



The Advocate

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



Countdown begins: Strike preparation sends a message

Thank you for the incredibly strong strike mandate you delivered last week. Your vote sends a clear message to the employer, that their offer is not good enough, and that you are prepared to back your team with strike action, if necessary, to get an improved offer.

Your team will be in mediation with OPAC beginning Thursday. We will work as hard as we can to get an agreement that we can recommend to you.

But at the same time, we have to recognize that we could be on strike as early as May 1. The employer is preparing. We must be ready too.

Here are the things you need to do to be ready, and to show your support for your team as it works to get a better offer:

- **Sign up members for picketing.** Attached is a picket sign-up sheet. Office contacts and mobilizers, please get all your members to sign up, and be sure to get them to put home e-mails and phone numbers. You may need to contact them over the weekend to let them know what is happening.
- **Sign up members for strike benefits.** If you are on strike,

your health benefits from the employer will stop. OPSEU provides life insurance, accidental death and dismemberment, and extended health benefits at no cost to you. But you must enrol, name a beneficiary, and picket to get these benefits. The instruction form is attached to this Advocate. Other forms are being faxed to regional offices.

- **Make picket signs.** You can get blank picket signs from the nearest OPSEU Regional Office.
- **Set up strike committees.** If you have not already

reviewed the OPSEU strike manual, you need to get one from your staff representative at the OPSEU regional office. You will need at least a finance committee, a strike bank account, and a member or group of members who will help other members who face hardship because of the strike. Once your bank account is set up, you can apply for a local strike start up grant. Your staff representative at your OPSEU regional office has the form. You should also start looking for a local strike headquarters. Your staff representative can also assist with this task.

Two actions to back the team

Your bargaining team is asking you to take two actions to show your support this week.

First, wear a button on Wednesday, April 26. New buttons have been shipped to each local. They say "I don't want to strike, but I will if I have to." Please wear them on Wednesday. It's a small step, but it shows the employer your support for the team.

Second, picket your office on your lunch hour on Friday.

(Local 534 in Toronto is being asked to picket Thursday evening outside the Toronto hotel where bargaining is going on.) This is just another way to send a message to the employer that you support your bargaining team in their work to negotiate a fair contract for you and your colleagues.

Notice to OPSEU Members from the Ontario Property Assessment Corporation on Strike

Effective May 1, 2000 and for the length of the strike, OPSEU will be providing you with the following benefits:

- Life Insurance - \$25,000
- Health Care for you and your eligible dependents. Benefit details are enclosed on the attached pages.

This email contains your Enrollment Kit. It is comprised of an enrollment form, claim form and instruction sheet on how to complete the claim form. Please note that Enrollment forms are sent to Maritime Life's Head Office (see below), however, claim forms are sent to the Claim Office address (located on the claim form instruction sheet).

ENROLLMENT

To ensure that you are enrolled for benefits, complete the enrollment form as indicated below:

1. Provide personal information.

- Your Member ID can be your Social Insurance Number or your Employee/Payroll ID number. *Use this number as your Employee ID when submitting claims on the enclosed Statement of Covered Expenses for Health Care Benefits form*
- **Please provide a telephone number where we can reach you should we have any questions about your enrollment.**

1. Designate a beneficiary for the life insurance proceeds of your coverage. Give the beneficiary's surname, given name and indicate their relationship to you (i.e. daughter, spouse, etc.).

- **Note: if this section is left blank or unsigned when returned to Maritime Life, your beneficiary is deemed to be your ESTATE.**

1. Indicate your coverage requirement; coverage for yourself only, *or* coverage for yourself, your spouse and/or your child(ren).

- **If you selected coverage for your spouse and/or children,** list all your eligible dependents (spouse and/or children). Include coverage children (from age 21 up to the 25th birthday) who are regularly attending school full-time and solely dependent on you for support. You will be required to provide proof of full time enrollment, i.e., school ID and copy of Invoice for Tuition Fee.

1. Sign and date that statements you have made are true, *and* sign the **Authorization** section.

Send your completed original Enrollment form to:

Trustee Client Service Centre, The Maritime Life Assurance Company
P.O. Box 120, T-D Centre
79 Wellington Street West, 9th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M5K 1N9

**To be eligible for strike benefits, you must complete and send
this enrollment form to Maritime Life no later than May 15, 2000.**

CLAIMS SUBMISSION

If you make any claims during the strike, attach receipts to the Statement of Covered Expenses for Health Care Benefits form and send to the address shown on the How to Complete instructions. All claims for expenses incurred during the strike, must be sent to Maritime Life **no later than 2 months after** the last day of the strike.

To check the status of any Health Care claims you submit, you can access Maritime Life's Automated Telephone Inquiry Service by dialing (416) 864-8333 (Toronto callers) or 1-800-523-8333 (long distance callers).

For future reference...

I've recorded my Member ID as: _____

**This flyer contains
important information.
Keep it in a safe place**