



Bargaining association demands action on levelling money

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The Paramedical Professional Bargaining Association is demanding that the provincial government intervene in the on-going dispute between the unions and the employer over levelling money.

Although the paramedical collective agreement was ratified more than eight months ago, many union members are still waiting to receive the levelling money awarded in the contract.

HSA chief negotiator Rick Lampshire said HSA members should never have had to wait this long. "The unions made this issue a top priority and devoted extra resources to fast-track the process," he said. "It's time for the employers to get on with it. Our members shouldn't have to wait any longer."

To reinforce this message, the bargaining association met with officials from the Public Sector Employers' Council (PSEC) on October 8. "The PSEC representatives were more than sympathetic, and promised immediate action," Lampshire said. "They committed to ensuring that health authorities will have the levelling money by October 15," he said. "PSEC also promised to meet with HEABC to ensure that the money is distributed to our members as soon as possible."

"We were subsequently informed by PSEC that this meeting has taken place, and HEABC has sent a letter to all employers emphasizing the importance of expeditious payments of these levelling monies. The expectation is that members should receive their money in mid-November."

In this letter, HEABC has emphasized that employers should be implementing levelling increases now, based on their earlier advice to these employers.

"There also appear to be some provision for employers to ask for cash advances to implement these wage increases," Lampshire said, "and members should be aggressively pursuing the payment of these monies with their individual employers."

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