



CAS Workload Alert!

Workload continues to be the #1 concern of Ontario's front line child welfare workers.

Countless attempts to resolve this issue have failed to produce any meaningful solutions. Why? Because the Government of Ontario set up this system without consulting us to ensure that it would provide better service to children at risk and their families. They have consistently refused to listen to our concerns or those of our employers.

Now we are forced to work in a system that places far too much emphasis on paperwork and accountability. We are forced to sit at our desk and write reports rather than being out in the community helping families deal with their problems. Those of us who do the work know that the balance has shifted in the wrong direction. We know that the system has to change because it's impossible for us to do our job properly.

Fifteen OPSEU and CUPE locals are trying to negotiate workload language into their collective agreements. Fifteen employers are unable to bargain workload language. Why? Because the Government of Ontario has told them not to agree to anything that would limit the amount of work we are expected to do. This is unacceptable to anyone who has felt the stress of trying to meet the standards and expectations imposed by this government.

The time has come for child welfare workers across Ontario to support their brothers and sisters trying to make a breakthrough on workload. Call, write, fax or e-mail Brenda Elliott, the Minister of Community Family and Children's Services and let her know that the system needs fixing now. Let her know OPSEU and CUPE members would rather work with her Ministry and with the employers to fix the system.

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