



# NOTICE

## **UPDATE: SEIU-West/SHA Provincial Security Review Interaction**

Our last update followed the release of the SHA provincial security review on February 5.

We held a meeting with Security Officers (SOs) on February 20 to discuss the SHA provincial security review and brainstorm regarding next steps. Thanks to those who attended.

At this meeting, we provided an overview of the final report provided by SHA. The Report recommendations were characterized as short term (0-6 months), medium (6-12 months) and long term (over 12 months). There was an appreciation based on the data provided that the crime rates are ever-increasing; that WCB ranks assaults/violent acts among the top five causes of injury in the health sector; and that improvements flowing from the review will require monetary investment.

While the report does provide an opportunity for SOs to highlight their very real security challenges: increase in workplace violence, the need for training at all levels, necessary resources for equipment and gear, and the obvious gaps across the SHA in 'protective services', we will need to continue to push decision-makers as they have an inclination (too often) to decide upon all matters based on what they want to spend.

Our greatest concern is that the SHA will use the long term recommendation (#27) to privatize the work of Security Officers. Together we need to convince health sector staff and the public that public in-house Security Officers is the better choice.

We identified that SEIU-West had written a letter to the SHA on February 6 ([https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/seiuwest/pages/134/attachments/original/1549481605/ProvSecurityReviewLetter to Andrew Will.pdf?1549481605](https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/seiuwest/pages/134/attachments/original/1549481605/ProvSecurityReviewLetter%20to%20Andrew%20Will.pdf?1549481605)) outlining our concerns regarding recommendation #27. We have since received a reply to that letter. Sadly, that response did not contain a written commitment from the SHA to maintain in-house Security Officer



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presence at the former SHR facilities. Rather, the SHA indicated that this issue will be determined through the business case analysis.

We continue to await the employer invitation to participate in a follow-up meeting (which they indicated would occur in March) to the release of the report.

We have thanked all those people those who supported the Security Officer campaign prior to the review. We have also renewed and refreshed the Stand for Security campaign – *Take the Pledge: Stand with In-House Security Officers* ([http://www.seiuwest.ca/take the pledge inhouse security officers](http://www.seiuwest.ca/take_the_pledge_inhouse_security_officers)) – to date, we have had 320 people participate. We hope that you can increase support for this campaign. If you have ideas to share, please email ([actions@seiuwest.ca](mailto:actions@seiuwest.ca)).

Thanks for your continued engagement on these important matters.

In solidarity,

Barb Cape

President, SEIU-West