

Health Unit Media Release



CONTRACT RATIFIED BY LOCAL HEALTH UNIT CUPE EMPLOYEES AND BOARD OF HEALTH

At the board meeting on May 15, 2008, the Board of Health ratified an agreement with CUPE Local 1559. The term of the agreement will be April 1, 2008 until March 31st, 2010.

The agreement awards CUPE members a cost of living adjustment of 3% in the first year and 3.25% in the second year of the Collective Agreement.

Public Health Inspectors (PHIs) received an increase in their salary grid structure so that it is comparable with neighbouring health units. This will increase the Health Unit's ability to recruit and retain staff. The paid work week for PHIs will also be increased by 2 hours per week. This was necessary in order to handle the increased workload that will be created by the Small Drinking Water regulations handed down by the Ministry of Health.

Reimbursement for business travel has increased from 40 cents per kilometre to 45 cents per kilometre starting April 1, 2008 and 46 cents per kilometre starting April 1, 2009.

In addition to the above, there were several articles that required language changes in an ongoing effort to encourage consistent interpretation of the contract and support stability and harmony in the workplace.

Management and CUPE executive are pleased to have reached this agreement in only 2 days of negotiations.

The settlement permits the agency and its CUPE members to continue to provide the best possible public health services to our communities.

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