

BARGAINING UPDATE



ALBERTA HEALTH SERVICES GENERAL SUPPORT SERVICES & LAMONT HEALTH CARE CENTRE GSS

Locals 054, 056, 057, 058, 095

AHS was not prepared to talk money – plus Strike Captain training

Your negotiating team met with AHS on February 5 and 6 to get back to bargaining.

We are frustrated. There is no other way to say it. Bargaining moved slowly, and AHS was not prepared to discuss finances – or, in other words, the wages and benefits we deserve.

AHS says our proposals would cost too much money. So we asked to see how they costed out our proposals and reached that conclusion. AHS did not have these numbers for us.

At this point, we feel like we are in “hurry up and wait” mode.

Our wages must rise

AHS insists on comparing us, our work, and what we deserve to similar workplaces in the private sector.

Newsflash: private companies cut corners to make profits, meaning staff conditions, wages, and the quality of services suffer.

We work in public health care, and one reason public health care is so important is because we're supposed to be better than that.

We know AHS's wage offer is not good enough. Your team knows it's not good enough.

Many AUPE members, including those of us working in AHS GSS, have only received a 4.25 per cent total raise over the last 13 years. Compare that to the cost of living, which has gone up by at least 38 per cent in that same time frame. Our employers must do better. Our government and AHS must do better.

We voiced our concerns and even told AHS they are not living up to their own *mission, vision, and values* when it comes to how they treat their staff.

Unfortunately, AHS does not have to care just because we talk about it.

We are going to need lots of support and real solidarity to win the wages, benefits, and working conditions we deserve. We might even need to go on strike.

Our next bargaining meetings are not yet scheduled.

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Urgent: Strike Captain Training

It's almost certain - we need to take serious action if we want to win this round of bargaining. That means we might need to go on strike.

AUPE members must be prepared. That's why we are urgently recruiting Strike Captains.

Register today for an upcoming Strike Captain Course. This in-person course is just 1 day and you will receive time off work to take it.

AUPE's education staff are here if you need help registering. Please contact them to help you sign up as soon as possible.

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Learn more about being a Strike Captain and register for a course near you.

Keep wearing red to show your solidarity! Email photos of you and your coworkers wearing red to **photos@aupe.org** to share on AUPE's social media.

Please contact a member of your negotiating team if you have any questions.