



Developmentally Speaking

A newsletter for OPSEU's developmental service workers - Sector 2
July 2007

A message of support from President Thomas

July, 2007

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

After meeting so many of you on my recent tour of the picket lines, I am reminded of the incredible work you do, and your courage in standing up for what you need and deserve.

I see no reason why the McGuinty government is leaving you out on strike. We all know the truth: you are 25-30 per cent behind those doing equivalent work in other fields.

This summer, you are standing up and saying you will no longer be treated as second-class workers. Our union supports you 100 per cent in this effort.



OPSEU intends to ensure that Developmental Service workers take a giant step forward in this round of bargaining. We are making every effort to put the government on the spot to flow the promised funding to your agencies today.

This means OPSEU members are showing up at every opportunity to make it impossible for the government to get its pre-election "good news" message out to the public.

The government continues to underfund those who work with some of our society's most vulnerable people. That's the message that is getting across to the media and the public: Your message.

I commend your work so far in being steadfast on the lines and consistent in your message. With solidarity, I know we can force the government's hand. As the election approaches, McGuinty can and must step up and lead. Meantime, be assured of the solid support of your brothers and sisters, the 117,000 members of OPSEU.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Warren Thomas".

Warren (Smokey) Thomas, President
Ontario Public Service Employees Union

Sector executive applauds and supports commitment of locals on strike

On behalf of the executive of your sector we applaud the courage and commitment of the locals in Region 1 to making your working lives better, and in turn enriching the lives of the clients you serve.

The decision to go on strike is never easy. We are behind you 100 per cent.

The Sector Executive has met; as a result of our meeting we have called the President's office and the Vice President's office and some members of the Executive Board.

We want to ensure that your strike is kept on the front burner within OPSEU and throughout the province.

Your Sector Executive has reached out to local presidents encouraging members in each of our regions to lobby MPPs, and write letters to the editor of their local paper.

We have told our employers we will not provide services to any of your clients and we are showing that we are behind you by wearing stickers of support.

OPSEU members are appearing at every Liberal function that we are aware of.

We want you to know we support and thank you for the steps you have taken to bring the issue of underfunding forward.

We wish you all well, as we move toward our goal of achieving better wages across the sector, and increasing Sector Solidarity.

Your Sector Executive

Sue Walker – Sector Chair

Scott Collins – Secretary-Treasurer

Kelly Petman – Vice Chair 2A

Violet Stringer – Health and Safety

Silvana Cacciatone-Roy – Vice-chair 2B

Helen Riehl – Bargaining representative

Beth Collier – Vice-chair 2C

Cassidy Moeller – Communications representative



How you can support your sisters and brothers on strike

Write a letter to the editor

Write your local paper making your community aware of the strikes and possible addition of more in the province. Share how they affect all of developmental services. Ask for community support in demanding the government step up to the table with the money so these strikes can end.

Write to Premier Dalton McGuinty, Madeleine Meilleur, Minister of Community and Social Services and your local MPP, demanding that the government provide the funds to end the strikes and keep more people from going out.

Premier Dalton McGuinty

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Madeleine Meilleur, Minister of Community and Social Services mmeilleur.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org

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Vanier ON K1L 6C7
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Fax - 613-744-0889

Financial Help

Any financial help will be greatly welcomed. Ask you local to send a donation. Ask locals in your regions if they can to help. Hold a fundraising BBQ, a rummage sale. Get creative and make a public statement. Donations can be sent to locals at the locations below:

Local 144, Community Living London : 450 members

Main picket location: 1655 Trafalgar Street (east of Highbury), London
Donations may be sent care of:
Deb Morphew,
579 Classic Drive
London, ON, N5W 5X9
Payable to: OPSEU Local 144 Strike Support

Local 148, Community Living Chatham Kent : 227 members

Main Picket location, 650 Riverview Drive, Chatham
Donations may be sent care of :
Wayne Easterbrook
Unit #1,57 St. Anthony Street, Chatham, On, N7M 3Y2,
Payable to: OPSEU Local 148 Strike Support

Local 144, Middlesex Community Living: 115 members

Main picket location, 82 Front Street, Strathroy
Donations may be sent care of :
Deb Morphew,
579 Classic Drive
London, ON, N5W 5X9
Payable to: OPSEU Local 144 Strike Support

Local 151, Elgin Association for Community Living: 215 members

Main picket location, 300 Talbot Street, St. Thomas
Donations may be sent care of :
Annie Robert
177 Manitoba Street, St. Thomas, On, N5P 3A5,
Payable to: OPSEU Local 151 Strike Support



If you are not currently receiving regular strike and Sector 2 updates and would like to, please forward your e-mail address, name, and local number to opseu.sector2ex@gmail.com. We will add you to the list for outgoing updates.