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Agreement Reached on Delta View Labour Board Application

In December of last year the UPN, acting on behalf of the Public Service Nurses' Bargaining Association, filed an application with the Labour Relations Board regarding the move of a large number of geriatric beds from Riverview Hospital to Delta View Habilitation Centre. Delta View was planning not to hire any Riverview staff and to continue to operate as a non-union facility. In response to this, we filed a successorship complaint with the Board.

As with the South Hills case in Kamloops, we worked to try to resolve not just the current situation but also to deal with possible future similar issues. Through several months of tough bargaining, we are happy to advise that a settlement has now been reached which we feel is advantageous for our membership.

For the immediate future, Fraser Health Authority will post ten unfilled vacancies at Riverview and provide Riverview staff with priority hiring should they choose to apply. The Unions and Fraser Health Authority will discuss these vacancies as they arise and determine if they are suitable positions for Riverview staff. The purpose for this is to ensure that the work offered is such that Riverview staff are qualified and capable of succeeding should they move into the positions.

As in the earlier successorship agreement, successful candidates will be able to retain all of their seniority, vacation and benefits including the ability to stay in the Public Service Pension Plan. As well, they will be able to opt for payout of their leave banks or to have the money associated with them held in an interest bearing account until such time that they determine to use the money to pay for a paid pre-retirement leave.

In addition to this, we will be monitoring how this new plan works and be meeting in the Fall to determine if we can use this plan to develop a way of dealing with future similar situations. We see this as a very positive result for all involved and we once more encourage our Riverview members to take advantage of these opportunities as they present themselves.

Maple Cottage Detox Transforms into Creekside Withdrawal Management Centre

By the time this Bulletin reaches people, Maple Cottage Detox will no longer exist. Instead, it will be replaced by the new Creekside Withdrawal Management Centre on 94A Street across from Surrey Memorial Hospital. Maple Cottage Detox has been located, for the past several years, at temporary quarters on Willingdon Avenue in Burnaby.

The new facility is a brand new purpose-built building that will allow for an increase in beds from 25 to 30. Six of the beds will be dedicated youth beds and the facility will provide specialized youth programs. There are also plans to open a Daytox program in the near future. As part of the planning for the site, the architectural design was developed to support evidence-based practice in order to meet the specialized withdrawal management needs for all ages. All of the nurses at Maple Cottage have opted to move to the new site where they will continue to provide great service to their clients.

Steward Training

We recently completed a Steward Training course that was well attended as usual. However, we have a new one planned for this Fall on September 20 & 21. This is a great opportunity for you to learn how to understand the contract and how to ensure that it is followed. We also teach you how to investigate grievances fully and then write up and present the grievance. If you are interested in learning more about how your Union works and how you can be an important part of it, give the Union office a call or speak to your Local President about attending this class. I guarantee you'll find it helpful.

Douglas McLaren
Director, Operations & Member Services