

Bloodletters

Issue 8

A Bargaining Bulletin for OPSEU Members at Canadian Blood Services

July 16, 2009

Frequently Asked Questions

What is conciliation?

Before a bargaining unit can legally go on strike (or be locked out by the Employer) in Ontario, the parties have to go through conciliation and a “no board” report must be issued. The issuance of a “no board” report then sets the clock ticking towards the earliest possible date for a legal strike or lockout. The strike or lockout may legally begin 17 days after the “no board” report is issued. A strike vote must be held by secret ballot to authorize the union to hold a legal strike.

Has the Union held a strike vote?

Yes. In a vote across the province, 98% of OPSEU members in the CBS Provincial Support unit voted YES to give their bargaining team the authority to call a strike if necessary to achieve an acceptable agreement.

When do we go out on strike?

As mentioned above a strike or lockout may only legally begin 17 days after the “no board” report is issued. Once a “no board” is issued the clock will begin ticking on the 17 day countdown. The union’s goal is to negotiate a collective agreement without a strike.

Did the Union walk away from the table in conciliation?

No. During the last days of bargaining in June with the conciliation officer there was significant progress made on the Employer’s tabled concessions. The bargaining team felt that a few more days with the conciliation officer is required with the goal of achieving a negotiated settlement.

Why is there so much time between bargaining dates?

Due to summer vacation schedules on both sides of the bargaining table and with the conciliation officer, the first available dates have been confirmed for September 14th and 15th in Ottawa.

Putting a face on the work you do ...

Now’s the time to build solidarity and get involved! Get informed, talk to your bargaining team members and local executive members. Send us your photos, in high resolution to ghamara@opseu.org So OPSEU can profile the valuable work that each of you do.

Remind the employer—it’s not in you to give in, CBS members demand a fair contract!

Authorized for distribution



Warren (Smokey) Thomas