

Western Canada Healthcare Professionals Meeting December 18th and 19th, 2008

The President and Executive Director of HSAS travelled to the 1 1/2 day meeting in Vancouver, BC attend by healthcare professional unions from BC, Alberta, Manitoba and ourselves. Focus of our discussions was centred on bargaining issues and organizing but time was also spent on reporting on organizational structures of the Unions present.

Bargaining issues discussed included benefits, market supplements, education leave, workload, retention and recruitment, contracting in/contracting out and pensions. A binder of materials was put together by HSABC highlighting and comparing the different jurisdictions in these areas as well as a package from HSAA with an overview of their organization including governance structures.

Highlights of these matters was difficulties associated with market supplements, significant wage and benefit differences between jurisdictions and clear data outlining vacation provisions which showed Saskatchewan with far and away the worst vacation provisions.

Meetings of this type assist HSAS in learning from both the best and worst experiences which healthcare professionals face across different jurisdictions. Information gathered will be useful in our negotiating efforts as well as other advocacy work on behalf of our membership.