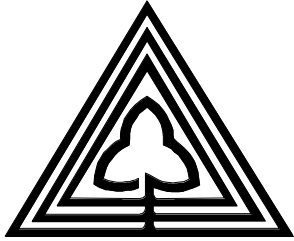


OPSEU



SEFPO

Take action

on Community Health!

A campaign bulletin
for OPSEU members
working in community care

April 5, 2001

Private Home Care comes to Leamington Hospital:

The Windsor/Essex CCAC has opened a Community Care Clinic in the Leamington District Memorial Hospital. Home care services are now being offered in the hospital. The clinic is staffed by a CCAC case manager and support staff, with care delivered by Bayshore Health Care, ComCare Health Services and Saint Elizabeth Health Care employees.

Currently the clinic provides IV therapies, injectables and wound care treatment. This service is being provided to CCAC clients who are "able to travel to (the) clinic safely and comfortably."

We've heard of a couple of other cases where private home care companies are operating out of public hospitals (with staff paid significantly less than hospital employees). Let us know what's happening in your area.

OPSEU acts on CCAC pensions:

When the CCACs were established, many employees came from home care services that had pensions with OMERS, the VON plan, or the Family Service Association plan. The government determined late in 1996 that the Hospitals of Ontario Pension Plan (HOOPP) was the "preferred alternative" for employees transferring to CCACs.

It said at the time that its goal was "to maintain comparable pension benefits to those that many employees in the industry already enjoy." Representatives of the plans began to negotiate a transfer agreement. In the meantime, many former AAHP:O units filed grievances because their collective agreements specified that they were members of the OMERS plan. These grievances were held in abeyance pending resolution of the transfer.

Following lengthy negotiations, the HOOPP and OMERS pension plans have determined that a top-up of a total of \$28 million (based on the

shortfall as of December 31, 1999, plus interest), is needed in order to ensure the employees' full pension entitlements are protected.

Information recently received from the Ontario Association of Community Care Access Centres (OACCAC) indicates that the Ministry of Health will be making a decision soon on whether to pay the money (obviously, our preferred option), whether to do nothing, or whether to set up some sort of fund pay to pay to employees whatever top up is needed at the time of retirement.

President Casselman has written to the Minister of Health. As well, we are exploring a number of options to put pressure on the government to pay up. One part of this effort may be to reactivate the grievances.

Authorized for distribution:

Leah Casselman, President

We're distributing *Take Action* by e-mail and fax only, as well as posting it on our website: www.opseu.org
Take Action is about two-way communication. We'll provide you with information about home care policy and about what our locals are up to.

We hope you'll let us know what you think. Please post *Take Action* on your union bulletin board and copy it for your colleagues. Contact us to get on our e-mail list.