

OPSEU



SEFPO

Negotiations News

OPSEU Local 540 at Homes First Society

#3 - June 15, 2001

HOMES FIRST CLOSING JUNE 20

- unless we get a fair contract. The clock is ticking down to our strike deadline. We have rejected the employer's offer, and they haven't proposed anything since, so let's be clear: if we do not receive a reasonable proposal, Homes First will be forcing us to strike.

BARGAINING UPDATE

The Mediator has asked the Employer and the Union to the Ontario Labour Relations Board on Tuesday, June 19, for possible mediation.

MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS RALLY JUNE 13

Our rally on Wednesday over the lunch hour was a success! Many of our members squeezed in the time to make it down to the Administration's offices to face off against the Harris Wolf. We were joined by guest speaker John Clark of the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty, members of the Employment Standards Work Group, and former Homes First employees.

One of our favourite moments was when Michele Bell was discovered crouching behind a window

on the main floor, taking notes. We gave her a simple message to take back to the Board: "We demand a fair contract now!"

LOCAL 540 MOBILIZING NEWS ONLINE!

Check out our Local news and updates at www.opseu.org. Look for Homes First under the BPS button for photos and details of Wednesday's rally!

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING JUNE 19TH

The Negotiating Committee has called a General Membership Meeting for Tuesday, June 19th, at 5:30 p.m., at OPSEU Queen's Park Office, 525 University Ave., suite 700. Come and get an important mobilization update, check out our strike headquarters, and make picket signs. The Mobilizing Committee will be on hand to answer your questions.

PICKET SCHEDULING IS UNDERWAY!

If you haven't signed up already for picket duty, what are you waiting for? The Employer says they are "hoping" a strike won't happen – we know just keeping our fingers crossed won't cut it! So pick up the phone and give Lorna Neal or Krista Ellis a call.

Remember, you must perform at least 20 hours of picket duty a week in order to receive strike pay.

STRIKE PREP: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- ❑ **SIGN UP FOR PICKET DUTY**
- ❑ **BENEFIT FORMS HAVE BEEN CIRCULATED – SIGN UP NOW AND SEND IT IN.** This is also used for childcare subsidy. The benefits aren't automatically transferred from the employer's carrier – you have to sign a form. Call Dan Arsenault at 416-944-0712 if you don't have a form. Full-time, part-time, and relief staff are all eligible.
- ❑ **TENANT Q & A DAYS:** A team will be circulating to all the sites on Friday, June 15 and Monday, June 18 to answer questions and concerns about the impact that a strike could have on the Homes First tenants.
- ❑ **ARRANGE YOUR FINANCES.** A self-help kit has been circulated with useful information about planning in the event of a strike. Call Dan Arsenault to get a copy if you don't have one yet.
- ❑ **WRITE DOWN THESE PHONE NUMBERS:** Our strike headquarters phone lines have been ordered. They will be activated June 20th. For general inquiries, the public can call 416-593-1667. The dedicated line for Homes First members will be **416-593-9863**.
- ❑ **TENANT EMERGENCY CONTACT:** The mobilizing committee has authorized a small team to be on call for tenant emergencies. We will screen calls to handle urgent matters only. The number for tenants to call will be **416-593-4305**. Please remind tenants this line will not be operational until June 20th, and tenants with non-emergency situations will be asked to wait until we are back to work.

MORE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS!

Q: Will pickets prevent tenant workers from crossing the picket line?

A: Since tenant workers will not be performing struck work, they will have no problem crossing the picket line. The union's problem is with the Employer, not with the tenants. Tenants who live at other sites who need to enter the premises to work will simply be asked to speak to the picket captain.

Q: When will we receive our strike pay?

A: Cheques will be written to all members who have performed the required picket duty on the fifth day of a strike, for members to pick up. For more information about strike pay, please see the last bargaining bulletin.

Q: How will I know when and where to picket?

A: You will get a call – but we might not be able to provide you much notice.

Mobilizing/Strike Committee Contacts

<u>Negotiating Team:</u>	Mark Grieveson
<u>Communications:</u>	Robin Masterson
<u>Finances:</u>	Dan Arsenault Maria Elena Escobar
<u>Strike/Picket Duties:</u>	Dan Meany Krista Ellis