

OPSEU



SEFPO

Negotiations News

OPSEU Local 540 at Homes First Society

May 7, 2001

Up your offer!

90% Strike Vote

There was a huge turn out at the local meetings on April 11 and 12. OPSEU Local 540 members gave their negotiation team a 90% strike mandate. **Members said “up your offer management!”** No wage increases for 7 years! Increased LTD rates eat into our take home pay. Management won't improve our other benefits. **Enough is enough.**



Working in the Disaster Zone!

City Hall declared Toronto a homeless disaster zone in 1998. Stripped down tenant protections, and no affordable, social housing strategy leaves more and more people on the streets each day.

As the housing support, administration and property workers we see the impact of crisis.

We provide quality services in the midst of this crisis. We provide services to the hardest to house. We struggle with not enough support to do our jobs.

Burned out and stressed – that's how we feel. Now our pay cheques are taking a hit.

We have not seen a wage increase in 7 years! We pay for our LTD benefits and the costs are going up. It all adds up to lost wages. More work, intense conditions and less pay.

Management received bonuses and raises over the past year. Homes First is able to find money to pay a high priced lawyer to conduct negotiations.

We want our wages to meet the sector standards. Quality services means treating the staff with respect.



Conciliation on Tuesday May 8.

The negotiating team meets with management in conciliation. Assisted by a Ministry of Labour appointed conciliation officer, the team will try to get management to move from its current position. Conciliation can continue as long as the parties feel they are making

progress. If there is no progress, the negotiating team will ask for a “No Board report”. At that point the clock starts to tick towards a strike deadline.

Union Action: Are you plugged-in?

1. **Union T-shirts and Buttons** - Show management what you think of their offer! Wear your button and T-shirt starting Monday.
2. **The Union Phone Tree – its up and running.** Expect a call about further solidarity events.
3. **Questions from Tenants?** Have a chat with your tenants. We all want quality services at Homes First.

Mobilizing/Strike Committee Contacts

Negotiating Team Contacts: Robin Masterson, Maria Elena

Escobar, Abdullahi Osman, Mark Grieveson, Carla O'Brien. Communications: Krista Ellis,

Rosamund Elwin. Finances: Dan Arsenault. Strike Duties: Dan Meany