



# Bloodletters

A Bargaining Bulletin for OPSEU Members at Canadian Blood Services

## Technologists Unit vote August 23 on tentative agreement

CBS Technologists reached a tentative agreement with the employer August 9<sup>th</sup>. The bargaining team is unanimous in recommending the agreement which features 53 improvements over the previous contract. Ratification votes will take place in Toronto and Hamilton on August 23.

In the two-year agreement, technologists will receive a three per cent wage increase this year, and be matched to any increase hospital technologists receive in the second.

The agreement was reached in a timely matter and is considered by the team to be the best that could possibly be achieved.

Other highlights include:

- Major improvements to the universal benefits plan, including drug card, \$500 annual coverage for paramedicals, eye exam, \$200 every second year for glasses (frames, laser, and lenses);

- Shift premiums increased by 10 cents per hour;
- Meal allowances increased to \$6.95 (breakfast), \$10.75 (lunch) and \$15 (dinner);
- Employers to pay the cost of a medical certificate where required;
- Mileage rate increased to 39 cents per kilometer;
- Employees no longer required to use their own personal vehicles for work-related travel;
- Five bonus vacation days to be used in the year the employees reaches 30<sup>th</sup> and 35<sup>th</sup> year of service;
- Improved layoff and job security language, including two

weeks severance pay for every year of service up to 52 weeks;

- An additional day for bereavement leave;
- 75 per cent top up for maternity/adoption leave;
- Improvement time off for union business.

For part-time workers, the Saturday premium has increased by 10 cents per hour. In addition, the employer has agreed that they will make every effort to schedule a minimum of 30 hours in a two-week period, while anything more than 75 hours worked in a two week period will be considered overtime.

The employer has also agreed to recognize the union at any new consolidated manufacturing site is to be set up in the GTA, Oakville, Burlington or Hamilton-Wentworth.

Staff at the Hamilton site will continue to maintain their superior benefits.

### August 23 Ratification Vote

Toronto (67 College St):

7 am to 9 am and 12 Noon to 1 pm

Hamilton Site: 3 to 6 pm

Check out the full agreement at

<http://www.opseu.org/bps/health/cbs/index.htm>.

*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>