



# Community Health Care Professionals

December 2004

BPS Sector 17



## Local Health Integration Networks

### What we know for sure:

- There will be 14 for the province,
- They will fund, plan but not provide direct care,
- They will have appointed boards,
- There will be massive system change.

CCACs will be merged to fit the LHINs (as possibly may be the case with health units as well). All services will be contracted out.

This massive reorganization of our work is happening fast. Stay informed by visiting the OPSEU web site ([opseu.org](http://opseu.org)) and the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care site for bulletins every month ([www.health.gov.on.ca/transfor](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/transfor)

### Key contacts

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## Leadership Development

We had two fantastic leadership development courses in Niagara Falls and Ottawa. Locals 158, 155, 210, 269, 274, 267, 492, 481, 408, 451, 489, 548, 587, 674, and 675 sent members to the events and went away with a connection to their division and lots of new friends!

## Competitive Bidding Review: "look ma, no teeth"

### Sector Executive meeting disappointing

Hon. Elinor Caplan, a cabinet minister's mother and former Liberal minister in both Queen's Park and Ottawa, has been appointed to review the competitive bidding process in home care. Despite the flaws in the model, Health Minister Smitherman set a proviso for the review: competitive bidding must remain.

Worse, Caplan does not seem to care about the lack of teeth her review has been given. Lois Boggs, sector chair, and Sue McSheffrey, executive member met with her Nov. 9 in Toronto, and were very disappointed in her opinion that this was a good model. Caplan told them that this would be the model for the LHINs. In other words, all our jobs would be contracted out (to the lowest bidder)!

Caplan is now touring the province and an opportunity exists for every member of our division to influence this opinion.

For an appointment to speak to Caplan call Rheta Fanizza at 416-212-7687. E-mail submissions to the Caplan Review can also be sent via [janet.clarke@moh.gov.on.ca](mailto:janet.clarke@moh.gov.on.ca)

## Pension News

### CCAC class action

The class action lawsuit proceedings began Nov. 4. This suit affects all the OPSEU members who were moved from home care to CCACs in 1996. Justice Cullity is hearing the case and the first hearing day went very well. Both sides have some work to do based on suggestions made by Justice Cullity so the next court date is Jan. 24.

### HOOPP plan changes

Members of the HOOPP pension plan need to be aware of some changes to the plan in 2005. OPSEU has two trustees of HOOPP (8 members are appointed by unions and the other 8 are OHA appointees).

The plan's financial position has declined following 9-11 despite recent improvements in investment earnings. This has led to plan changes.

See:

<http://www.hoopp.com/members/news/July04/affect.asp> for details on how these plan changes will affect you.

## OPSEU hotline reveals Niagara care fiasco

On Oct. 1, OPSEU established a home care hotline in the Niagara Region to hear from patients who had been transferred from VON service to either St. Elizabeth Healthcare or CarePartners.

For weeks, VON nurses had heard stories from their former patients of missed visits, of rushed care, and of home care patients being urged to go to walk-in clinics to receive treatment. What we have learned was beyond our expectations of how bad the situation had become.

The Niagara CCAC claimed it was changing service providers to improve home care services, not to save money. Yet the stories we have heard illustrate a system in crisis and a CCAC too eager to cover it up.

Prior to taking on this work, the two selected agencies had no nurses, no office and no prior experience in the region.

As a result of the shortage of nurses brought on by this transfer, the for-profit CarePartners was bringing in nurse managers from across Ontario as a stop-gap measure. But these nurses rotate in and out of the region, defeating any attempt at continuity of care.

We urged Health Minister George Smitherman to cancel these contracts and restore service.

## Public healthcare used to drum up private clients

Home care clients in Ottawa face growing waits for physiotherapy while an agency contracted to provide care is poaching clients for its own private care business.

The Ottawa branch of the Victorian Order of Nurses (VON) is signing up private home care clients at \$108/hr instead of reducing the ever-growing backlog of clients from the Ottawa Community Care Access Centre (CCAC).

The CCAC backlog is so bad that critical patients, including recent hip surgery recipients, face three-week waits for physiotherapy.

## Sector Executive

Marie Jeanne Carriere, our Secretary/Treasurer, has left the executive after she resigned from her job to work outside the sector. Thanks to Marie Jeanne for all her hard work and enthusiasm. We wish her well in all her future endeavours!

If anyone is interested in becoming a member of the sector executive, please contact Lois Boggs for more details.

### The Executive is:

Lois Boggs, Local 269, chair,  
 Brian Griffins, Local 489, vice chair  
 Susan McSheffrey, Local 481,  
 Myriam LaSalle, Local 489,  
 Judith Cowan, Local 481