



Bloodletters

A Bargaining Bulletin for OPSEU Members at Canadian Blood Services

Strike Ready

The best way to avoid a strike is to prepare for one.

You began with a strong strike vote. Now we have to show we are serious and begin our preparations for that strike.

Certainly the best way to avoid a strike is to be unflinching in our preparations.

Each local is responsible for its own strike preparations with assistance from your local staff representative. Your mobilizer should have a copy of OPSEU's strike manual. Additional copies are available from any OPSEU office.

There is plenty of work to be done — you should start thinking about what you'd like to volunteer for now. Many different skills come into play when a union goes on strike — everyone is important.

Your local executive committee (LEC) should begin assembling a strike committee in the coming days. Usually the work breaks out into:

- strike duties
- finances
- communications

Strike Subcommittees

Duties Subcommittee

- Assigns duties to all striking members
- Ensure striking members have all necessary supports (ie. set up headquarters, rest areas, provide equipment, materials, etc)
- Accommodate members who cannot perform normal strike duties
- Assign and train picket captains

Finance Subcommittee

- Administer strike pay
- Prepare weekly administration expense records
- Keep account of strike fund
- Provide full report on strike finances after strike is completed
- Fundraising

Communications Subcommittee

- Keep members up-to-date with latest information, advice
- Share information and liaise within OPSEU and externally to labour organizations, community organizations, and others
- Handles media relations
- Publishes newsletters, operates telephone hotline
- Links with OPSEU communications

In some cases subcommittees are formed to deal with this work (see above), in smaller locals the central committee coordinates it directly.

In addition to the above subcommittees, a hardship relief committee is formed to give financial advice to members, and in some cases, provide direct financial assistance over and beyond normal strike pay.

Starting preparations for a strike is the best possible way to turn up the heat on the employer and get them to make their best offer now.

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>

Plasma Unit gives notice to bargain

On May 30th, notice to bargain was served on the employer by Local 716, the Thunder Bay Plasma Unit.

A June 2nd letter requiring full disclosure from the employer was prepared and sent. Canadian Blood Services is legally required to provide all the necessary financial information to the union in order

to facilitate the bargaining process. While no bargaining dates have yet to be set, Local 716 is eager to get the process moving forward and join their sisters and brothers across Ontario in the coordinated bargaining process.

There is concern that the employer is trying to reduce the size of the bargaining team.

However, OPSEU is clear that such stalling tactics will not prevent the Plasma Unit from joining in the march towards either an early settlement or an even earlier strike.

The contract for Local 716 expires July 31, 2005. Twenty-six OPSEU members are in this unit.



Graphic: CALM

*“Look, we really need your suggestions...
We’re running out of excuses for stalling the negotiations.”*

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