



HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES' UNION

PROVINCIAL OFFICE:

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August 10, 2017

Secretary-Treasurers

Dear Sisters, Brothers and Friends:

Re: Truth and Reconciliation workshop – October 26, 2017

As an organization, HEU has made a commitment to understand and implement recommendations made by Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

At this spring's equity conference, delegates took part in an interactive exercise to demonstrate the tragic history of colonization and residential schools. As a social justice union, we recognize this legacy and we're committed to taking action that supports justice and reconciliation for Indigenous peoples.

HEU's Indigenous Peoples Standing Committee encourages non-Indigenous members to attend this new, one-day workshop. It will provide a safe, welcoming environment to discuss the complex issues facing Indigenous peoples – stereotyping, harassment, denial of opportunities, and other forms of discrimination.

This workshop aims to educate members on Indigenous struggles and how they can support reconciliation, with a goal of making all HEU members feel safe and included in their workplaces and their union.

Please distribute the enclosed application form (photocopy as needed). Forms can be faxed, mailed or emailed. Please send ONE COPY only. A fax cover sheet is enclosed.

Completed applications must be returned to Jamie Cruz, HEU Education Department, 5000 North Fraser Way, Burnaby, B.C. V5J 5M3 by **5:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 7, 2017.**

HEU has proudly represented Indigenous health care workers since the mid-1990s, when we successfully won the legal right to organize and unionize First Nations workers.

Today, HEU represents about 170 Indigenous members covered by five independent contracts in communities across the province. They include members of the Gitksan, Stz'uminus, Nisga'a, Skidegate, Gitanyow and Gitwangak nations.

Should you have any questions about this or any other equity issues, please contact HEU's equity officers Sharryn Modder or Jennifer Efting at the Provincial Office.

In solidarity,

Jennifer Whiteside
Secretary-Business Manager

Enclosure

cc: Chairpersons, Provincial Executive, Reps and Directors, Indigenous Peoples Standing Committee