOs are out of touch. We need a reality check."

"The sense of entitlement is astounding. CEO's pay packets have

become so inflated they are matched in size only by their egos," added Ms Stewart.

The union welcomed the provincial government's pledge to reform hospital executive pay.

SEIU called for hospital boards to

become more representative of the communities they serve. SEIU also urged the government to set a base salary rate for hospital CEOs and measure performance based on how executives cooperated with other hospitals and community partners to share best practice and improve patient care across local regions.

"Communities need to take back hospital boards," said Ms. Stewart.

“With hospital budgets being squeezed, how can you justify a 50% increase in compensation for a CEO? Hospital CEOs are out of touch. We need a reality check.”

- Sharleen Stewart
President, SEIU Local 1 Canada

Central Bargaining: "wage freeze should not affect our current central hospital bargaining."

SEIU Local 1 Canada President Sharleen Stewart was present at Queen's Park when the government issued its provincial budget on March 26.

One statement in particular, about a public sector wage freeze, President Stewart addressed immediately to SEIU's central hospital members in an official statement on Mar. 26.

The government's announcement regarding a wage freeze should not affect our current central bargaining, President Stewart reaffirms.

"SEIU is well into the bargaining process with hospitals, and we are heading into arbitration. The

minister said that wage freezes may be expected for contracts expiring AFTER their announcement," Stewart says.

"Also, there are already standards regarding wage increases set by the Ontario Hospital Association in recent bargaining with other unions," President Stewart reaffirms.

Stewart also added that SEIU's Hospital Bargaining Committee will proceed as it has from the beginning of the central bargaining process: "with our members' interests as our guide and their bargaining priorities as our goal."



Job interviews need to be fair

Job interviews should be an opportunity for managers to speak with interested job applicants to find out who is the best person for the job. But it doesn't always work this way.

SEIU has learned too many hospital managers treat job interviews as a formality. They already know who they are going to hire.

"I have seen job applicants with 20 years experience and seniority loose to a candidate with only 6 months training," said Kim Kaufman, union rep with SEIU.

"How can you tell me this is fair?" SEIU Local 1 Canada's hospital reps are working in a coordinated manner with stewards throughout the province to challenge unfair job interviews.

Hospital management needs to realize SEIU takes this issue seriously and it will pursue this matter until there is a resolution. SEIU will file a grievance every time a job interview was conducted improperly.



Dalton McGuinty and Finance Minister Dwight Duncan present the Ontario budget on March 26

Hospital Workers' Council flexes its MUSCLE

SEIU Local 1 Canada has revamped itself into a stronger, more powerful fighting machine!

SEIU's servicing, organizing and research used to be divided into 3 separate departments. But no more.

Today, SEIU has brought together the skills and expertise of all three departments to raise the bench strength of the Hospital Workers Council (HWC).

"This new structure gives union reps, organizers and researchers the opportunity to work together and develop strategies that will improve SEIU's member servicing," said Marty Parker, HWC servicing lead.



This new structure gives SEIU the power to fight grievances such as job posting language or scheduling on a provincial scale.

The council also campaigns. For example, the HWC formed a coalition of community organizations protesting Toronto East General Hospital's decision to close their outpatient physiotherapy service. The council is also ramping up its contact action campaign against the OHA.

Similar structures were created for members working in long-term care, as well as for home care and community service members. A new era of member servicing has begun!

SEIU tackles scheduling problems

SSEIU Local 1 Canada has created task forces in hospitals to track shift scheduling. They monitor how often part-time workers are scheduled to work full-time hours, and how frequently on-call or casual workers are slated to work part-time shifts.

Whenever hospitals schedule overtime hours for part-time and casual workers regularly, there is usually a need to hire additional full-time and part-time staff.

Although a part-time worker may like working full-time hours, they do not receive the same kind of benefits as full-time employees enjoy. That is unfair.

Member Resource Centre - 1-877-MRC-SEIU

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