



# Health Care Links

A newsletter for OPSEU  
stewards working in health care

March, 2001

## Who are we?

The Health Care Divisional Council (HCDC) is the voice of health care for OPSEU.

The Council's role is not only to strengthen the voice of health care within OPSEU, but also to raise OPSEU's profile in health care across the province.

The HCDC provides an umbrella for OPSEU's five health care Divisions. Each Division consists of Locals and Units who share a community of interest within a particular sector of the broader public service.

The Council provides a forum for sharing information on issues that affect more than one Division and for developing common strategies and approaches.

## The Ambulance

### Division:

The Ambulance Division includes any Ambulance service/dispatch centre covered by the Ambulance Act. Therefore its member Locals or Units are located in both the

Ontario Public Service (OPS) and the broader public service (BPS).

The Ambulance Division represents over 1,200 members.

## Health Care Support Division:

The Health Care Support Division (HCSD) includes Locals and Units whose members are employed as Health Care Support workers in hospitals and other BPS facilities.

The Division covers approximately 23 Locals and Units in public hospitals, Community Care Access Centres (CCACs) and public health units, representing close to 3,000 members.

## Long Term Care Facilities Division:

The Long Term Care Facilities Division (LTC) includes Locals and Units whose members are employed in Long Term Care facilities and related agencies

under the Long Term Care Reform Act.

The Division covers approximately 11 Locals and Units in nursing homes, homes for the aged and residences for the physically disabled, representing close to 1,000 members.

## Hospital Health Care Professionals Division:

The HHCP Division includes Locals or Units whose members are employed by public hospitals, predominantly as paramedical professional employees. Regulated health professionals form the majority in the Division.

The Division covers over 11,000 members in 97 Locals and Units in public hospitals across the province.

## Community Health Care Professionals Division:

The Community Health Care

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This is the new newsletter from the **Health Care Divisional Council (HCDC)**. It's being mailed to all local presidents and unit stewards in the health care sectors. It will also be posted on the Divisional Council's web page at **www.opseu.org** Click on "Health Care" under BPS sectors.

Please post the newsletter on your union bulletin board and share it with your colleagues. Let us know what you'd like to hear about. You can send e-mails to us through the link on the HCDC web page.

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Professionals Division (CHCPD) includes Locals or Units whose members are employed predominantly as health care professionals and paramedical employees in community based health care.

The Division covers almost 2,000 members in 35 Locals and Units in Community Care Access Centres (CCACs), community-based home care agencies, community health centres, public health units, community addiction services and acquired brain injury services.

### Our Issues:

The Health Care Divisional Council will be focusing its attention on a number of critical issues affecting our members in

health care. These issues include:

- The Hospital Labour Disputes Arbitration Act (HLDAA)
- Ministry of Health and Long Term Care policies such as Primary Care Reform
- Privatization of health care services
- Promoting OPSEU's issues at the Ontario Health Coalition and local health care coalitions

### Get Involved!

Our council thinks it's really important that OPSEU's issues be front and centre at the Ontario Health Coalition and at local coalitions.

OPSEU is represented on the

Ontario Health Coalition Administrative Committee by Pat Collyer from the Hospital Health Care Professionals Division, and Barb Linds, OPSEU Campaigns staff.

Community coalitions now exist in Kingston, Durham, Ottawa, Windsor, Toronto, London and Sault Ste. Marie.

Groups interested in health care issues meet in a number of other communities, including Sudbury, Timmins, Thunder Bay, Burlington, Cornwall and Renfrew.

If your local would like more information about these coalitions, please contact Barb Linds at OPSEU head office (1-800-268-7376 extension 203), or blinds@opseu.org

### Keep Informed!

This newsletter will be published after each Health Care Divisional Council meeting.

You can also keep informed about issues that affect your sector, as well as about other health care issues by checking the health care division pages on OPSEU's website at [www.opseu.org](http://www.opseu.org)

Click on "health care" under BPS sectors and choose your sector from the list provided.

### Contact your council members:

**Chair:** Bev Shuler, Local 581  
Health Care Support

**Vice-Chair:** Patty Rout, Local 348  
Hospital Health Care Professionals

**Secretary:** Dan Tyo, Local 147  
Ambulance

Sue McSheffrey, Local 481  
Community Health Care Professionals

Leona Redden, Local 668  
Long Term Care Facilities

Authorized for distribution:



Leah Casselman, President