



# ***Health Care Support News***

March, 2001

## **Look for us at Convention 2001!**

### **WHO ARE WE?**

The Health Care Support Sector is comprised of a group of enthusiastic individuals in OPSEU who work in hospitals, community care access centres, and public health units.

Our sector represents members in service and office and clerical bargaining units, where we do a variety of jobs. We work in Admitting and Accounting, in Outpatient clinics, and kitchens. We also work as Registered Practical Nurses and Ward Clerks.

OPSEU knows health care better than any other Union. Our union represents about 20,000 health care workers across the province. We are divided into sectors which allow members to have a forum where we can discuss common issues.

We are a part of the Health Care Divisional Council, which brings together the chairs of each of OPSEU's five health care divisions.

The Divisional Council is where we work on issues that affect all

BPS health care members.

Many locals have recently merged to form large, geographically-diverse locals which are now negotiating first collective agreements. Our sector can provide you with information you need in order to better represent your members.

### **NETWORK FOR BETTER CONTRACTS**

The 1999 Broader Public Service (BPS) Conference was a working Conference. Our project began with the theme of "Renewal".

Plans were set in motion to develop proposals for leadership training, collective bargaining and member/staff development training.

Members in the BPS were able to identify similar problems and discussion was generated amongst the Sectors.

Over the past year our sector executive has been planning the work for our sector, as well as working with other health care sectors on work that cuts across sector lines.

### **YOUR SECTOR 11 REPRESENTATIVES**

#### **Beverly Shuler, Chair Scarborough, Ontario**

Bev Shuler has been active in the BPS for several years, as both the Chair of Sector 11 and the Chair of the Health Care Divisional Council. Bev is also the President of Local 581 at the Scarborough Hospital, where there has been a recent merger.

*"Standing together as a sector will give us strength and unity—it's a good feeling to know you are not alone."*

#### **Marlene Ricks Vice-Chair Kingston, Ontario**

Marlene hails from Kingston and has been active at her Local 443, Hotel Dieu Hospital. Other achievements include the Chair of the Provincial Human Rights Committee.

*"... reviewing Collective Agreements and having strong language is the most effective tool our Union has..."*

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**Sheila Bowser  
Secretary**

**Peterborough, Ontario**

Sheila is currently the Secretary of the Health Care Support executive. She also makes a valuable contribution as the Vice-President of Local 345 at the Peterborough Regional Health Care Centre.

*"a comprehensive communication tool is required so we can speak with our members and assist with their concerns."*

**Carol Anne Bolton  
Treasurer**

**Peterborough, Ontario**

Carol Anne was elected to the position of Treasurer at the BPS Conference in 1999. Local 345 at Peterborough Regional Health Care Centre recently achieved a very successful merged first collective agreement under the guidance of Carol Anne.

*"...interest based bargaining was great! We all had to work together—Mangers and Union to find common ground...there was real dedication."*

**Patricia Bates  
Communications  
Kingston, Ontario**

Patricia was elected as Communications Officer in 1999. Local 465 Hotel Dieu Hospital. Pat has been an active member of both her local's executive and the sector executive for a number of years.

*" we need to provide our locals with lots of information.. We can offer Collective Agreement*

*Language, Arbitration Awards and assistance to strengthen your locals.. Communication is a two-way street, so we need to hear from you."*

**Fern Abrams  
Collective Bargaining  
Kingston, Ontario**

Fern has been busy gathering information pertaining to our collective agreements. This information will be the building blocks for our efforts to achieve coordinated bargaining.

*"...the more Collective Agreements we have, the better prepared we are to tackle demand setting and obtain good language."*

**Janet Heyman  
Job Security Kingston,  
Ontario**

Janet was elected to this position at the BPS Conference in 1999. She's working on finding good comprehensive job security language.

*"...as Collective Agreements come forward, there is some good language available...we have to dig it out".*

**Nancy Pridham  
Health and Safety  
Toronto, Ontario**

One of the newer members to the BPS, and elected in 1999 as the First Alternate, Nancy has since assumed the duties of Chair Health and Safety. Nancy is the President of Local 500, at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health.

*"...the constant pressure in our workplaces can be a source of stress, we need to have Health and Safety language incorporated into our Collective Agreements."*

**Daniel Seguin  
First Alternate  
Cornwall, Ontario**

The sector welcomes Daniel as the newest representative on our executive. He is the Health and Safety Representative at Local 469, Hotel Dieu in Cornwall. Daniel has jumped in with both feet! Congratulations.

*"...as a new member of the team, I want to do my best to support our members and our executive."*

**What can you do?**

As members of the BPS and in the Health Care Support Sector, you can assist us!!!

Are you currently bargaining? Let us know your issues.

Do you have a new Collective Agreement? Send it to us.

Are you facing a merger/divestment? We can help.

Finally, look for us at Convention this year at the Health Care table, where we'll have representatives from our Sector. Stop by and say "Hello".

For information prior to Convention, please contact: Beverly Shuler at:  
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**See you at Convention!**

**The Health Care Support Sector  
Executive**

**Authorized for distribution:**



**Leah Casselman, President**