



## The Advocate

at the table

Protecting the rights of OPSEU members  
at the Ontario Property Assessment Corporation



# Bargaining: It doesn't all happen at the table

We aren't scheduled to meet the employer in conciliation until March 29, but that doesn't mean nothing is happening.

For one thing, OPAC has written to all the municipalities in Ontario telling them that negotiations have reached a critical stage and that we may disrupt province-wide reassessment and preparation of the municipal voters' lists.

They appear to be worried about what we might do, and that's a good thing.

OPAC has also written all its managers outlining bargaining.

Among other things it expressed the fear that our language on seniority would "deteriorate" into a seniority-driven selection process for layoffs and postings.

Yes, reasonable efforts meant we kept seniority when we transferred to OPAC. OPAC just doesn't want seniority to mean anything in the new contract.

Seniority is important because it is a clear and fair way to judge between candidates who are relatively

equal. It is not open to favouritism or bias.

OPAC has started a war of words over this round of bargaining, moving the issues into a larger forum.

You (and OPAC) should know that OPSEU is comfortable in the public arena, and well equipped to make its points at that level if necessary.

In the meantime, our focus is on getting a decent contract. We'll go the public route if we have to.

---

## Remember Button Day March 24

This is your opportunity to show your support for the bargaining team.

Wear a button to show your colleagues and your managers that you want a fair contract with OPAC.

It may seem like a small thing to do, but it's important. If we don't support the team, we'll live with the OPAC offer.

---

Authorized for publication:  
Leah Casselman, President

## Keep in touch!

Got a question? Ask your local contact or your nearest bargaining team member:

**Will Presley**, Chair  
Local 633, North Bay  
(705) 499-2213 (cell)  
[wpresley@opseu.org](mailto:wpresley@opseu.org)

**Jennifer Reid**, Vice-Chair  
Local 105, London  
(519) 657-4870 (h)  
(519) 681-0050 (w)

**Peter Thompson**  
Local 133, Windsor  
(519) 969-1801 (h)  
(519) 254-3771 x 219 (w)

**Bill Henry**  
Local 322, Barrie  
(705) 728-3480 (h)  
1-800-461-4230 x 256 (w)  
E:whenry@interhop.net

**Larry Deschenes**  
Local 463, Kingston  
(613) 531-8334 (h)  
(613) 545-4475 (w)  
Local463opseu@email.com

**Tina Faibish**  
Local 534, Toronto  
(416) 691-0223 (h)  
(416) 327-1742 (w)

**Peter Thachuk**  
Local 534, Toronto  
(416) 266-8830 (h)  
(416) 327-1690 (w)  
The team is assisted in bargaining by OPSEU Senior Negotiator Brian Gould and Researcher Ruth Hamilton.

