RESIDENT PHYSICIANS RATIFY AGREEMENT

VICTORIA – The 55th ratified settlement has been reached under the Province’s negotiating framework, Finance Minister Carole Taylor announced today.

“This was the last agreement reached before the March 31 deadline,” said Taylor. “While it went down to the wire, I want to thank the association and the employer for working hard to find a solution that worked for both parties before the deadline passed.”

More than 700 members of Professional Association of Residents of BC have completed their ratification vote. They voted 86 per cent in favour of accepting the four-year contract.

“Residents play an integral role in our health-care system,” said Health Minister George Abbott. “By doubling the number of residencies in British Columbia by 2010, we are helping to ensure that we have enough doctors to serve British Columbians.”

Health Employers ratified the resident physicians’ agreement on April 7, 2006.

“We are definitely pleased that B.C.’s resident physicians and health employers have ratified this agreement,” said Louise Simard, president and CEO of the Health Employers Association of BC, the 315-member association that acts as the bargaining agent for B.C.’s publicly-funded health employers.

“B.C.’s resident physicians will continue to learn and enhance their skills in B.C. health-care facilities, and we feel that this agreement will retain and recruit resident physicians to B.C. to continue their education.”

A total of 55 agreements were reached between March 2 and March 31. Negotiations have been completed for about 75 per cent of all public sector employees.

More than 70,000 employees are covered by contracts that expire at the end of June and a further 8,000 have contracts expiring after that date. Negotiators at 76 tables will be working hard to reach agreements before midnight, June 30, 2006.
Updated bargaining information is available at [www.negotiatingframework.com](http://www.negotiatingframework.com).

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Media contact:

Robert Pauliszyn  
Communications Director  
Ministry of Finance  
250 356-2821  
250 213-5096 (cell)

Marisa Adair  
Communications Director  
Ministry of Health  
250 952-1889  
250 920-8500 (cell)

Deborah Carty  
Director, Communications  
Health Employers Association of British Columbia  
604 714-2271  
604 209-0956 (cell)

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