

Sector 8 Newsletter



Long Term Care and Related Facilities

June 2002

Meet our sector executive

Do you know what a sector is?

The OPSEU constitution states that each bargaining unit shall be part of a sector.

A sector is a structure of “like” units within the union. It enables us to have a collective voice on problems and issues we share. Your sector can help co-ordinate activities between the bargaining units. Your sector has its own set of by-laws.

The entire sector meets every two years at the Broader Public Sector (BPS) conference and elects a new executive. The chair of the sector sits on the BPS All-Chairs Committee and on the umbrella Health Care Divisional Council with the other health care sectors in OPSEU.



Members of the Long Term Care Facilities Sector Executive, from left to right are: Nadine Ball, Patricia Heroux, Mark Hurley, Linda Sculthorp, and Debbie MacDonald.

Meet our executive:

Linda Sculthorp is the Chair of Sector 8.

“I am with Local 262 in Hamilton. I am unit steward at the Ontario March of Dimes outreach program. Over my career I have been an OPSEU sister three times in different positions. I also am a professional researcher in research marketing. I find it very exciting and a challenge as Chair of the Sector. I sit on the BPS Sector Chairs committee and the Health Care Divisional Council.”

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The Sector Executive (continued)

We are in a time where there are many changes taking place in our sector. New facilities and programs are opening and we are expanding and want to hear from our members in the sector.”

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Pat Heroux is the Vice-Chair of Sector 8.

“I am with Local 261. I am a health care aide, and have worked at Halton Centennial Manor (now Allendale) 33 years. When it was brought to my attention that Long Term Care, should be its own sector, I worked hard to have this realized. I have held an executive position since our inception.

“I have been very active at the local level holding several executive positions. I have been a member and chair of Halton Peel Area Council and over the years held several executive positions on the Oakville and District Labour Council. I am now an active member of the disability caucus, serving as vice-chair. Due to my health, I have downsized my union activities but stay with this sector position as I feel strongly that it is very important to deal with local issues as a group together with other locals of Sector 8.”

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**Nadine Ball is the Political Action/
Communication Coordinator of Sector 8.**

“I am with Local 305, a composite local. I am Unit Steward of the Pines, District of Muskoka. I have been unit steward for four years. I am also first vice-president of Local 305. I am really excited to be on the sector executive and to meet many of the members in our other units.”

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e-mail: nadine@vianet.on.ca

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Debbie MacDonald is the Secretary/Treasurer of Sector 8.

“I am with Local 439, a composite local. I was unit steward for 10 years. I have sat on numerous committees over the years and worked on many campaigns. I was instrumental in getting this sector off the ground. After many letters to the Board and the President of OPSEU and help from members like Pat Heroux we became our own sector. I have worked at Sherwood Park Manor Nursing Home for 25 years in various positions, presently I am an administrative assistant (fancy title for departmental clerk). As the secretary of the sector I would love to hear from you as this executive would like to put out a newsletter at least four times a year. Please share your concerns, hardships and victories with us to put in our newsletter. We would also like to establish contacts in every unit. Communication is key to making this sector survive.”

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Mark Hurley is 1st Alternate for Sector 8.

“Hello sisters and brothers in the Long Term Care Sector 8 of OPSEU. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as your first Alternate on the LTC Sector 8 executive. I work as an Independent Living Assistant 2 (Personal Service Worker) in Sudbury at Participation Projects’ Independence Training Centre for adults with physical disabilities. Over the past decade I have been active in Local 668 in a variety of positions. I bring my experience and knowledge to the LTC Sector 8, and would like to communicate the concerns of any members of our sector at the executive level. I look forward to hearing from you.”

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Upcoming educational

The Network for Better Contracts is a long-term approach toward building our union through education and action. For the past two years or more our organizational challenge is to spread the Network for Better Contracts to all parts of our union and to create necessary organizational supports.

In the fall of this year (hopefully September) our sector will be putting on an educational to help get us started on the right track and to improve our communication system. The educational will be on local leadership development, Strong Locals make a Strong Sector. We are hoping two or three members from each unit in the sector will attend.

The overall aim of the course is to “provide the best representation of our members through strong collective agreements, organizing and shaping public policy.

- To develop strong locals capable of strategic enforcement of union rights/collective agreements within the context of sector priorities.
- To identify common challenges and struggles experienced by all units in our sector.
- A shared strategy or approach in negotiation/mobilizing/organizing/contract enforcement and public policy campaigns.
- A more committed and better equipped leaders at the local level that are linked to the sector goals.”

This educational should prove to be extremely helpful in putting our sector on the right track and at your own work site. It should also be a lot of fun and a chance to get know each other. Watch for more information.

This newsletter needs a name

We need your help in deciding on a good name for our newsletter. Please forward your ideas to any of the executive members of the sector. We are looking for something that represents our sector and is catchy.

Watch your mail for upcoming information about your sector. If you are not the contact person, please pass all information on to the appropriate person or let us know who should be receiving the information

Remember that communication will make us strong and our greatest educational tool.



Authorized for distribution

Leah Casselman

Leah Casselman, President