

OPSEU



SEFPO

**Sector 8 - Long Term Care and
Related Facilities**

FYI #2 - Summer 2004

COMMUNICATION

Communication is the link that keeps not only this sector alive but your locals and worksites as well. Without communication we would never know what is happening to our members, or within our locals and our sector. You need to talk up your victories as well as discuss your losses. We need to let our membership know that they have a voice and that it will be listened to and respected.

There are so many ways of communicating. You can discuss things person to person or within groups or meetings. Talking face to face is very effective but make sure that you are really listening to what your members are telling you.

Listening is as important as talking. We need to hear what the members *aren't* saying. Sometimes what the member is telling us goes much deeper and we need to really dig to find out what they are really telling us. When questioning, try to understand what your members are saying in a non-judgmental way.

If you are asked something and you don't have the answer, be honest and say so. Make sure you get back to the member when you have found out the answer.

General membership meetings are another effective way for you to communicate with the members. Post meeting notices in plenty of time and in prominent places. Hold meetings in various places and at different times, so that as many members are included as possible.

Nowadays many of us communicate through e-mail. It is not as personal but more far-reaching and can link us to other members in our sector across the province. Sometimes just taking the time to type something out can give you a whole new outlook on the problem; it also lets you vent or seek assistance or answers from other members who may have the very same problems.

The telephone is also a great way of communicating. Just pick it up, dial and talk away. Some locals cover the cost of long distance calls made for the purpose of union business - check with your executive to find out if yours does.

Writing is also a great way to communicate. It gives us the opportunity to share our stories and educate. The sector newsletter and these FYI s are examples of how writing allows us to communicate with the whole sector. You can photocopy, post on bulletin boards, pass them around or sit around and discuss articles to get communication going.

The OPSEU website (www.opseu.org) is also full of information and one of the ways OPSEU communicates with the members at large.

So now that we know how to communicate, we hope that we will be hearing from all of you very soon.

In Solidarity,
Sector 8 Executive