



Canadian Union of  
Public Employees

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**Bargaining Units:**  
City of Toronto  
Full-Time  
City of Toronto  
Unit B  
Part-Time  
City of Toronto  
Recreation Workers  
Part-Time  
City of Toronto  
Homes for the Aged  
Part-Time  
Bridgepoint Hospital  
Service Unit  
Bridgepoint Hospital  
Nurses and Paramedical  
Unit

**SERVING OUR  
MEMBERS  
SINCE  
1942**

**CUPE 79**

February 18, 2003

Ms. Leah Casselman, President  
Ontario Public Services Employees' Union  
100 Lesmill Road  
Toronto, Ontario  
M3B 3P8

Dear Sister Casselman:

CUPE Local 79 stands in solidarity with the members of the OPSEU Hospital Professional Division.

We represent many of the City of Toronto's front-line workers, including health care providers in Toronto Public Health, the City's Homes for the Aged, and Bridgepoint Hospital. We know what it is like to face a stubborn, unreasonable employer who is unwilling to face difficult health services issues.

The Ontario Hospital Association's treatment of the hospital professionals is disgraceful. They have been without a contract for almost a year now and without a raise since April 2001. This is a shameful way to treat such a vital group of Ontario's health care professionals, including respiratory therapists, x-ray technologists, physiotherapists, pharmacists, MRI technologists, and many others.

It is hardly surprising that this kind of treatment has led to a critical shortage in the health care professionals ranks. Many of the current staff have chosen to work somewhere else where salaries are more competitive. Also, the lower wages and heavier workloads are discouraging new people from entering these professions. This shortage is not going away until the Ontario Hospital Association recognizes these problems and deals with them.

We urge the OHA to act now and to settle this impasse. Local 79 supports the members of the OPSEU Hospital Professional Division and we stand with you in solidarity.

Yours in solidarity,

Ann Dembinski  
President