

# NEWSBULLETIN

Job cuts at UHT | PSW Regulation | Bargaining survey

## PSW Teleconference Call Report

CUPE held a conference call for PSWs Feb. 18. We reviewed some of the problems with the new regulatory body for PSWs, including:

- no PSWs on its board
- PSWs have no influence on how much its fees will be
- PSWs are subject to arbitrary loss of right to practice

PSWs are denied the right to appeal to the courts

We are in the process of setting up a meeting with the new agency.

Once we have had that meeting we will schedule another PSW call.



*Toronto Health Coalition co-chair Michelle Robidoux speaks at a media conference Feb. 28 about community opposition to underfunding at Unity Health Toronto*

## CUPE Local 5441 Fights a \$60 million deficit at UHT

Unity Health Toronto has a deficit of \$60 million and is looking to cut hundreds of vacant positions. Like all hospitals it is not funded for all of its operating costs, while it deals with a surge in demand from an aging, growing population.

A media conference was held during the provincial election, to call for full funding. CUPE 5441, which represents 4,000 staff at the 3 UHT hospitals, kicks off a campaign on March 14, which will include buttons, postcards to the Premier, a rally April 3 and advertising.



## Community fights the closure of in-patient beds at Thessalon Hospital

Thessalon, a community of 1,500 people 90 km east of Sault Ste. Marie is a community in crisis.

The community hospital, with its ER and in-patient beds has been closed.

The community held a large public meeting February 8 and a major rally, February 19, at which 1/10th of the community came out to rally at the hospital and to march to Highway 17 to demand the re-opening of the hospital.

A second demonstration is planned in April.

## Bargaining begins in September

*Please complete the membership bargaining survey*

Bargaining with Ontario hospitals and for a number of long-term care facilities with some hospital beds, begins in September. This bargaining covers 50,000 CUPE members, 20,000 SEIU members and 10,000 Unifor hospital workers.

It's very important that your bargaining committee knows what you want the union to negotiate for you. Please take a few minutes to complete this survey.

Just scan the QR code in the poster below and it will take you to the bargaining survey.

Negotiations for your next wage increases, benefit and other improvements happens September 15-19, September 29-October 3. Mediation is schedule November 5 and 6 and 22 and 23.