



Bloodletters

A Bargaining Bulletin for OPSEU Members at Canadian Blood Services

New faces at the bargaining table

Your negotiating team met for a second round of discussions on Monday, Sept 17, 2007. We have been working diligently on creating proposals to change our collective agreement in line with the input we received from you in the demand-set surveys. We also continue to build on our June discussions with the aim to advance the strongest and most comprehensive set of proposals we can in this round of bargaining.

Since we met in June, there have been changes in CBS's labour relations division – changes that will alter the faces at the bargaining table. **James McCormick**, Senior Employee Relations Consultant based out of Ottawa, led negotiations for CBS in the past two rounds of bargaining. He has left CBS for greener shores in Halifax. Replacing him, **Rob Burwash** has moved to Ottawa to take over this important portfolio and will be the face and voice of CBS at the bargaining table. Rob

will be known to bargaining unit members in Hamilton as their newly-departed Human Resources Manager, and to those in Toronto who heard of him through past rounds of negotiations. **Bob Blewett**, Human Resources Manager in Toronto, is interim Manager of both the Toronto and Hamilton sites and (we believe) will sit at the table representing the employer from these two centres.

This past June, we requested further information from CBS to assist in preparing our proposals. We are still waiting for the information. We are also canvassing for meeting dates when we can conduct our bargaining. Preliminary discussions suggest we will meet one day to exchange preliminary proposals and then conduct the first round of bargaining a few weeks later.

As a result of our September discussion, the union is also examining the impact of changes

to process resulting from Buffy Coat implementation to determine if such changes are a violation of 'freeze provisions' enshrined in the Labour Relations Act. The provisions are there to protect you from changes to your working conditions during bargaining. Watch for further developments on this as they occur.

If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to one of the members of the bargaining team:

Steve O'Marra (Toronto – Bargaining Team Chair) – 416.313.4441

Angel Thompson (Toronto – Bargaining Team Secretary) – angel.thompson@blood.ca

Shirley Johnny (Hamilton – member at large) – shirley.johnny@blood.ca

Or you can call **Bernard King**, OPSEU Negotiator – 416.928.2482

Bloodletters is your direct communication resource from the OPSEU bargaining teams and is intended to keep you up to date and informed on bargaining developments. *Bloodletters* is your only accurate source of bargaining team information during this round of bargaining. If you do not read it here, you cannot be sure it is true. Do not rely on gossip and rumours. We will provide the facts. *Bloodletters* will be available by e-mail and on the OPSEU website at <http://www.opseu.org/bps/health/cbs/index.htm>