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SAHO and Employers ratify collective agreements

The Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations (SAHO), on behalf of health care employers, has ratified the tentative agreements with health care providers represented by CUPE, SEIU-West and SGEU. The three unions had completed ratification votes by the end of September and the employers have now completed their ratification process. All parties are required to sign the agreements within 30 days of ratification.

“We are pleased that the bargaining process with the provider group has been completed and that a new collective agreement will be in place shortly,” stated Susan Antosh, President and CEO of SAHO. “Because bargaining was a lengthy process, the agreement expires in about a year and a half, and so we will soon begin the process of preparing for the next round.”

The four year agreement provides for general wage increases of 4% , 2%, 1.5% and 2% in the years April 1, 2008 until March 31, 2012 respectively. Market adjusted rates will be applied to some classifications effective the date of signing of the collective agreement. Retroactive pay for the general wage increases will be calculated based on hours worked since April 1, 2008.

Antosh explained that, “The retroactive pay calculation will be complex and we will be taking the time to ensure that the calculations and subsequent payments are accurate. We anticipate that employees will receive the retro payments early in the new year.”

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SAHO represents more than 40 health care employers in the province.

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