

The Part-Time Times

A newsletter for Ontario community college part-time and sessional employees and friends

Stronger than ever

Part-timers and sessionals still united and resolved to win collective bargaining rights as soon as possible



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Stronger than ever

Part-timers and sessionals from across Ontario met in Toronto this weekend and came away feeling stronger than ever.

“There’s no doubt that the introduction last week of Bill 90 to recognize collective bargaining rights for part-timers and sessionals is a huge victory for us,” the president of their organization (OPSECAAT) said after their Annual General Meeting June 14. “But what really impressed me on Saturday was people’s resolve to keep on fighting until we can actually exercise our rights within a legislative framework,” said Roger Couvrette.

“We’ve accomplished a great deal in a short period of time,” he said. “There are still battles to be fought, but I don’t know how else it could be.”

The meeting of the Organization of Part-time and Sessional Employees of the Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology drew 58 delegates. They shared their work experiences, learned more about Bill 90 and OPSEU, and made plans for the road ahead.

Two bargaining units better – not four

OPSECAAT members passed two motions related to Bill 90, the Liberal government plan to change the *Colleges Collective Bargaining Act*. In the first, delegates voted to urge the government to change the legislation so that there are two college bargaining units, one for all support staff and one for all faculty. If unchanged, Bill 90 would change college bargaining so that there are four units:

- one for part-time support staff,
- one for full-time support staff,
- one for part-time and sessional faculty, and
- one for full-time and partial load faculty.

The meeting opposed that approach. “What’s



OPSECAAT President Roger Couvrette gets ready to celebrate OPSECAAT's successes....

really dear to my heart is to keep unity with the full-time staff,” said Christine Nugent, a part-time faculty member at Georgian College.

Nugent moved a related motion calling on part-timers to challenge the parts of Bill 90 that need improvement. The motion passed unanimously.



Christine Nugent, Georgian College: “What’s really dear to my heart is to keep unity with the full-time staff.”

Committee hearings go Sept. 8-9

Working with OPSEU, OPSECAAT members plan to lobby members of the Standing Committee on General Government. The Committee, which will study Bill 90, will hold public hearings on Sept. 8-9 and then vote on proposed amendments Sept. 17.

“We’ve come as far as we’ve come because we weren’t afraid to talk to politicians,” said Couvrette. “We want to see improvements to Bill 90, and I think we will.”

The full text of Bill 90 is available online at www.ontla.on.ca. To share your ideas about how OPSECAAT should approach the bill, please contact Roger Couvrette at rcouvrette@gmail.com.



OPSEU General Counsel Roman Stoykewich gave delegates a briefing on proposed changes to the *Colleges Collective Bargaining Act*.



Sabrina DeGirolamo (Seneca) holds the record for getting the most college part-timers and sessionals – over 300 – to sign union cards.



Deborah Headley (George Brown faculty and a member of the OPSECAAT executive) fights for equity.



Don Fraser (Mohawk) is also a member of the United Steelworkers and chair of the Hamilton and District Labour Council.

For more photos of the June 14 OPSECAAT meeting, visit www.collegeworkers.org

For full information about the OPSEU drive to win union rights for part-timers and sessionals at Ontario’s community colleges, visit www.collegeworkers.org or call 1-866-811-7274.

The Part-Time Times is authorized for distribution by Roger Couvrette, president of the Organization of Part-Time and Sessional Employees of the Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology (OPSECAAT), and Warren (Smockey) Thomas, president of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union.

