

Nurses' Bargaining 2006



Bulletin 1

March 10, 2006

The Nurses' Bargaining Association bargaining committee met with the Health Employers Association of BC (HEABC) and Health Authority representatives for the past five days (March 6 - 10, 2006). The Unions proposed changes to the collective agreement in numerous areas. Discussions were held on the following:

- violence in the workplace
- classifications
- Union protection and security
- Special leave
- workload measurement and nurse - patient ratios

As you may be aware, in January and February 2006, we had four weeks of policy discussions on issues with the employer. These talks have led to agreements in principle on an improved grievance and arbitration process, portability of seniority - province wide and new language on responsive shift scheduling.

Presently the employer is demanding an increase in your work hours from 36 hours per week to 37.5, meaning you would have to work more days each month. This proposal is contrary to improving your health and the quality of care you deliver. The problem of excessive workload cannot be resolved on the backs of nurses.

We are proposing solutions to resolve excessive workload and are attempting to improve the quality of worklife to ensure nurses continue working in health care.