

June 15, 2010

AHS Board asked to approve recommendations

Mediator recommends three-year deal with United Nurses of Alberta

EDMONTON – The Alberta Health Services' Bargaining Team will ask its Board of Directors to approve a mediator's recommendations for a new, three-year agreement with the United Nurses of Alberta (UNA).

Alberta Health Services (AHS) values and appreciates the discussions with UNA, which reflect a shared commitment to high quality patient care and the importance of ongoing recruitment and retention of nursing staff.

The recommendations are an important milestone in collaborative engagement with AHS' 24,000 Registered Nurses and Registered Psychiatric Nurses.

If the recommendations are accepted, there would be a zero per cent wage increase in year one, a zero per cent wage increase in year two, and a four per cent wage increase in year three. The report also calls for a two per cent productivity increase allocation to wage rates in year two; this two per cent recognizes efficiency gains anticipated from the *Regularization of Hours* project.

The *Regularization of Hours* project is a collaborative AHS/UNA initiative to increase efficiency by converting casual or overtime hours into regular positions.

AHS will not comment further while the approval and ratification processes are underway for both UNA and the Board.

Both sides must advise the mediator of their decision to accept or reject the recommendations by June 30, 2010. If accepted, the new collective agreement will be retroactive to April 1, 2010.

The current agreement concluded on March 31 this year. Informal mediation began April 6.

Alberta Health Services is the provincial health authority responsible for planning and delivering health supports and services for more than 3.7 million adults and children living in Alberta. Its mission is to provide a patient-focused, quality health system that is accessible and sustainable for all Albertans.