



Health Care Links



A newsletter for OPSEU
stewards working in health care

Issue #4 July, 2002

Save medicare campaign a resounding success

In the last Health Care Links we reported that the OPSEU Executive Board approved funding for our participation in the Save Medicare Campaign. Hundreds of members picked up our campaign materials at convention, and many OPSEU members played active roles in local health coalition activities. Our thanks to all the OPSEU members who got involved.

The campaign was a resounding success. At least 53 communities in Ontario organized citizens groups to preserve and extend medicare. They reached over 250,000 households by door-to-door canvas. More than 100,000 people signed petitions addressed to the Romanow Commission in many languages. Fifty-five municipal councils passed medicare resolutions. One million feet of ribbon and 20,000 lawn signs were distributed across Ontario.

The campaign is not over. Romanow will report in November. At last month's Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) convention, delegates passed a strong resolution supporting Canada's public health

care system and committed the resources of the CLC to a \$550,000 national campaign, in cooperation with the Canadian Health Coalition (CHC). CLC affiliates meet this month to plan the next phase. OPSEU is working closely with other NUPGE affiliates and the National Union.

Continued next page

Calling all RPNs

OPSEU represents hundreds of Registered Practical Nurses (RPNs) in many sectors of our Health Care Divisional Council. RPNs share common interests and concerns regardless of whether they work in Long Term Care, Mental Health, or Hospitals, BPS or OPS.

We recognize that RPNs need a voice in the union. We want to know more about you and keep in touch. If your local or unit represents RPNs, please contact Tracy More at tmore@opseu.org so we can communicate more effectively with our RPN members.

Activities will include a national day of celebration of Medicare in October. The Ontario Health Coalition (OHC) and local community coalitions will meet to plan actions for Ontario for the day of celebration. OPSEU is a key player, both at the OHC and the Ontario Federation of Labour planning committees.

The CHC is preparing a lobby kit for health care activists contacting their MPs over the summer. For a kit, contact Barb Linds at OPSEU blinds@opseu.org; 1-800-268-7376 x 203. A National Medicare Lobby Day will be held after the Commission report is released in the fall.



**HEALTH CARE DIVISIONAL COUNCIL
DIVISION CHAIRS
2001 - 2003**

Chair: Sue McSheffrey
CCAC in Renfrew County—Local 481
Community Health Care Professionals Division

Vice-Chair: Patty Rout
Lakeridge Health Corporation—Local 348
Hospital Professionals Division

Jamie Ramage
City of Hamilton—Local 256
Ambulance Division

Linda Sculthorp
Ontario March of Dimes—Local 262
Long Term Care & Related Facilities Division

Marlene Ricksneuwöhner
Hotel Dieu Hospital Kingston—Local 443
Health Care Support Division

Tony Morabito
North Bay Psychiatric Hospital —Local 636
Mental Health Division



Irene Harris of the OFL, NDP MPP Rosario Marchese, Danielle Latulippe-Larmand of ONA and OPSEU Executive Board Member, Local 500 President Nancy Pridham address a Save Medicare rally at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Toronto, one of many Save Medicare events across the province.

Authorized for distribution

Leah Casselman, President

This newsletter from the Health Care Divisional Council (HCDC) is sent to local presidents and stewards in the health care sectors. It will also be posted on the web at <http://www.opseu.org/bps/health/splash.htm> . **Please post** on your union bulletin board and share with your colleagues. E-mail us through the link on the HCDC web page.