



April 30, 2004

CIEA supports health care workers

On April 29 the BC government passed legislation that imposes massive wage rollbacks on 43,000 hospital and long-term health care workers and allows for the continued privatization of health services.

Unions and others have responded to Bill 37, the *Health Sector (Facilities Subsector) Collective Agreement Act*, with angry protests and a refusal to be forced back to work. At an emergency meeting today, CIEA Presidents' Council passed resolutions in support of the health care workers and of participating in protest action up to and including job action.

The two-year imposed contract for health care workers provides for wage rollbacks of 15% retroactive to April 1, provides no employment security and imposes most of the concessions tabled by health employers in the last round of bargaining.

CIEA president Cindy Oliver said that the provincial government has demonstrated complete disregard for free and fair collective bargaining. "CIEA locals are going into bargaining, as are many other unions in BC, and we must stand up for fair treatment of workers who have been denied the right to a freely negotiated agreement," said Oliver. She said that CIEA members are also committed to fighting the government's privatization agenda.

At its meeting, CIEA Presidents' Council supported CUPE's Community Action Day, currently scheduled for Monday May 3. CIEA locals will be encouraging members to respect protest lines.

CIEA presidents also passed a resolution endorsing broad protest action in support of health care workers.

Whereas the government of BC has passed unprecedented legislation, retroactively reducing wages and ordering health care workers back to work; and

Whereas this legislation puts the rights of all working people at risk;

Therefore Be It Resolved That CIEA support health care workers in every way possible up to and including job action, coordinated by the BC Federation of Labour.

A number of CIEA locals have already engaged in support actions with health care workers throughout the province. As an affiliate of the BC Federation of Labour, CIEA will be participating in discussions about next steps. Labour is calling on the government to withdraw the legislation and address health care workers' concerns about employment security and retroactive wage rollbacks. CIEA will be issuing regular bulletins to keep members up to date.

For more information contact Roseanne Moran, CIEA communications 604 788-2877

College Institute Educators' Association of BC
400 – 550 West 6 Avenue, Vancouver, BC Canada V5Z 1A1
Tel 604.873.8988 Fax 604.873.8865 www.ciea.bc.ca