



Developments ON THE LINE

Issue 13 August 13, 2007



Five strikes over, two units still out

OPSEU negotiators were extremely busy on the weekend. While Local 144 London unit and Local 448 in Prince Edward remain on strike, five other units have returned to work in the past week.

Local 235 in Meaford signed a tentative agreement with the employer Aug. 10 and ratified Aug. 11. Community Living Meaford employees are now back to work. Saturday, Aug. 11, Middlesex and Chatham-Kent community living units signed tentative deals which included back-to-work protocols with no reprisals. Both ratified Aug. 12 and are returning to work.

Last week Local 151 in St. Thomas and Local 161 in Tillsonburg also ratified new deals and returned to work. Also, Local 146 at Community Living Central Huron, poised to go on strike on Aug. 13, settled and ratified on the weekend.

This leaves the two units, London, where Local 144 has been out eight weeks, and Prince Edward County, where Local 448 has been out just less than a week.

Lack of progress in London

Issues are different in the two units. In London, negotiators are frustrated by the employer's unwillingness to sign a regular back-to-work protocol, with a no discipline and no reprisals clause. This standard protocol was agreed to by the employers of the other bargaining units that returned to work this week.

"We are frustrated by this lack of progress on what should be a straightforward matter," said OPSEU President Warren (Smokey) Thomas. "Our members want to get back to work."

The dispute in Prince Edward is over wages and health and safety issues.

About 700 workers remain on strike in the two units.

Produced by OPSEU Communications

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A message from OPSEU members around the province to employers where members remain on strike. Photo: OPSEU Files, Courtesy Region 6

Send us your photos, stories

Do you have pictures of developmental services picket line or mobilizing events? Any great stories? We may wish to publish these in our newsletter. Please send to: dcox@opseu.org



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