



# Developments ON THE LINE

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## Thomas rebukes agency bosses

OPSEU President Warren (Smokey) Thomas today took the executive directors of four community living agencies to task for not agreeing to a regular back-to-work protocol.

Executive directors in four agencies are insisting on the right to discipline members for actions during the strike.

Thomas, in London Aug. 7 for a news conference, said community living employers in London, Middlesex, Elgin and Chatham-Kent should start showing they care about the people our members support, and let the members get back to work.

“The executive directors are acting irresponsibly. No union on the planet would agree to allow its members to go back to work without a back-to-work protocol,” said Thomas.

“This strike has been about wage increases and improved quality service for the people our members support. Members have made their message heard on these issues. Now they want to get back to work.”

“Thomas said the Liberal government may be forced to step in to settle the “back to work protocols” that the executive directors of four agencies seem incapable of negotiating.

Elgin Association for Community Living and the employer met in mediation Aug. 7. On August 6th Local 144, Middlesex Community Living and the employer once again met in mediation. Talks were not successful.

On August 5th Local 144, Community Living London Unit and the employer met in mediation



OPSEU President Smokey Thomas in a news conference with the representatives of five striking units in southwestern Ontario. Kerry Kearns photo.

with the assistance of the Ministry of Labour. On August 4th, Local 148, Chatham Kent Community Living and Local 144, Middlesex Community Living entered mediation. Talks were not successful.

### Prince Edward brings number of agencies to seven

The dispute spread to Eastern Ontario today. Workers at Community Living Prince Edward went out after the employer changed the locks on all workplace doors even as talks continued.

More than 1,350 development service workers across Ontario are now on the picket line. Seven community living agencies are now facing strikes.

**Produced by OPSEU Communications**

For more information: OPSEU Direct 1-800-268-7376

Authorized by Warren (Smokey) Thomas, OPSEU President



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