



No bull bulletin

SEFPO

News for OPSEU members at the Niagara Parks Commission

Scare tactics don't work

The Niagara Parks Commission's threat to lock us out shows us two things.

First, the NPC is trying to intimidate us into accepting their sub-standard offer. Secondly, they lack credibility.

Let's talk about why their offer is sub-standard.

Wage offer is deceptive

The going rate for public sector wage settlements is 3 per cent in each year.

The NPC wants a three-year deal, Nov. 1, 2003 - Oct. 31, 2006. Their wage offer is one per cent in each of three years.

On paper, they've offered two per cent in year 3. But your pay will only rise by 1 per cent. The increase starts Oct. 1, 2006 and is retroactive to July 1, 2006.

A two per cent increase for four months (July 1 - Oct. 31) is REALLY only 1 per cent.

The NPC wants to use the \$97,000 surplus from the seasonals' benefits plan to pay for the first year's increase.

We believe this is wrong. The NPC contributed to your benefits plan, fair and square, as per the last collective agreement.

That money is yours. You shouldn't have to pay for your own increase.

The NPC is trying to buy us off with an annual bonus we likely won't get this year, is not added to your base wage and therefore will not increase your pension.

The NPC has to generate a set amount of sales before they'll pay us the bonus.

Management told us they don't expect to reach the amount this year.

The NPC lacks credibility

It's hard to believe the NPC's talk of a fair offer. They haven't shown much interest in bargaining this round.

They applied for conciliation before we even started bargaining. Conciliation is for when the two sides have reached an impasse and need help.

They triggered the legal countdown to a lockout or strike before we started bargaining monetary issues.

They tried to get us to agree to delay talking about money until the fall. Needless to say, we didn't agree.

Now, less than two weeks before the tourism season begins, the NPC threatens to lock us out if we reject their offer.

It's a scare tactic. It doesn't change what we're saying one bit.

You said you've sacrificed

enough in the last two years. You want a fair contract. That's what we've tried to get you.

We beat off all the park's concessions except on wages.

Show the employer you want a fair wage increase. Vote no to the offer May 12 and authorize your bargaining team to call a strike if necessary.

Vote times: 12 noon - 4 p.m. and 7 - 10:30 p.m. at the Serbian Canadian Cultural Centre, 5956 Main Street, Niagara Falls. We'll be on hand to answer your questions.

We meet the NPC and the mediator May 13. We hope to bargain a settlement. The park just needs to come up with a little more money to fix the problem and avoid a lockout or strike.

In solidarity,

Your Local 217 bargaining team

Shelley Reed, *Chair*
 Rob Atkin, *Co-chair*
 Desiree Constantinides
 Colleen McComb-Page
 Dino McDonnell
 Colin MacKenzie
 Mark Kotanen, *staff negotiator*

Authorized for distribution:

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