



Bloodletters

A Bargaining Bulletin for OPSEU Members at Canadian Blood Services

Tentative agreement reached for support unit after marathon session

After more than 37 hours of hard bargaining, the support unit bargaining team came to a tentative agreement with the employer at 6:35 a.m. on July 16.

This settlement addresses the major concerns you raised at local demand setting meetings – wages, benefits, and job security. There is something in this package for everyone.

Your bargaining team is unanimous in recommending this settlement for ratification.

It is a three year deal covering the period from April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2008. Improvements to the agreement include:

Wages

- three per cent per year general wage increase for all classifications;
- special case adjustments have also been negotiated for Phlebotomists, Lab Assistants and Greeter/Rebooker/Telerecruiter.

Ratification meetings July 19-28

Job security

- eliminated ambiguities in the layoff language
- enhanced severance package
- a new voluntary layoff package
- voluntary recognition for any new consolidated manufacturing and testing site.

Benefits

- we have made major improvements in the benefits package, including a drug card.

This has been a very intense round of bargaining, but we believe that this is a solid package that will help us to deal with the continuing

transformation of Canadian Blood Services and build a foundation for future collective agreements.

We would like to thank all of our mobilizers for all of their work in preparation for a possible strike. Your hard work paid off at the table – this package would not have been possible without you.

Ratification meetings

More details regarding wages and other enhancements will be made available at ratification meetings to be held across the province July 19 to 28. Your Local Executive and local mobilizers will inform you as to the dates and locations of these meetings.

Bloodletters is your direct communication resource from the OPSEU bargaining teams and is intended to keep you up to date and informed on bargaining developments. *Bloodletters* is your only accurate source of bargaining team information during this round of bargaining. If you do not read it here, you cannot be sure it is true. Do not rely on gossip and rumours. We will provide the facts. *Bloodletters* will be available by e-mail and on the OPSEU website at <http://www.opseu.org/bps/health/cbs/index.htm>

Your CBS Bargaining Teams

Technologists

(Locals 210 and 5101)

- Steven O'Marra (L5101)
- Shirley Johnny (L210)
- Sheila Annett (L5101)

Support Unit

(Locals 160, 210, 477, 5103)

- Katherine Zan (L160)
- Brenda Thompson (L210)
- Kelly Tibbles (L477)
- Mirla Alvarado Fenn (L5103)
- Dino Gus Kourlas (L5103)

Thunder Bay Plasma

(Local 716)

- Jennie Hartviksen
- Joanne Bruni
- Kelly Borchardt