

February 2007
OPSEU BPS Sector 1: Ambulance Division Executive Summary

Section 21 Committee:

Paramedics have unique working conditions and so require an avenue that can address our concerns quickly. The Ministry of Labour has recognized our “uniqueness” in the most recent exemptions to Section 20 of the Employment Standards Act.

Therefore the Ambulance Division endorses the formation of a Paramedic Section 21 Committee.

Convention:

Convention arrangements were discussed.

BPS Conference:

BPS Conference plans were discussed. The Level 2 WSIB course was planned for the Friday afternoon and all day Saturday of the BPS for Sector 1 delegates.

Minutes (Website), Updates & Circulation

Summaries of minutes will be prepared for distribution and posting on our website.

EMCA Rewrite review committee:

No other information is available at this time.
There is reference to the “Quality Patient Council” in some EHS documents.

RESUSCITATION OUTCOMES CONSORTIUM STUDY

A Letter of Understanding has been developed to address the concerns raised in regards to the above study. A copy of the waiver can be obtained from the Division executive.

Flu shots:

Three areas of concern:

- Refusal to take the “flu shot”
- Anti viral costs
- Potential adverse effects, long and short term

Review and reference to the Health Consent Act and the Health Promotion Act have been referenced in the Union’s submissions for Contract Arbitration in Hamilton. Presentation to the Board is scheduled for April 4, 2007.

If further information is required please contact Jamie Ramage

“F” Class license:

There was discussion of the case at arbitration on this issue and potential implications.

OMERS Update

The OMERS staff and Administration Corp. are working on the supplemental plans for paramedics, police and firefighters, to have them available by June 2008.

Presentations have been made to the Sponsor Corporation (S.C) by OMERS staff on these new plans. There will be no cross subsidization of the plans. The supplemental plans essentially necessitate the building of separate plans. On retirement, the participants will receive two cheques; OMERS and the supplemental plan. As the design of these new plans is ongoing the costing is not clear. At this time it isn't known what "critical mass" would be needed to get into the supplemental plan.

Dispatch Report

Patrick Fry-Smith

- The furniture at CACCs, specifically chairs, has been an issue for some time. The Ministry will not supply the centres with 24-hour chairs appropriate for a dispatch setting. They have continued to supply the centres with task seating, similar to what you might see in any office setting.
- Internet access will soon be made available to the ACOs in all of the Ministry-run CACCs.
- The organization formerly known at MATC is still negotiating its first collective agreement.

Health and Safety

Brad Thomson

- Windsor's two portable radio hearing in February 2007 has been cancelled due to a change in lawyers. A meeting has been scheduled for March 2007 in Toronto.
- A New Health Care Section 21 committee is now in place. The terms of reference have been established and appear to be institutional in nature.
- The provincial health and safety committee continues to meet to share and exchange information.

Hamilton:

- Missed meal break/Section 20 ESA violation grievance was completed Feb.15.
- Contract arbitration dates are scheduled for Apr. 4, May 1 and May 31, 2007.
- Awaiting the completion and release of the consulting report.
- Numerous ongoing grievances, mediations and arbitrations.

Brant:

- Contract expires March 31, 2007.
- Demand setting scheduled for March 7, 2007.

Norfolk:

- Contract expires March 31, 2007
- Demand setting scheduled for March 1, 2007

Brenda Wilson Young**Peel:**

- Will hire 24 - 30 full time employees in Summer or 2007 (enhancement)
- Region is looking at an 'off load delay' medic program, having medics (not assigned to vehicles) care for PTs that do not have an ER room assigned to free ambulances otherwise sitting idle.
- Demand set was done through electronic survey. Should start bargaining in spring.
- ROC study for all paramedics delayed until 10 VSA pts. have met the criteria to use the ITD. Base hospital picked the volunteer medics to trial the study. Expect the roll out to be in the spring.

Guelph:

- Swipe card arbitration postponed until June.
- New leadership elected.

Halton:

- No response from e-mails to date.

Carl Eichenberger**Bruce County:**

- Starting negotiations. They have not held their first meeting.
- They have had to file a grievance regarding medics being told to stay home because they did not get their flu shots.

Parry Sound District:

- Two weeks ago they reached an agreement with their employer to enact all of the terms and conditions set out in the Memorandum of Settlement reached last year.

Simcoe County:

- Simcoe County in negotiations with more dates for March and April.
- Advanced Life Support negotiations are on hold due to mandates set by County Council.
- Two members of the bargaining unit have been terminated due to a Ministry of Health and Long Term Care investigation spawned by a patient complaint in 2005. An agreement has been reached to reinstate one member if he is successful in the competency testing process dictated by the MHLTC. The second member involved is waiting for arbitration dates.

Grey County:

- Grey County in negotiations with dates in February.
- The employer is sending people home without pay when an employee does not have flu shot and there is a declared outbreak. Employees are being told they can use stat time or vacation time in these situations to maintain their pay at 100 per cent. The bargaining team is trying to get language in their CA to address this issue.

John Rinehart:**London:**

- Had conciliation Jan. 23 with no settlement in sight. We are applying for a no board report.

Oxford County:

Contract expired at the end of 2006.

Amherstburg:

- No report.