

Members invited to share priorities for health science professionals bargaining

June 28, 2017

HSA's board of directors has set a plan to consult with members in advance of contract negotiations for health science professionals in 2018. Although the current HSPBA collective agreement is not due to expire until March 31, 2019, the union's leadership wants to ensure members share their ideas on how to improve the strained health care system in British Columbia through innovative agreements with government and health care employers.

A bargaining proposal conference has been scheduled for December 3 to 5, 2017 in Vancouver. Delegates from around the province will be elected to represent their region at the December conference at the union's regular fall regional meetings in September and October.

At the December conference, delegates will elect nine members to sit on the union bargaining committee. The bargaining committee will include one member from each of the province's health authority employers, one member representing affiliated worksites, and one member representing community-based worksites. Members interested in serving on the bargaining committee are strongly encouraged to attend their local regional meeting, and stand for election as a delegate to the December bargaining proposal conference. Deadlines for registration for regional meetings are as follows.

Region	Meeting date and location	Registration deadline
1 (Central to North Island)	September 20 Tigh-Na-Mara Resort, Nanaimo	August 29
2 (South Island)	September 21 Harbour Towers, Victoria	August 30
3 and 7 (Lower Mainland)	October 4 HSA Office, New Westminster	September 12
4 and 6 (Lower Mainland)	October 2 HSA Office, New Westminster	September 10
5 (Lower Mainland plus Open Door Group province-wide)	September 28 HSA Office, New Westminster	September 6
8 and 9 (Interior and Kootenays)	September 18 Coast Capri, Kelowna	August 27
10 (Central and North)	September 27 Coast Inn of the North, Prince George	September 5

Following the regional meetings, local chapters will hold local meetings for members to develop bargaining proposals to forward to the December bargaining proposal conference. Deadline for submission of bargaining proposals to the HSA office is November 17, 2017.

Your collective agreement is the most important tool you have to define and enforce your legal rights. Contract negotiations are critical to your working conditions and rights. All members are encouraged to participate in setting the direction for your next contract. Watch your union bulletin board and email for information about important meetings coming this fall.

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