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NEWS

Georgetown hospital workers rally for new union contract

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Workers at the Georgetown hospital are rallying to raise awareness that they have been working without a contract since September.

Three of Canada's largest unions, the Ontario Council of Hospital Unions (OCHU), the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) and the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), are banding together to broker a new contract for hospital staff across the province.

"We're doing a rally so that the OHA (Ontario Hospitals Association) comes back with respectful bargaining," said Janette Jensen, a housekeeper at the hospital.

Workers at the hospital under CUPE and SEIU have been without a contract since September and contact negotiations broke down in October.

"There are some outrage-



Alexandra Heck/Metroland

Employees representing CUPE and other unions, OCHU and SEIU stood outside the Georgetown Hospital to raise awareness that staff in the hospital are currently working without a contract, as negotiations broke down in late 2017. From left, Jason Morden, Catherine Jeffery, Kim Sheppard and Janette Jensen.

ous concessions that they're putting forward," said Jensen, explaining that the unions are concerned that the OHA is not addressing issues with violence in the workplace through the contract.

"They're looking to strip away a lot of the job security language that's in our contract," said Jason Morden, holding a sign that reads,

"Bargain/Negotiate Respectfully Now."

He says that workers with decades worth of seniority deserve security from being laid off. The contract does not just cover Georgetown, but hospitals across Ontario. "The goal is to raise awareness for our managers, to bring back to the Ontario Hospital Association," said Morden.

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JOIN US TUESDAY, MAY 8TH, 2018

2:00 - 3:30 pm The Old Armoury
1 Park Avenue, Halton Hills

6:30 - 8:00 pm Acton Town Hall
19 Willow Street N, Acton

RSVP to the Georgetown Hospital Foundation office at 905-873-0111 ext. 8222 or via email at chughes@haltonhealthcare.com

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