

ALBERTA UNION OF PROVINCIAL EMPLOYEES

# BARGAINING UPDATE

OCTOBER 30, 2020

## ALBERTA HEALTH SERVICES (AHS)

LOCALS: 054, 056, 057, 058,  
095 & Lamont Health Care  
Centre GSS

## GENERAL SUPPORT SERVICES

## AHS IMPLEMENTATION PLAN WOULD BE DISASTROUS FOR AUPE MEMBERS AND ALL ALBERTANS

Alberta Health Services, under the direction of the UCP government, is proceeding with a disastrous plan to privatize and cut health care.

They are causing so much chaos that health care workers across the province walked off the job on Monday, October 26. This is a clear sign of the pain and anxiety this government is causing you and your coworkers, as well as your appetite to fight back.

This bargaining update highlights AHS's Implementation Plan, which is their response to the Ernst & Young report on how they should privatize, slash and burn our health care system.

Here are the facts you need to know about AHS's Implementation Plan.

### Funding cuts means job losses

The UCP government is forcing AHS to work with no funding increases until at least 2023/2024. Additionally, AHS will cut between \$600 million and \$836 million annually over the next three years. The UCP and AHS will put thousands of us out of work with these cuts.

But as a matter of fact, over two-thirds of the initiatives in AHS's Implementation Plan do not yet have an estimated dollar value... so in reality the cuts will be much deeper.

AHS's projected budget and "saving opportunities" also assume our wages will be rolled back!

### Who AHS is targeting

AHS plans to reduce funding by up to \$210 million a year by privatizing and cutting the following:

- Inpatient food
- Environmental services
- Linen
- Lab work
- Supply chain and procurement
- Long-term care

The AUPE members who work in these areas are part of the 11,000 workers AHS and the government announced would be laid off.

When workers are laid off as a result of this plan, the best case scenario would be to be hired by the private company with lower wages, fewer benefits, worse working conditions and hours.

But for most, the reality is that there won't be new jobs to get hired onto, especially in rural Alberta.

You know your colleagues better than anyone. You know that this massive privatization scheme will hurt women and workers of colour the most. It will impact our families. If your spouse are already out of work because of the pandemic or the bust in the oil sector, how is putting you out of work a good thing for Albertans? It isn't.

### We must fight back

This is about our jobs, our livelihoods, our families and our communities. But it's also about more than that. This is about justice. We cannot let the UCP government get away with tearing us and the rest of Alberta's health care system down. We certainly can't let them get away with it without putting up a fight.

We must work together. If you think you can escape the layoffs by throwing a coworker under the bus, you're wrong. None of us are immune. Alone, we are powerless, but together, we are strong.

Continue to share this information with your coworkers, including members of other unions like the United Nurses of Alberta, Health Sciences Association of Alberta, and Canadian Union of Public Employees. We're all in this together.

Please talk to your negotiating team members or AUPE resource staff if you have any questions. We are here to work together with you.

*(Contact information on page 2)*



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