



Developments ON THE LINE

Issue 8 August 3, 2007



Hope grows for a settlement in strikes in the southwest

There is hope for good news as bargaining teams in the four longest strikes will be heading back to the table soon.

Bargaining dates are set for developmental services workers in Chatham and Middlesex Aug. 4, in London Aug. 5 and in Elgin Aug. 7.

The lines remain solid at these four units and at units in Meaford and Tillsonburg, also on strike.

“We hope we can reach agreements that respect the hard work and determination of our members.” said OPSEU President Warren (Smokey) Thomas.

Rally held in Norfolk

Members of Local 221 at Norfolk Association for Community Living held an information picket in Simcoe yesterday.

“These workers are paid 25 to 30 per cent less than workers in comparable positions in health care, education, municipalities and other public services,” said Local 221 spokesperson Lisa Kowalsky.

Staff report that double and triple shifts are common. Retention of employees is a growing concern.

The local has asked for a no-board report. The strike date is set for Aug. 27, and a mediation date has been set tentatively for Aug. 23.



Members of Local 221, Norfolk ACL, picket outside the office of Toby Barrett, MPP, in Simcoe. Photo courtesy Local 221.

Prince Edward nears key date

The 150 Local 448 members at Community Living Prince Edward are preparing to strike Aug. 7. Mediation is scheduled for the same day.

Prince Edward community living employees support about 500 people living in the Picton area. Wages, workloads and staffing levels are among the local's concerns.

Staffing concerns

“The Employer doesn't seem to recognize that this is very hard work, says Patti Markland, chair of bargaining for the local.

“Employees are scheduled for 12-hour shifts on seven-day rotations, often one employee providing support for six individuals for the entire shift. When they need time off it's often to protect their health so they can continue to provide quality care.”

Fighting for fairness !

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The list is growing: make a donation

Any strike that goes on for more than a few weeks becomes a financial hardship for the members on the picket line. These strikes are no different.

President Thomas is calling on all OPSEU locals and sectors to make a financial donation to the Hardship Relief Committees of the striking locals.

On behalf of our 1,150-plus members on strike, thank you to the following for their financial support;

OPSEU Local 101, London
OPSEU Local 102, London
OPSEU Local 103, London/Aylmer
OPSEU Local 104, London
OPSEU Local 105, London
OPSEU Local 106, London
OPSEU Local 108, London
OPSEU Local 109, London
OPSEU Local 115, St. Thomas
OPSEU Local 126, Cedar Springs
OPSEU Local 129, Chatham
OPSEU Local 130, Chatham
OPSEU Local 132, Chatham
OPSEU Local 137, Windsor & Chatham
OPSEU Local 145, Sarnia
OPSEU Local 150, Wallaceburg
OPSEU Local 152, London & St. Thomas
OPSEU Local 160, London, Windsor & Sarnia
OPSEU Local 162, Windsor & Chatham
OPSEU Local 163, London
OPSEU Local 283, Peel
OPSEU Local 323, Orillia
OPSEU Local 331, Whitby
OPSEU Local 333, Oshawa
OPSEU Local 358, Peterborough
OPSEU Local 443, Kingston
OPSEU Local 453, Cornwall & Morrisburg
OPSEU Local 500, Toronto
OPSEU Local 507, Toronto
OPSEU Local 512, Toronto
OPSEU Local 524, Toronto

OPSEU Local 532, Toronto
OPSEU Local 545, Toronto
OPSEU Local 557, Toronto
OPSEU Local 568, Toronto
OPSEU Local 667, North Bay
OPSEU Local 710, Thunder Bay
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Ron Langer, President, Local 103
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Patty Rout, OPSEU First Vice President Treasurer
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OPSEU London and District Area Council
OPSEU BPS Developmental Services Sector
OPSEU Liquor Board Employees Division
OPSEU Region 1 Promoting the Union Agenda Fund
OPSEU Region 3 Promoting the Union Agenda Fund
OPSEU Region 4 Promoting the Union Agenda Fund
OPSEU Region 6 Promoting the Union Agenda Fund
CAW Local 1001, St Thomas
CEP Local 2003
CUPE Local 12
CUPE Local 82, Windsor
CUPE Local 137
CUPE Local 2220, St. Catharines
CUPE Local 2242
CUPE Local 2597, Exeter
CUPE Local 3137, Windsor
CUPE Local 4370, Sarnia
CUPE Local 841, St. Thomas
CUPW, St. Thomas Local
UFCW Local 1000A, London Unit
PSAC London Area Council
SEIU Local 1
St. Thomas and District Labour Council
Hydro One, Aylmer (staff union)

For more information on where to send your donations, see the Developments on the Line, Issue 3, July 27 at www.opseu.org, or call OPSEU at the number below.

Send us your photos

Do you have pictures of members of your developmental services local or events? We would like to publish a great photo every day. Please send photos to: dcox@opseu.org

Produced by OPSEU Communications

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Authorized by Warren (Smokey) Thomas, OPSEU President



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