

Nanaimo, Duncan and District Labour Council <http://www.nddlc.ca/news.html>

160 H.E.U Workers Dismissed At Lodge on 4th

June 6, 2010,
By Bob Smits.

Thirty five years ago, the Lodge on 4th began as a 22 resident care home in Yellowpoint called 4 All Seasons. Over the years, licensing and staff became concerned about the lack of modern facilities and the more and more dilapidated state of the home.

In 1997, workers at the home organized into the Hospital Employees Union and negotiated their first collective agreement. By September of 2007, the workers and residents moved to a new residential care facility on 4th Avenue in Ladysmith. Some of the residents and staff came from 4 All Seasons, some came from the Ladysmith Hospital, and some came from other facilities.

From the beginning, supply shortages indicated the facility was underfunded. In the spring of 2008 the management said it was losing money. In November of 2009, the Lodge gave the staff a section 54 notice of reorganization. When the union responded with a plan to save more than a million dollars a year, the employer ignored the proposal, claiming that the union's figures were wrong, even though they came from the employer. It was evident that what the employer wanted was de-unionization, not lower costs.

Today, more than 160 health care workers worked their last shift at the Lodge on 4th, although the H.E.U. is optimistic that a hearing before Vince Ready will cause the dismissal to be overturned due to irregularities from the employer. This article and the pictures are dedicated to the hard working care aides, L.P.N.s, cooks, activity, laundry and food services workers that cared for seniors at the Lodge on 4th.

Duncan Rally This Saturday-Seniors Care

The B.C. government and the Vancouver Island Health Authority are putting seniors' care in the Cowichan Valley at risk by threatening the continuity and quality of residential care.

There has been an escalation of activity undermining the care our seniors need. Cowichan Lodge is closed. They've issued pink slips at Sunridge Place and now they are contracting out staff at Cerwydden Care Centre and the Lodge on 4th in Ladysmith.

Our seniors have contributed so much to our families and communities. They deserve our thanks, respect, and the very best care possible.

Please come out and add your voice and let your community know that seniors in

the Cowichan Valley deserve better!

Bring your friends and family!

Save our seniors' care rally

Date: Saturday, April 24

Time: 4:00 pm

Location: Duncan City Square, 200 Craig Street, Duncan

There is a public meeting earlier on Saturday with the Vancouver Island Health Authority to discuss the future of the Cowichan Lodge. If you are interested, please attend!

Public meeting on Cowichan Lodge

Date: Saturday, April 24

Time: 2:00 pm

Location: Duncan United Church, 246 Ingram Street, Duncan

HEU Workers Plan Information Line at Lodge on 4th

As many of you know, the operators of "The Lodge on 4th", a publicly funded retirement home in Ladysmith has given section 54 layoff notice to more than 100 Hospital Employees Union members.

The HEU workers, which include LPNs, Care Aides, Kitchen, Laundry, Activity, Rehab, Staffing workers and Unit Clerks were given layoff notices despite having made proposals to the Company that would have saved a million dollars a year.

The workers would like your support on an INFORMATION line, to be mounted this Tuesday, April 20th from 10 AM to 6PM on the sidewalk in front of the Lodge on 4th at 1127 4th Ave in Ladysmith. They intend to mount this line every Tuesday.

THIS IS NOT A PICKET LINE AND NOT INTENDED AS ONE

If you have a spare hour or more this Tuesday, please come and walk with these HEU members to show your support.