



Local 439 News

July 13, 2009

Announcement leaves many unanswered questions

Brothers and Sisters,

The announcement at the Staff Forum on July 2, 2009 has left all of us with a number of concerns and questions. There is also a sense of urgency among members to get information.

As your Local Executive, along with the support of OPSEU staff, are now working to get concerns addressed and questions answered.

As you can imagine, this will take a little time. Our goal is to ensure you have accurate information during this stressful time. We need to make sure that not only are your questions answered, but that you are given timely and correct information. This will go a long way in easing the anxiety we are all feeling and quell any rumours that may be circulating.

We will gather your questions in order to get you some answers. We will also make every effort to keep you up to date on any new developments as they happen. Thank you for your support and your patience as we manoeuvre through these complex and difficult processes.

Things you need to know

- On July 3, 2009, the employer has provided your union with the formal Layoff Notice. As per Article 16, the employer must provide the union with no less than five (5) months notice.
- Affected employees will be entitled to four (4) months written notice of permanent or long term layoff.
- Prior to giving written notice to the employees, the employer will meet and work to minimize the adverse effect on employees.
- Many options may be available to help minimize the impact such as attrition, bumping, early retirement.
- We will not know what options are available until we meet and enter into discussions with the employer.
- Your union is, first and foremost, invested in preventing these layoffs, demonstrating that this is wrong and fighting to reverse this decision. Your union is also committed to ensuring that members have the best possible options available to them consistent with your Collective Agreement and other applicable legislation.

What is being done regarding mobilizing

- President Smokey Thomas has demanded in a Press Release (see attached) that the McGuinty government step up and restore funding to keep these critically needed beds open.
- OPSEU has reached out to the media (see articles attached).
- OPSEU has put together a team to fight this decision.
- We have set up a meeting with the “who’s who” of local politicians for July 10.
- We have created an inventory of your questions and concerns and will address them through our meetings with the employer.
- We will attempt to distribute updates via this Newsletter as more information becomes available.

What you can do?

- **Solidarity, Support, Unity** is the vital in this fight. We need your support at meetings, rallies and demonstrations to show the employer you support your union
- Familiarize yourself with Article 16 of your Collective Agreement (see attached).
- Send us your questions
- Ignore the rumours! If you hear a rumour, don’t spread it. Find out the facts.

Again, we thank you for your patience and support during this time. If you have questions, please contact:

UNITED WE BARGAIN, DIVIDED WE BEG!!!

In Solidarity,

Your Local Executive

David McDougall President

Davidmac04@sympatico.ca

Brent Rathwell Vice President

Bigrat50@yahoo.ca

Kevin Hudson Unit Steward Office Service and Clerical

kevinhudson@sympatico.ca

Ken Rossetti Unit Steward Paramedical

rossetti@ripnet.com

Brenda Code Secretary Treasurer

bcode@rohcg.on.ca

Sonia Boudreau OPSEU Staff Representative

sboudreau@opseu.org