



August 2008



# TO THE POINT

A Newsletter for OPSEU members working in Sector 19: Canadian Blood Services and Diagnostics

## \$83 million for Big Box Blood

The employer, Canadian Blood Services, has announced its funding for a new facility - costing \$83 million! But what cost will the move to this SuperCentre have for our members? Layoffs are possible in the various centres, with London potentially taking the biggest hit.

If facilities re-development wasn't enough, the employer wants concessions from the Tech Unit, and is moving to implement layoffs in Clinic and Donor Services. Also, look for interim agreements to move the SuperCentre plans ahead. And it doesn't stop there.

### Chair's message

The sector is diligently working as a cohesive unit to strategize against the CBS employer's initiatives as well as the rippling effects of the economy on units like Cybermedix and Dynacare. Sector mobilizing will be at the forefront as we head into a tough road ahead with the Perfect Storm of bargaining within OPSEU touching down on the CBS and Diagnostics sector.

### CBS updates

#### Tech units (L 5103/210)

The CBS Tech Unit Locals 5103 and Local 210 have completed all non-economic issues, after being at the table ten times with the employer. On July 28-29 the team met for bargaining on economic issues. The team is taking the offer to the membership Sept. 10 - 11 for a strike vote. Look for more detailed information in updates of Bloodletters and a call for support from the team.

### Your Sector Executive

Sean Allen - Chair - Local 477 Ottawa Centre

Brenda Thompson - Vice Chair - Local 210 Hamilton

Katherine Zan - Secretary - Local 160 London

Shirley Johnny - Treasurer - Local 210 Hamilton

Beverly Ross - Labour Management - Local 160 Windsor

Marianne Mcillroy - Health and Safety - Local 160 London

Staff - Tracy More - Sector Negotiator (A)

### Thunder Bay

Thunder Bay - heads into a tough round of bargaining at the Plasma Centre with upcoming dates in the fall.

### Provincial Support

Dates for bargaining for this unit are to be announced. We are pleased to announce to the members that Tracy More and Lester Yearwood will be the negotiators for the support unit. They come armed with years of experience and a deep insight of our employer.

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Authorized by Warren (Smokey) Thomas, OPSEU President

## TO THE POINT - CBS AND DIAGNOSTICS - SECTOR 19 - NEWS

### Cybermedix

Members are still cleaning up pay equity and head back to the table.

### Diagnostic Care Inc.

Bargaining dates are set and the team is ready for a solid round of bargaining.

### NUPGE hosts a National meeting

The National Union of Public and General Employees (NUPGE) is hosting a national meeting for CBS members on Oct. 26-28 in Ottawa. This is a great opportunity to share common themes and strategies at a national level. The locals can return with information to our members, on what is going on in CBS across Canada and how it affects the members here in Ontario. The sector has agreed to piggy-back the next sector meeting after the National meeting Oct. 29.

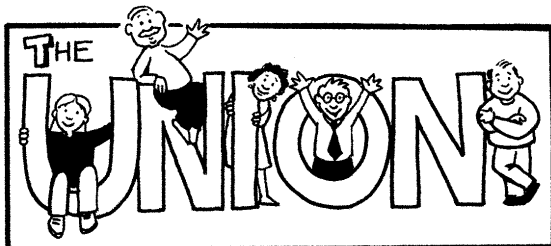
### Look for the union advantage

The 'union advantage' is one of leverage, balance and the intelligent use of an independent voice in the workplace.

Unions balance the power of corporations and the governments.

Without the union, workers are at the mercy of their employers and forced to accept whatever wages and working conditions employers are prepared to offer.

On the average, unionized workers earn about \$5.80 per hour more than unorganized workers.



Unionized workers are also twice as likely to be covered by medical, dental and a life insurance plan. Unionized workers are also less likely to be dismissed because of the grievance procedures available to them.

Unions are in the forefront of campaigns for national public health, public education, pay equity and job equity for women and visible minorities.

### Sector met June 17-18

The Sector met June 17 and 18 with a heavy agenda. There was much discussion on the announced layoffs and on the announcement of the consolidated, mega manufacturing, facility site.

As a result of these announcements a Provincial Labor Adjustment Committee was put in place and the terms of reference are final.

### Pay Equity

Pay Equity is back on track, and the team is set to meet Sept. 22-26 in Ottawa

### Thanks!

The sector would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our OPSEU staff. Ann Wallace, Dennis Boyer, and Bernard King, and other assigned staff from across the province. We are fortunate to have such skilled and dedicated staff assigned to us.

In Solidarity

Brenda Thompson, President Local 210  
Vice Chair, OPSEU Sector 19