

SECTOR 11 HEALTH CARE SUPPORT NEWSLETTER



The update on issues affecting Hospital Support Workers of Ontario

CHAIRS REPORT - Jill McIllwraith

The Sector Executive have been waiting to hear from the Ontario Hospital Association regarding their employer hospitals position on central bargaining. This past week, we were informed by Ruth Hamilton, Senior Negotiator, that the OHA have decided against proceeding with central bargaining.

The Sector Executive will be meeting later in May to discuss the options of this disappointing outcome. We will need to come up with some creative strategies to get the OHA back to the table. Stayed Tuned!

With the uncertain economic climate it is important to strengthen our positions at the bargaining table. Another aspect to keep in mind as our hospitals are being cut daily is that the LHINs now control how the health care dollars in our sector are to be spent.

Our OPSEU Campaigns department has requested that any members of our sector that can attend their LHIN board meetings to please get information back to Rick Janson, OPSEU Campaign Officer at rjanson@opseu.org.

The executive participated in the Workplace Violence Workshops that were recently held in the regions as well as attending the All Health Sector Annual Meeting which was focused on Health and Safety in health care. Several of our executives will also be a part of a lobby event at Queens Park prior to convention to further our issue of getting legislation on workplace violence into the Health and Safety Act.

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Our Aims and Purposes

- ✓ Develop and promote demands for bargaining
- ✓ Co-ordinate union activities on a sector divisional basis
- ✓ Participate with other union groups to promote and support the aims, purposes and goals of the union

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A Review of the “Stimulus” Budget by the Chair of the Provincial Women’s Committee



In the recent announcement of a “Stimulus” Budget by the Federal Government, once again, Mr. Harper has ignored the economic predicament of the most vulnerable in our society...women, children and the disadvantaged...

The recent budget that is supposed to be a “stimulus” budget has done nothing to stimulate the economy on women’s issues. Totally absent from the discussion is any mention of child care funding, elder care, or child care spaces - these are issues that affect women, whether they are single parents or not. It is great that the government has offered to increase training for the unemployed, but what good is it if there is no child care that would enable a woman to access such training

The EI benefit extension is a joke; only persons currently receiving EI would benefit from the extension. Eligibility remains an issue. Relaxing the criteria would make a greater difference not only for women, but for all disadvantaged groups

We have been fighting a long difficult battle towards equality in this country, and we still have a long way to go. Our employers need constant reminders that their practices do not reflect the changing times. Unfortunately the employer and government actions have forced women to battle for basic citizenship rights. Still, women must fight to feel included, accepted and a true part of this nation.

As women we have unique issues that must be considered. As parents we have many roles; we are mothers, care-givers, nurturers, workers, and we want that to be recognized.

Our governments should be addressing the systemic barriers that keep women from being equal participants at every level of our society; in particular, employment legislation that continue to pay women less than men for work of equal value. Harper seems to have ignored us once again.

I urge you to write or contact your MP’s and editors of your local newspapers – SHOUT OUT – Why have you left our children without affordable care? Why have you left the elderly without the proper care they need?

To move forward as a nation we must remove barriers that exclude. We must take care of the most vulnerable in our society.

“OUR CHILDREN, THE ELDERLY AND WOMEN!”

Cindy Haynes, Chair of the **OPSEU** Provincial Women’s Committee

Authorised for distribution:

Warren (Smokey) Thomas, President, OPSEU



Ruth Hamilton
Negotiator



Health Care Support Executive
Standing (L to R): Lisa Hovinga, Janet Heyman, Barb DeRoche
Sitting (L to R): Becky Thomson, Jill McIlwraith, Harry Sangha
Missing: CarolAnn Bolton