



Cadogin Chatline

Autumn 2008 — OPSEU Sector 8: Long Term Care

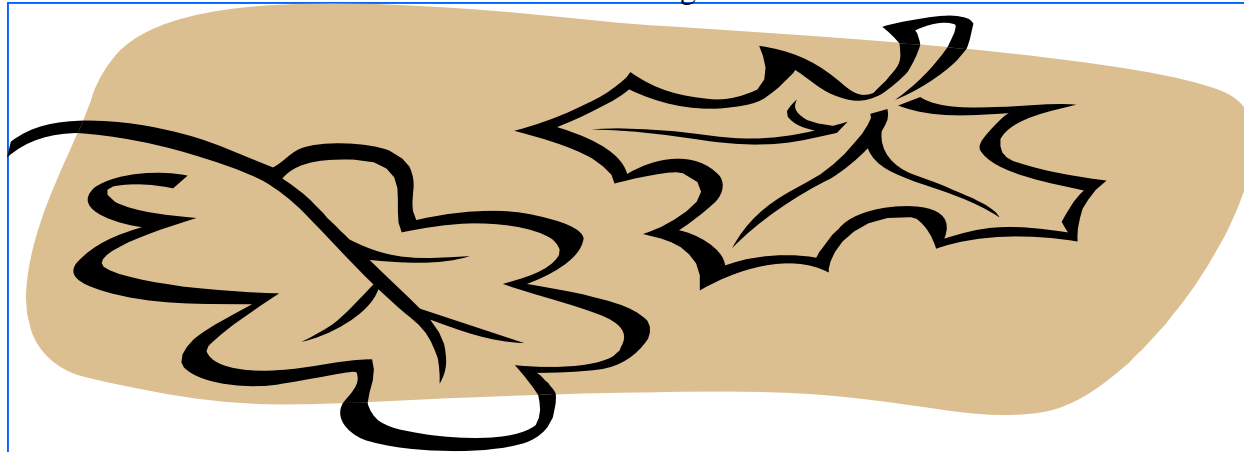
Sector Executive Sets Ambitious Goal!

Your sector executive has set a new long-term goal. We know that communication is the most important part of what we do and we want to ensure we are meeting your expectations. The hardest part is getting members to respond. Our goal is therefore to meet with every bargaining unit at our upcoming demand setting meetings. Besides meeting with members on their own turf, we want to explain how you can contact us with your concerns and issues. We realize that this is an ambitious goal but your sector executive members are up for the challenge and we're really looking forward to meeting with all of you. We will be starting this round of meetings in the New Year.

Workplace Violence Campaign

OPSEU is putting the final touches on its Workplace Violence campaign. Every local under the HCDC umbrella is encouraged to send two members to the workshops in their region. The workshops start in November and end in January 2009. For more details please visit www.opseu.org and follow the links. Or, contact one of your executive members for the date, time and location of the workshop in your region.

Many of us have been either a victim of workplace violence or know someone who has. We must ensure that our members are as safe as possible so they can do their jobs safely. This workshop is vital to the long term care sector as we all know the types of abuse we deal with on a daily basis. We not only get abused by the residents we care for also by their family members, too. Verbal abuse can be just as harmful as physical abuse. We can no longer accept it as simply part of our jobs. Yes, our residents suffer from Alzheimer's, senile dementia or some form of mental dementia. Yes, others are the elderly who can't help but hit, spit, kick, bite and pull our hair or verbally assault us. But none of those actions can be used to justify workplace abuse. Proper staffing and medical measures must be put in place. The workshops will enable you to deal with your employers and help you understand that violence should be the exception — not an acceptable part of the workplace.



Another Summer Gone

It's hard to believe that the lazy, hazy and very damp days of summer 2008 have come and gone. Well, at least all the rain kept our lawns green straight through the end of August. The kids are back in school, the leaves are starting to turn, the air is getting chilly and days are shorter. Undoubtedly, autumn is in the air.

Thanksgiving has come and gone. Despite the preparations – and the cooking and clean up – I again enjoyed having the family together. The men talked and talked until they fell asleep, while the women went about clean up. What a wonderful opportunity to get together, laugh and get caught up in each others lives. When I grew up we did this type of thing every Sunday at supper but now our days seem so much busier that we only manage to get together on only a few occasions each year. Then we're back into the same routines and our hectic lives.

But think about it. In less than two months Christmas will be here once again and another opportunity for family and friends to gather together.

Executive Members Contact Info

Secretary/Treasurer—Joan White
joanwhite261@hotmail.com

Vice-Chair—Erynne Baynard
erynne57@hotmail.com

Communication Coordinator—Debbie MacDonald
dad@ripnet.com