

SUN NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE

March 6, 2015
sent via SUNBurst

Your Negotiations Committee met with SAHO on February 9, 2015, to begin initial discussions related to housekeeping items and the modernization of the language to ensure the Collective Agreement meets the requirements of the new *Saskatchewan Employment Act*. SAHO is currently reviewing SUN's proposed changes and language updates and we were anticipating a response to these items when we were scheduled to meet again at the end of February.

The Committee met again on February 25, 26 & 27 in Regina with Government representatives but without representation from SAHO. Unfortunately due to a number of additional pressures - such as the changing economic climate and additional growing complexities in the environment - these discussions were not all that productive and as SAHO was not present, we did not receive a response to the items discussed earlier in the month. No further dates have been scheduled at this time and representatives of the Government indicate that they will not be available until the first week of April. We are working at scheduling some dates in that time frame.

While the Committee recognizes that this round of negotiations is taking longer than originally anticipated, your Negotiations Team remains committed to achieving a Collective Agreement and renewed Tripartite Partnership Agreement that meets the needs and priorities of SUN members.

With each email, phone call and passing comment, SUN members continue to reinforce the message that wages and benefits are not the number one priority for this round of bargaining. Having a Collective Agreement that addresses role clarity, has the ability to meet professional standards, and that safely addresses workload and staffing concerns for delivery of high quality patient care continues to be of greater importance for SUN members.

Even though the process has been slow, and at times frustrating for the Committee, SUN remains committed and open to continued collaborative discussions to address member concerns and priorities, and further supports all parties focusing on sustainable and tangible solutions to issues within the healthcare system.

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During this slow and unproductive time it is ever so important for SUN members to show the same strength and solidarity for our Negotiations Committee that we showed at the 2013 Bargaining Conference. We can do this by simply wearing our white tops or lab coats and by wearing our designation pins with pride. This impactful visual display of solidarity is a great way to support our Negotiations Committee and draw attention to the critical role of the registered nurse in the workplace.

SUN members are encouraged to wear their white tops or lab coats each Wednesday as a show of support for the Committee.

Share your solidarity and pride in your profession - send SUN Provincial photos of you and your fellow SUN members **Wearing White on Wednesdays** and tell us why wearing white is important to you and your profession.

Send your photos and testimonials to sun.communications@sun-nurses.sk.ca

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