

NewsRelease



Public Service Alliance of Canada • Representing 150,000 workers

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Union accuses Corps of Commissionaires of unfair labour practice

Ottawa--The Public Service Alliance of Canada filed a complaint of unfair labour practice against the Corps of Commissionaires on behalf of its members working in the Health Canada building at Tunney's Pasture in Ottawa.

"The Corps committed a violation by unilaterally changing working conditions that had been frozen under the Ontario Labour Code," said Robert Legault, president of PSAC Local 70113, representing 60 workers who provide security services in the building housing Health Canada.

Legault added that section 86(1) of the Ontario Labour Code states that working schedules cannot be changed once the negotiations have begun because the schedules are part of the issues that will be discussed at the bargaining table.

The Health Canada Commissionaires became PSAC members in May 2006, following an extensive recruiting campaign aimed at better defending the rights of these workers.

Ed Cashman, PSAC regional executive vice-president for the National Capital Region, says the Corps of Commissionaires must learn to respect its employees' rights and to abide by all provisions of the law when dealing with workers.

"The Corps tried to prevent its employees at Health Canada from joining the PSAC," Cashman said. "Now that the workers are part of the PSAC family, the employer has an obligation to follow the letter of the relevant legislation and to negotiate a fair and just collective agreement."

The negotiations are scheduled to resume on December 6, 2006. Members of PSAC Local 70113 will be holding an information picket in front of their place of work in order to inform their PSAC sisters and brothers from other locals about their dispute with the Corps of Commissionaires.

The PSAC represents 160,000 workers across Canada, including about 50,000 workers in the National Capital Region.