

# Building a local Building a contract

News for members of OPSEU Local 537 - York Detention Centre - July 25, 2003

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## Bargaining has begun

There's not really a whole lot to report as yet on this round of bargaining, beyond the fact that it has begun.

We met with the employer on June 27 and gave them our contract proposals. We explained that these proposals came from you – our members and their employees.

The meeting was cordial, and the employer gave us a set of proposals that they would like to see in our contract.

We have scheduled more bargaining meetings for September 8, 9 and 10, and still more for October 8 and 9, and 15, 16 and 17. We also have bargaining dates set for November 5, 6 and 7.

That may sound like a lot of meetings, but this is a first contract. That means there is nothing agreed upon at the start of talks, and we have to discuss every single clause in the contract.

Some of these will be easy to settle, and we will be able to go through them fairly quickly. Others will probably take a good deal more discussion.

We came away from our first meeting optimistic that we will be able to reach an agreement that satisfies both sides.

Don't expect us to give you a blow by blow account of each of the bargaining sessions as they come up. That's not the best way to get a contract.

We are working with OPSEU negotiator Tom Wood, who has a lot of experience bargaining contracts, and who was a Correctional Officer himself before he joined the union staff. He knows our issues and he understands the process.

We will keep in touch as the meetings continue and give you a sense of how bargaining is going, and whether we will need to take action to keep bargaining moving.

In the meantime, we are well on our way to building a first collective agreement for staff here at the York Detention Centre.

### **Your elected bargaining team:**

Trevor Hanagan-Ulch – chair  
Milenka Carrasco  
Edris Bridgewater