

## Who will be left at Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare?

Hospital staff care passionately about the work they do. It's a pity the hospital prefers they don't.

**M**uskoka Algonquin Healthcare has fired a union steward for doing what union stewards do: advocating for her members.

In fact, the MAHC is poisoning the workplace with its heavy-handed approach to staff who only seek to protect services to the community and save their jobs.

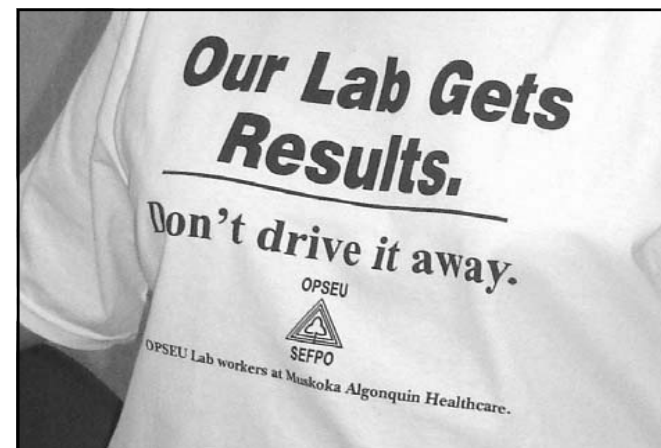
First it issued reprimands to staff for wearing campaign t-shirts. Then it suspended two stewards over a letter highlighting the CEO's past, which includes contracting out of lab services while at the Niagara Health System. And now the firing, for among other things, distributing union leaflets at the hospital.

Preferring to fight with hospital professionals than to work with them, the MAHC has hired an aggressive HR firm to put the lid on growing upset at the Hospital.

Yet the hospital claims it wants the same thing as the staff — to preserve services in Muskoka.

Or do they?

Actions speak louder than words.



The t-shirt the hospital didn't want you to see.

### Health professionals staying away

Skilled health care professionals are becoming increasingly hard to recruit across Ontario.

May 22 the hospital had to explain itself before a provincial labour relations officer. It is the first step towards resolving an unfair labour practices complaint made by the Ontario Public Service Employees Union against the hospital.

The hospital cannot recruit the pathologists it needs. A long serving radiologist has now announced his departure. How many more will leave MAHC, and ultimately, expose your health care to risk, before action is taken?

It's time the hospital board intervene in an escalation that threatens to affect the future of the hospital.

The hospital must rescind discipline of OPSEU members who dared to care.

The solutions lie in working cooperatively with the community — and the staff — not in fighting what is an ever losing and isolating battle.

Warren (Smokey) Thomas  
OPSEU President

