

Charlottetown Area Office, 100 Capital Drive, Charlottetown, PEI C1E 1E7

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 11th, 2009

**CUPE Local 2523 and Atlantic Baptist Nursing Homes Inc.
Settle Agreement in Arbitration
Wages Range from 12% to 15% over 3 years**

Charlottetown – “The Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 2523 and Atlantic Baptist Nursing Homes Inc. in Charlottetown have concluded their most recent round of collective bargaining and the employees will see substantial increases in their pay and benefits as a result,” says Bill McKinnon, CUPE National Representative.

CUPE Local 2523 represents 115 employees at the Atlantic Baptist Nursing Home in Charlottetown in all classifications including Resident Care Workers, LNA's, Resident Attendants, Laundry, Dietary & Housekeeping service workers as well as Cooks, Activities and Maintenance workers.

These employees have been without a contract since June 30th, 2007 and the parties spent six days in negotiations between September 10th, 2007, and March 17th, 2008. Conciliation talks occurred over two days on May 6th & 7th, 2008 without an agreement being reached. The Interest Arbitration process unfolded in front of Mr. Bruce Outhouse, a well respected arbitrator from Halifax, Nova Scotia, on February 25th, 2009. The arbitration award itself was issued on November 5th, 2009.

“Depending on an employee’s classification they will receive wage increases of either 4% per year or 5% per year over the three years of this agreement, retroactive to July 1st, 2007.

Besides a substantial wage adjustment, the new collective agreement will see 18 new permanent part-time positions created and posted, as well as improvements in vacation entitlement, bereavement leave, dry cleaning allowances, sick leave entitlement, severance and retirement allowance, as well as increased contributions to the employee’s defined pension plan.

It was a long road, but the results are very positive, and should make for a very happy holiday season for these employees and their families,” concluded McKinnon.

**For more information, or an interview, please contact:
Bill McKinnon at (902) 566-4006 or (902) 439-1055**

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