

OPSEU



SEFPO

news for  
OPSEU's  
CCAC members

# Why OPSEU?

## What makes us different

You have a representation vote coming up on March 27-28, 2007. You will have the opportunity to choose to have the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) as your bargaining agent.

We want to take this opportunity to confirm several facts about OPSEU that make us different from other unions and to encourage you to vote for OPSEU.

### What makes us different?

#### Grievance resolution

No other union allows members to have care and control of their own grievances. OPSEU is the only union which allows an individual grievor to decide whether or not their grievance goes to arbitration. Unlike other unions, our Constitution prevents elected officials or staff of the union from deciding whether or not your grievance should proceed.

With OPSEU, grievances are funded centrally. This means that, regardless of the size of your local, your grievance will go forward. Arbitration costs are very expensive and for smaller locals, and, in other unions, this could be a problem. Because of OPSEU's central system, all members are entitled to the same service and resources.

#### Collective bargaining

OPSEU structures and staff provide service to members by sector. That means there are dedicated resources such as researchers, negotiators and organizing representatives specifically dedicated to you. With OPSEU, you will have the assistance and expertise to negotiate your next collective agreement.

Remember: Under the *Public Sector Labour Relations Transition Act* (PSLRTA, or Bill 136), **your collective agreement remains in effect until a new agreement is negotiated**. No matter which union wins the vote, all current collective agreements are "stapled together" and that so-called composite agreement is in effect while the parties look to bargain the new contract. You do not automatically get the winning union's collective agreement. Also, no matter which union wins the vote, that union must negotiate a new "first" collective agreement.

#### A voice through your elected representatives

In OPSEU, every member gets a say in how the union is run, through elected representatives locally, in your sector, and in your region. You elect the members in your workplace to represent you at Sector meetings, conferences and the annual OPSEU Convention. At these meetings, decisions and policies are made that shape our union. You have a direct impact on that.

## A member-driven union

With OPSEU, the members decide how the union is going to operate to meet their needs. Resources to locals are provided centrally and regionally. Educational programs are provided to you at little or no cost to your local. You also have access to either the London Regional Office or the Owen Sound Regional Office. That means if you need meeting space, or even access to a computer or fax machine, it is there for you.

## OPSEU dues

With OPSEU there is no hidden cost or complicated formula. OPSEU dues are 1.375% of your wages. There is no additional cost. Your dues cover everything: grievances, negotiations, arbitrations, etc. Dues are paid to OPSEU, and a portion of those dues are returned to your local for your own use.

Most importantly, you never have to worry about having enough money in your local to bargain a collective agreement, defend your members' rights, provide member education or send your members to conferences. All of these expenses are funded by OPSEU centrally. Your local funds are only used for local events.

## Have your say

It is important that you exercise your right to vote.

**On March 27-28, make the right choice.**



# ***Vote OPSEU!***

**Come talk to us! Make an informed decision.**

### **Your Local Contacts**

#### **Grey-Bruce CCAC**

**Alison Blackwell**

alisonblackwell@bellnet.ca

(519) 371-2112 (w) or (519) 934-2482 (h) or

(519) 270-0982 (c)

#### **Elgin County CCAC - Local 158**

**Peggy Gillespie**

peggy.gillespie@elgin.ccac-ont.ca

(519) 660-9031(c) or (519) 631-9907 (w) or

(519) 633-5176 (h)

or

**Walter Rogers**

rogersw@rogers.com

(519) 200-3765

### ***Got questions? Please contact OPSEU's Organizing Unit:***

**Toll-Free:** 1-800-268-7376

**Fax:** (905) 712-2916

**Web Site** [www.opseu.org](http://www.opseu.org)

#### **Your Organizers**

Ed Ogibowski (416) 788-9237 (eogibowski@opseu.org)

Carol Warner (519) 319-1736 (cwarner@opseu.org)

***Or call:***

**Lois Boggs, Chair, Sector 17**

(905) 317-6678 or 416-557-2853 (lboggs@opseu.org)