



Negotiations Update Bulletin #1 Whitehorse General Hospital

November 15, 2007

Your bargaining team met with the employer for the first time in this round of collective bargaining on Monday, November 5th. The purpose of the afternoon session was to exchange proposals and get a first look at what the employer wants to change in our collective agreement. The short answer is – a lot.

The employer tabled a document that was not only thick, but comprised of many concessions which will either make the lives of our members more difficult at work, or take money directly out of their pay cheques. The sheer number and nature of the employer's demands are going to make getting to a tentative agreement a real challenge, so we're all going to have to be patient as the process unfolds. It's going to be a long round...

The employer's reaction to our own proposals was not encouraging. It is clear that the employer views our contract as "rich", both in terms of compensation and with respect to leave. As such, we don't expect a favourable response to what we, as a team, believe to be reasonable proposals based on language similar to that found in other Yukon agreements. For the time being, however, all we can report is that the employer has indicated a willingness to look at some of our proposals, but has not tabled any specific offers to date. Bargaining has focused almost exclusively on the employer's proposals.

Your bargaining team will, as always, do everything in its power to protect your collective agreement and, where possible, seek improvements. We urge you to give them your support during what is going to be a very long and difficult winter for our bargaining unit.

You have a right to respect, dignity and safety in the workplace. You have a right to do your job in a supportive environment that is free of harassment and discrimination. You have the right to be paid fairly for the work that you do, and you have the right to take a break from your work from time to time to focus on the other priorities in your life. All of these rights come to you through the hard-won provisions of your collective agreement. We all built it together – so let's all stand together to protect it.

We next meet with the employer in January. A full-update will be provided following the week-long talks.

Your Negotiating Team