



Bloodletters

A Bargaining Bulletin for OPSEU Members at Canadian Blood Services

CBS teams meet February 15 - 18 to prepare for coordinated collective bargaining

Your bargaining team has begun the process of coordinated collective bargaining. Team members from Ottawa, Hamilton, London, Toronto, and Thunder Bay met February 15-18 in Mississauga to prepare for the upcoming round of bargaining.

Four days of training and discussion helped define who we are as well as set goals and priorities for this round of coordinated bargaining.

Our goal is to represent you effectively during bargaining.

Gains and losses from past negotiations were brought forward. We all realized that the

threat of losses will always be there during bargaining. But through coordinated bargaining, we hope your demands will emerge as gains in the next collective agreement.

Discussions continued regarding past negotiation experiences with our employer by mapping around our Locals, sectors and workplaces

We learned who and what makes up our diverse membership by participating in several exercises.

The training process also included an in-depth look at the legal framework for bargaining.

In an attempt to coordinate our bargaining, we analysed our members' interests.

We were joined by some of our mobilizers on the third day of training. We were introduced to their roles in our negotiations and updated them on our progress the past few days.

We reviewed the timing, order of events and critical dates for our three bargaining teams preceding a new collective agreement.

We ended our meetings by identifying the key players that will be influencing our negotiations in the upcoming months.

By Sheila Annett (Local 5101), Shirley Johnny (Local 210 - Tech), Katherine Zan (Local 160), Brenda Thompson (Local 210), Jennie Hartviksen (Local 716) and Kelly Borcharadt (Local 716)

Did you know?

- CBS has 14 regional centres in Canada and employs 4,756 employees and has a volunteer base of 17,000 people! (from: 2002 Performance Review)
- In Canada, the part-time NON-UNION wage for women is \$10.39. The part-time UNIONIZED wage for women is \$17.10!

Upcoming

Watch for upcoming editions of Bloodletters which will include

- Profiles of the members of your bargaining teams
- Mobilizers — Who are they, what do they do?
- Report on March 30 Mobilizer Training

Approved for Distribution by

Your CBS Bargaining Team Members

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