



Community Health Care Professionals



News for OPSEU members in Sector 17

#2 - March, 2003

Layoff news: cutbacks threaten care

- VON in Hamilton has laid off 30 per cent of their Visiting Nurses due to CCAC cut backs.
- The Visiting Home Makers Association in Hamilton went bankrupt forcing more than 500 workers out of a job. They represented 58 per cent of the home support for Hamilton CCAC.
- Rehab Express in Elgin St. Thomas has laid off a Social Worker.
- Renfrew County CCAC closed an office in Barry's Bay and laid off the four staff who worked there (three case managers, one clerical)
- Providence Continuing Care in Kingston who have the divested CCAC therapists have just announced that they will not be bidding on the new RFP. All staff have received layoff notices and will have to apply for jobs with the new agency. If you have layoff news please e-mail Sue at: skmsh@renfrew.net

Did you know?

OPSEU is a founding member of the Health Professionals Secretariat. This is a national group of unions representing health professionals.

It is being run under the umbrella of NUPGE (National Union of Public and Governmental Employees) of which OPSEU is a member.

You saw it here first: The Community Health Care Professionals Division new logo (above).

The group had its first meeting in Ottawa in November 2002. They will work to raise the profile of Health Professionals. They will also study issues such as regulatory colleges and public policy.

OPSEU is represented by:

- Chris Madill, Lab Technologist, Executive Board Member,
- Patty Rout, Lab Technologist, Chair, Hospital Professionals Division,
- Sue McSheffrey, Physiotherapist, Chair , Health Care Divisional Council.

OPSEU also represents its members who are dealing with complaints at the regulatory colleges.

If you are called to appear, contact Mary Ann Kuntz at the Downsview office immediately for advice at 1-888-412-2297 x226.

Collective Agreement news

We are in the process of putting together a salary database and collective agreements for all the bargaining units in our sector.

All inquiries about collective agreements can go to executive member Sue Blakeley, sblakeley@sympatico.ca

(see over)

To find out more about the Division go to www.opseu.org and follow the links through BPS to Community Health Professionals

OPSEU challenges CCAC pension transfer in court

At the beginning of the revolution, (the one misnamed “Common Sense”), CCACs were created out of the old home care program. Many employees had pensions with OMERS, the VON plan, or the Family Service Association plan. The government determined that HOOPP was the preferred pension plan for employees transferring to the CCACs.

In 1996 and after, it promised that the transfer of pensions to HOOPP would not disadvantage CCAC staff. Since HOOPP is a different plan, a top-up is needed in order to keep employees’ pensions whole.

Well, along with a lot of other promises, that was a whopper! In March 2002, the Ministry said the government was not going to provide an upgrade to employee pensions.

Legal action

OPSEU is investigating multiple approaches to the problem and currently engaging in legal action against the government over its broken promises.

OPSEU has collected information from members – thanks to all the CCAC’s who responded to our request – and has:

- Employed an actuary to analyze the impact.
- Filed a statement of claim in the courts on our behalf; suing the government for our losses.

The first date in the action is March 4. This mediation is a first step.

The representative employee is Sue McSheffrey, a physiotherapist with the CCAC in Renfrew County and Vice Chair of the Community Health Care Professionals Division.

For more information contact: Ruth Hamilton at Head Office 1-800-268-7376 or rhamilton@opseu.org

What’s up next?

Regional elections are just around the corner. Each region elects three members.

The regional elections are followed by Convention in April. We have some events planned for Convention. Check in with us at the Health Sector table.

Dates to note:

April 3-5 2003

OPSEU Convention

April 28

RPN Forum

e-mail Tracy More for more info:

tmore@opseu.org

June 6-8 2003

BPS Conference

The executive is preparing fun filled and informative sessions, specifically for community health professionals.

Delegates are funded by OPSEU head office. Alternates and Observers are funded by the Local.

Key Contacts

Key contacts

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