



Developmentally speaking

A newsletter for OPSEU's developmental service workers - Sector 2

Spring 2007

\$200 million funding increase for developmental services

Next step: making sure it reaches the bargaining table

In this issue:

Major victory!

\$200 million in new funding means more money for the bargaining table

The story behind our success

What we did to get developmental services on the government agenda

Report from the Chair

The year so far and what's to come

Who to thank for our victory

Look at the power we have when we work together. Check out the list on p. 3

Thanks to all our efforts, this year's provincial budget was good to developmental services.

Through our intensive coordinated campaign and political lobby we succeeded in making huge gains for our sector. We were asking the provincial government for \$253 million in new funding over 3 years. We received \$200 million over 4 years. \$60 million will flow to agencies this year.

Now we need to make sure the new money goes to wages and bargaining improvements.

Before this, the needs of developmental services weren't even on the radar. This year, thanks to all your hard work, it was a highlight of the provincial budget.

Everyone should take some time to look at the list of all of the members, in your local and across the province, whose contribution made this happen. Next time you see them at work make sure

you thank them – they really deserve it.

We also need to give a huge thank you to:

Sector Executive Chair, Sue Walker, whose tenacious efforts over the last four years made developmental services a top priority for the union;

The entire sector executive for their great support;

And our regional mobilizers who did a spectacular job of pulling everything together over the last three months:

- * Nancy Schembri
- * Cheryl Wing
- * Kelly Petman
- * Peggy MacDonald
- * Angie Godard
- * Beth Collier
- * Peter McKenzie
- * Fran Kelly
- * Silvana Cacciatore-Roy

(see the full list of our incredible activists on page 3)

Look what OPSEU members can accomplish when they work together

For more than a decade the government has been able to get away with under-funding services for people with developmental disabilities. They were able to get away with it because the issues we face and the people we support have been invisible to most people. Neglecting the needs of people with developmental disabilities didn't result in significant vote loss on election day.

The silence from our sector has had significant impacts in the level of service we've been able to provide and the wages we've been able to negotiate at the bargaining table. That's all changed now.

OPSEU's intensive campaign directed at getting the provincial government to substantially increase funding to the sector has paid off. With more than \$60 million flowing this year, our employers can no longer cry poor at the bargaining table.

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Report from the Chair

Sue Walker

This year continues to be an exciting and challenging one for all of us in the Developmental Services Sector.

We started off with Worker Appreciation Day on Jan. 17. What a great success right across the province! Our campaign of lobbying Members of Provincial Parliament was intensive and effective. We met with almost every MPP and Cabinet Minister.

Leah Casselman and I, along with senior OPSEU staff and CUPE representatives met directly with Finance Minister Greg Sorbara on Feb. 19 to discuss funding for Developmental Services. He made it very clear he was aware of the issues in the sector and that OPSEU has 36 bargaining units heading to a strike position right before the upcoming election. As we can see by the budget he just released on Mar. 22, our efforts were very successful.

Congratulations to everyone who helped turn our campaign into a funding victory! We now need to make sure our agencies bring that money to the bargaining table. The next round of our campaign is about to begin.

I would also like to note two upcoming events:

Developmental Service Caucus meeting
Thurs. Apr. 19, 12 pm at Convention.

Broader Public Sector (BPS) Conference
June 1-3, 2007

Delta Meadowvale Conference Center in Mississauga

Be on the lookout for the call. I hope to see you all there.

If I or anyone on the sector executive can be of assistance, please call.

Sue Walker

Chair Developmental Services Sector

(...continued from page one.)

Thanks to local mobilizing in our bargaining units across Ontario, the Appreciation Day celebrations, MPP lobbying and most importantly our coordinated bargaining strategy, we've won a substantial victory in the first round of getting better wages for our members.

Now we need to make sure the new money flowing to our agencies actually makes it to the bargaining table. The 36 units at the table now and over the next few months will be leading the way in setting new standards on what our members can expect. We've been underpaid for too long.

As we head into the next stage of our campaign, we need to build on our great success and visibly support all our bargaining teams as they head back to the table. Our support will make a huge difference in how much of the new money comes directly to wages.

Your Sector 2 Executive

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The members whose hard work has paid off for all of us

Region 1

Community Living - Central Huron

Katherine Wettlaufer
Susan Atfield
Joan Goddard

Community Living Chatham-Kent

Wayne Easterbrook
Celine Easterbrook
Fran Tol

Alicia Tol
Jalyne Feetham
Herb Hystek
Sandra Fenn
Sue Halbauer
Christine Scott
Audrey Hazuda

Community Living London

Denise Sands
Lisa Fewster
Angie Case-McIntosh
Jaimie Keighan
Mike Stuart
Sheila Appleton
Lynn Wareing

Community Living Stratford and Area

Kerry Douglas

Community Living Tillsonburg

Linda Gohm
Cindy Stoyles
Sharon Godby
Tammy Moore
Trudy Graydon
Rebecca Roden
Nancy John

Community Living Wallaceburg

Ruth Sharpe
Corrie Aikenhead
Carol Ann Mathews Holik

Crest Support Services

Robin Coish

Elgin Association for Community Living

Annie Robert
Mary Lou Heidt
Dale Cummings
Marcie Cummings
Tammy Laur
Lynn Roberts
Crystal Abdey
Mary Carlisle
Deb Barret
Christine Laverty
Lou Ann Yates

Darlene Siddall
Steve McMillan

Middlesex Community Living

Rhonda Gibson
Doug Paris
Janice Williams
Gloria Hickey

New Frontiers Support Services

Gary Owen

Region 2

Community Living Access Support Services

Kim Slavinsky
Alex Butcher
Toni VanderVeen
Deb Grisch
Kathy Davidson
Karen Sinnesael

Community Living Meaford

Mary Kelly
Maryann Bishop

Community Living Mississauga

Karen Ritch
Karen Wightman
Vesna Poturovich

Community Living North Halton

Lori Hubley

Community Living Oakville

Cheryl Sorenson
Wendy Charron
Faith Whittaker
Charlotte Scott McGarva
Andrew Schoenhardt
Nancy Gilchrist
Elena Navvaro-Finnegan
Kathy Donaldson

Norfolk Association for Community Living

Colleen Williams
Terry Takacs
Patty Tchorek
Linda Bell
Mandy Lomas
Teresa Westergaar-Hager

Oaklands Regional Centre

Pat McCoy
Patsy Thornton
Theresa Reid
Evelyn Goslin
Sal Badali

Participation Lodge Grey-Bruce

Carolyn Elder

Region 3

Access Community Services

Tanis Zwegers
Denise Drew

Community Living Association for South Simcoe

Marie Robson
Allan May
Judi Schell
Donna Smith
Floyd Pinto
Kim Chiswell
Dianne Ebel

Community Living Huntsville

Trudi Belrose
Elise Vautour
Laura Orr

Community Living Huronia

Linda Johnson
Chylene Cote
Wendy Holder
Liz Appleton
Cathy Walls
Vicki McGuire

Community Living Kawartha Lakes

Jessica White
Tara Kauffman
Tammy Clark
Darlene McShane

Community Living Parry Sound

Frieda Tuck
Sue McDowall
Marion David
Shari Armstrong
Leslie Panipak

Community Living Peterborough

Karen McKinnon
Sandra Scott
Wanda Findlay
Lorna Brown
Sue Stacy
Pam Lindsay,
Dan Masterson

Community Living South Muskoka

Lucille Beaumont
Tina Loshaw
Cathy McQueen
Liz Appleton
Joyce McIsaac

Community Living West Northumberland

Tracy Farrell

Region 4

Community Living Prince Edward

Patti Markland
Julie Montreuil
Eva Morris
Jason Sweet

Lennox & Addington Association for Community Living

Tammy Winter
Jackie McConnell

Madawaska Valley Association for Community Living

Linda Dombroski
Marion Peck
Keith Organ
Maureen MacMillan

Open Hands Inc.

Ray LaCelle
Rob Dewar
Vicky Vallerand

Mallorytown Residence

Angelina Mallory
Thomas Coville

North Grenville Association for Community Living

Sarah Loken
Christine Hamilton

Ongwanada

Barbara Dailey
Wanda Toller
Jennifer Decker
Janie Nickerson
Gerry Patey
Miranda Roy
Marilyn Rawding
Charmaine Fowler
Belinda Bancroft
Jennie McDevitt
Wendy Shannon
Norine Milne
Mike Fitzpatrick
Roseanne Wade
Teresa Donoghue
Kathleen McEwen
Janet Henderson
Sherrie Turcotte
Joan Woodcock
Evelyn Running

Kathryn North
Craig Godard
Peggy MacDonald

Pathways to Independence

Ianthe (Violet) Stringer

Region 5

Reena

Chris Moore
Donna Freidland
Julianna Uzukwu
Ramesh Chopra
Isabelle Cristavo
Connie MacKinnon
Ramesh Chopra
Liza Kocsondy
Angela Cochrane-Perrin
Dora Iwienofu
Rebeka Freedlander

Salvation Army Broadview Village

Angela Bach
Robin Weir
Joanne Dickinson
Darlene Mitrovica
Marilyn Lawson
Sandi Boucher
Jessica Beckles
Rees Pepperell
Maggie Villaroel

Surex Community Services

Terry Grondin
Tammy Dill
Karen Andrew

Surrey Place Centre

Dan Masse
Hannah McPherson
Cynthia Cheng
Jeannie Scantlebury
Charla Farmer
Simon Lee
Bill O'Connor
Dan Masse
Carey Heeny
Nicole Monteith

Region 6

Almaguin Highlands Association for Community Living

Tina Little
Tara Dillworth

Community Living Greater Sudbury

Jodi Mills
June St-Germaine
Donna Krejlgard
Caroline Shram
Louise Lessis
Gilles Coutu
Tammy Blanchette
Lisa Drolet
Angie Fournier
Tammy Cassandro
Steve May

Community Living Iroquois Falls

Cathy Whittome
Judy Hodgins
Natasha Joseph-Grenier
Sonia Hodgins

Community Living Temiskaming South

Flo Bruneau
Pam Newell
Serge Denis

Community Living Timmins Integration Communautaire

Terri-Lee Roy
Linda Suttle
Emmanuel St-Jean
Lise Labonte
Sheila Short
Paulette Ouellet
Gina Bernard
Julie Lauzon-Fillon

Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre

Helen Riehl
Daniel Roy
Clair Curik

Integration Communautaire Cochrane Community Living

Pauline Stuart
Cindy McQuarrie

North Bay & District Association for Community Living

Jo-Ann Wilson
Scott Collins
Anita Hughes
Barb Gibbings
Ray Thorne
Rene Leveque
Lise Leveque

Region 7

Atikokan & District Association for Developmental Services

Gwenda Mosbeck
Judy Anderson

Avenue II Community Program Services (Thunder Bay) Inc.

Brenda O'Neil
Renate Evans
Roger Mayer
Stewart Mainville
Matthew Doyle

Community Living Thunder Bay

Judi Bedard
Larry Sochackey
Jason Ahern
Kyle Pearson
Mary Johnson
Shauna Everett

Kenora Association for Community Living

Allison Cartwright
Cassiey Moeller
Andrea Ames
Sherry Batiuk
Susie Brown
Ramona Fullmer
Melanie Howard
Olivia Novelli
Gail Richards
Darlene Smith
Peggy Strate

Lutheran Community Care Centre of Thunder Bay

Melanie Hamilton
Erin Marszowski

Thank you. Your efforts will have a lasting impact on the lives of our members and the people we support.