

BARGAINING UPDATE

Fight against for-profit surgeries/Bargaining Rally/ Members' Poll/Pension hike

Membership Poll Shows High Levels of Exhaustion, Anxiety

A recent poll of CUPE's members in the hospital sector shows high levels of **exhaustion** (62%), **anxiety** (49%), **trouble sleeping** (44%) or **dread of going to work** (41%).

43% are considering leaving their jobs.

79% have no confidence in the healthcare policy of the provincial government.

Over 1,000 media stories and a push for 1.25\$ billion a year for the next 4 years

A media tour pushed the province to add 10,000 beds & significantly increase hospital funding to hire additional staff.



OCHU Secretary-Treasurer Sharon and First Vice-president Dave Verch release CUPE membership polling results and call for a significant increase in hospital funding.

Rally Feb. 6 as bargaining stalls

CUPE, SEIU and Unifor will hold a rally Feb. 6 at the Sheraton Centre Hotel (123 Queen Street) in downtown Toronto from 11:00 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The rally will push the provincial government to make significant investments in Ontario's hospitals, to get patients off stretchers and off waiting lists and into beds and surgeries and treatments. It will also push for a settlement with the 70,000 staff that our unions represent; one that is respectful of their enormous contribution.



HOOPP adjusts pensions by 3.4% for inflation

The Healthcare of Ontario Pension Plan has announced that pensions for retirees will increase by 3.4% in 2024 to reflect the increase in the Consumer Price Index for 2023.

Ontario Health Coalition plans a major push against for-profit surgeries in 2024

The Ontario Health Coalition held its annual strategy meeting Jan 20 & 21 and adopted a plan to push back against for-profit surgeries and diagnostic services. The plan includes the distribution of 2 million leaflets, many rallies and protests and much more. Full details at the website of the Ontario Health Coalition.

Demands for many concessions and lack of progress on economic issues are the reason bargaining is stalled

The hospital employers are seeking many serious and significant concessions in this round of bargaining. One involves a substantial reduction in workers' rights within job postings, while another aims to greatly restrict options for workers facing layoffs. These are just a few examples, as there are several other concessions being proposed.

The union has yet to receive a response on most monetary issues, 12 days into face to face bargaining.

Priorities for CUPE and its bargaining partners, SEIU and Unifor in the bargaining are: No concessions; wage increases greater than the rate of inflation; parity with registered nurses in benefits, vacations and shift and weekend premiums.

The rally on February 6 will be the first in an escalating campaign of action as we push to achieve a settlement that acknowledges the contribution of our members.

We will be meeting with members in February and March to discuss the bargaining. Please attend this meeting.

