

Sector 8 Newsletter

Long Term Care and Related Facilities



September 2004

Don't be fooled!

Whether you are heading into negotiations or are at the table now, don't let your employer fool you. Anyone who has benefits needs to check them thoroughly. Many employers are saying that their cost for benefits is going to rise because of the delisting of physiotherapy and chiropractic services.

This may not be true. Many benefit packages already have these services provided. Often there is a set dollar amount for chiropractic services and physio treatments. Because these services have already been part of most benefit packages it may not cost the employer anything extra. Check your benefit plan booklet or collective agreement for your specific coverage. Don't let them fool you!

Something you might want to negotiate in your benefit packages is employer-paid eye exams by a qualified eye specialist.

Negotiating good benefits is always difficult, but with this government now delisting services and then charging health taxes, it is more imperative than ever that we fight hard to ensure all members have benefits.

BPS Conference 2005

By Debbie MacDonald, Chair

It looks like the Broader Public Service (BPS) Conference will be in Sept. 2005, possibly in Mississauga. The theme for the

conference is Survivor. How fitting, as we have outwitted, outplayed and outlasted the Tories.

Your executive is working on a sector-specific Health and Safety Course for the conference as this was listed as one of the most important issues at Leadership Development.

The BPS Conference is always educational, informative, a great place to network and also a lot of fun. We hope someone from every unit in the sector will attend.

Remember the sector divisional follows the conference. As Chair, I look forward to an election like the last one. Having members elected to positions rather than acclaimed is so much more exciting and rewarding.

We are also looking for a name for our sector for the BPS conference: just like the show survivor each sector is trying to come up with a name. If you can think of anything fun or catchy, just e-mail anyone on the executive and they will bring it to the next meeting in October.

So start planning now to attend the BPS Conference in the fall of 2005, you won't regret it.

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Executive Keeping Busy

Your executive has been busy since the leadership development course was held. We have put out three FYIs. One on communication, another on "Who Am I?" and a third on pre/post-bargaining checklists. Hopefully you have received them and are finding them helpful.

At leadership development you told us you could use some reminders to help you get ready for negotiations. We developed a checklist and basic survey with some suggestions and timelines. We also developed a post bargaining checklist to guide you with things that need to be done after negotiations are complete. Your executive is going to try to get in contact with each bargaining unit before, during and after negotiations to offer any help, and to let other members in the sector know of your successes.

We are planning to put out a new FYI and the sector newsletter each quarter. Unfortunately the last few newsletters only made it to the OPSEU website. No hard copies were mailed out. We will ensure that all members of the sector get printed copies.

Communication is a priority in our sector. If you have changed your contact information since leadership development please let someone on the executive know. The more members we have e-mail or contact information for, the more the sector thrives.

Your executive is also working on an orientation package to give to new members who join the sector executive. Hopefully this will encourage more members to run for positions and to make the transition a little less frightening.

Dues letters are being mailed out for 2004. In the fall we will be reviewing the sector by-laws to see if they need updating or revisions. These are

just a few of the projects we have been and continue to work on.

On behalf of the entire Sector 8 executive we hope you had a safe, fun-filled and relaxing summer.

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