



# Bloodletters

A Bargaining Bulletin for OPSEU Members at Canadian Blood Services

## 95% Yes, 88% Yes

### Strong strike vote tells employer we stand together!

**Y**ou did it! Canadian Blood Services members in Ontario overwhelmingly cast their support behind the bargaining teams during a strike vote taken across the province throughout last week.

The Support Unit voted 95 per cent in favour of giving their bargaining team the ability to call a strike, while 88 per cent of the Technologists' Unit did the same.

"After spending more than 18 months trying to achieve their last collective agreement, our members at Canadian Blood Services are sending a clear signal to the employer that they mean business," says OPSEU President Leah Casselman.

Last year Canadian Blood Services workers walked off the job in Nova Scotia, reducing the reserve of blood in that province

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from four days to one during the three-month strike.

"Unlike Nova Scotia, where Ontario stepped in to prop up the blood supply, there is no province in Canada that is capable of meeting this province's demand in the event of labour action," says Casselman. "This vote should be a wake-up call for CBS."

No strike date has been set by the union. Teams from both units continue to meet with the employer at the bargaining table.

The Technologist Unit is bargaining May 11-12, while the Support Unit meets with the employer May 17-18.

Bargaining Team members want to thank members for giving such an overwhelming vote of trust.

### Plasma Unit contract expires end of July

The Technologists and Support staff have been without a contract since March 31st, 2005. The contract for the Plasma Unit in Thunder Bay is set to expire at the end of July.

#### 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>