



Mamawetan Churchill River Health Region

News Release

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For immediate release

Essential Services Proposal provided to SGEU and HSAS

Mamawetan Churchill River Health Region issued draft proposals for essential service agreements to the Saskatchewan Government Employees Union (SGEU) and Health Sciences Association of Saskatchewan (HSAS) today.

Both unions had requested information on the services, job classifications, number of employees and names of employees that would be considered essential in the event of job action while negotiating a collective agreement.

Essential services agreements, under the legislation passed in May, 2008, are to be negotiated in the 90 days prior to the expiration of a collective agreement. The contract with SGEU expired prior to passage of the legislation and the contract with HSAS expires March 31, 2009.

“We want to ensure that our clients have access to the services they need, when they need them,” said Kathy Chisholm, Chief Executive Officer of the Mamawetan Churchill River Health Region. “Our objective is to maintain essential services to prevent danger to life, health and safety, in compliance with the legislation.”

A team of human resources and clinical managers have reviewed the services offered by facilities within the region, and analyzed in detail the requirements to maintain services to prevent danger to life, health and safety. The draft proposal provided to the unions includes the numbers of full time equivalent (FTE) employees that would be required, compared to normal staffing levels. Names of employees proposed as essential have been determined on the basis of seniority, with the caveat that the final list agreed to by union and employer will depend on schedules, the length of a labour disruption and coverage for illness or other leaves.

“We have proposed 67.27% of FTE positions providing direct patient care as essential. Approximately 69.31% of the FTE positions in indirect patient care and 17.68% of the FTE support positions have been proposed as essential,” explained Susan Halland, Director of Human Resources for the Mamawetan Churchill River Health Region. “Almost 8.70% of the positions under the HSAS contract have been proposed as essential. We believe that these are reasonable proposals and we look forward to having SGEU and HSAS sit down with us to discuss them,” added Halland.

Mamawetan Churchill River Health Region employs 169 as members of SGEU, 46 in the HSAS contract in five communities in the region: Creighton, La Ronge, Pinehouse, Sandy Bay and Weyakwin.

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