



# Bloodletters

A Bargaining Bulletin for OPSEU Members at Canadian Blood Services

## Strike vote called for May

### Province-wide vote to pressure employer

**B**argaining teams for the province-wide Support Unit and the Technologists Unit of Canadian Blood Services are calling for a province-wide strike vote during the first week in May.

This is not a decision made lightly, but the bargaining teams believe that this is the only way to make the employer take your concerns and issues seriously.

#### Why so early?

Why have a strike vote early in the bargaining process?

- This puts pressure on an employer that has repeatedly demonstrated it does not take your collective agreements or the collective bargaining process seriously.
- The employer cannot “spin it out” for months. The last round of bargaining for the Support Unit took **18 months!** The employer came to the table demanding huge concessions and takeaways, including a complete gutting of the job security language. It took a 97 per cent strike vote to keep your current agreement intact!

- An early strike vote also makes it harder for the employer to play “divide and conquer,” pitting the Support Unit against the Technologist Unit.

Your local OPSEU leadership and bargaining teams have been working hard to prepare for bargaining. Last November, local presidents and delegates from across the province met to discuss coordinated bargaining and to review the results from the provincial bargaining survey.

In February, all three CBS bargaining teams were brought together for team training and to develop strategies for coordinated bargaining. Local demand setting meetings were held across the province. The bargaining teams have since been working to finalize these demands to take to the table.

On March 30, mobilizers from CBS locals across the province

came to Toronto for training and strategizing.

### Demands exchanged April 21, 27

The Support Unit will be meeting with the employer on April 21 and the Technologist Unit will be meeting with the employer on April 27. At these meetings, your teams will be exchanging their demands with the employer and will also be receiving the employer’s demands.

### Watch for details

Your local executives and mobilizers are busy planning for the strike vote. Specific vote locations and dates will be announced later when details have been finalized.

#### Your CBS

##### Bargaining Teams

Technologists (Locals 210 and 5101)  
Steven O’Marra (L5101)  
Shirley Johnny (L210)  
Sheila Annett (L5101)

Support Unit (Locals 160, 210, 477, 5103)  
Katherine Zan (L160)  
Brenda Thompson (L210)  
Kelly Tibbles (L477)  
Mirla Alvarado Fenn (L5103)  
Dino Gus Kourlas (L5103)

Thunder Bay Plasma (Local 716)  
Jennie Hartviksen  
Joanne Bruni  
Kelly Borchardt

*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>

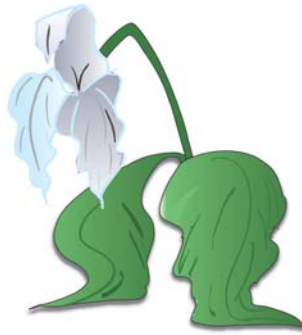
AND THE WINNER IS...

## Canadian Blood Services wins OPSEU'S "Withering Trillium Award" for March

The "Withering Trillium Award" is awarded by the OPSEU Executive Board to the OPSEU bargaining unit manager or employer that "demonstrates, in the finest tradition of management, a complete lack of understanding, skill, knowledge, fairness or competency."

Nominated by a member of Local 477, Canadian Blood Services, Ottawa:

- "This employer seems to disregard its employees to the point that we are stalled at negotiations, pay equity



and anything else this employer deems fit to stall on," the member writes.

- "The management team's indifference to how it treats employees also leaves something to be desired. I

know from first-hand knowledge of being treated unfairly."

### CBS yet to negotiate pay equity plan

As well, CBS has yet to negotiate a pay equity plan with OPSEU. The Ontario Pay Equity Commission appointed a Pay Equity Review Officer after a member complained that the agency violated the Act. Pay equity talks are proceeding at a snail's pace.

Congratulations, CBS, on an honour well deserved!

We are  
**Canadian  
Blood  
Services**



Check out our video at <http://www.opseu.org/bps/health/cbs/index.htm>