

November 2007

The Canadian Health Professionals Secretariat (CHPS) was formed by the National Union of Public and General Employees (NUPGE) to serve as a forum where health science professionals from across Canada could meet to discuss common concerns and take collective action to raise the profile of health science professionals across our nation. Currently, CHPS represents 60,000 professionals from all provinces in Canada with the exception of Quebec.

CHPS held their semi-annual meeting in Ottawa on November 19th and 20th, 2007. HSAS was represented by Warren Chykowski, Karen Wasylenko and Chris Driol.

James Clancy, President of NUPGE spoke to our group about the importance of fighting for better labour laws, highlighting the efforts by unions in Nova Scotia to successfully stop government there from enacting essential services legislation. He also spoke to us about the great payoffs achieved by unions across Canada who have partnered themselves with groups who support "Medicare".

Mark Zellwig from Vector Research spoke to us about raising the public profile of health sciences professionals. He released results of national surveys while also working with us on practical media and lobbying strategies which HSAS will be utilizing in our ongoing external communications.

The second day of our meeting was spent on cross country reporting of issues faced by health care professionals in Canada and also on sharing achievements in collective bargaining in other jurisdictions.

Our ongoing involvement in CHPS is serving HSAS well in keep us abreast of current trends affecting health science professionals and also in allowing us to tap into "best practices" strategies to improve our advocacy efforts on your behalf.