



# Developments ON THE LINE

Issue 11 August 9, 2007



## Deal reached in Tillsonburg

Community Living Tillsonburg became the first community living agency to settle with its striking workers late yesterday.

Local 161 reached a tentative agreement in mediation. The agreement was ratified by the members today.

OPSEU President Warren (Smokey) Thomas said the Tillsonburg deal, which was reached with the help of a mediator, was a sign of good faith on both sides.

“Our members would like to see the same kind of good faith on the part of employers in London, Elgin, Middlesex and Chatham.”

“There is a lot of pressure on these employers to just get over their personal feelings and get people back to work,” said Thomas.

Meantime, Local 448 at Community Living Prince Edward ramped up with sixteen-hour pickets at about a half-dozen locations in the Picton area.

The biggest problem facing developmental services is low wages. Workers at CLPE earn 25 to 30 per cent less than those performing the same work elsewhere. Patti Markland, chair of the negotiating team, says wages are not the only priority for the members at CLPE. “The health and safety of our members and the people they support are equally important,” Markland says.



OPSEU members began picketing the homes of executive directors in the London area this week when it became clear the agency bosses were the ones arbitrarily prolonging strikes. Photo courtesy Local 144

In the southwest, OPSEU continued to push for an acceptable back-to-work protocol to end four strikes. Talks continued Aug. 8 in London.

Employers in these four agencies insist on being able to discipline members for actions during the strike.

“Our members don’t want to be out on the picket lines,” Thomas said. “But we won’t return to work under these unacceptable conditions.”

Negotiations are set to resume for Local 235 at Community Living Meaford Aug. 10.

**Produced by OPSEU Communications**

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

Authorized by Warren (Smokey) Thomas, OPSEU President



[www.opseu.org](http://www.opseu.org)