

Bargaining starts; employer applies for conciliation

Your OPSEU bargaining team went to work negotiating your next collective agreement on Wednesday, Dec. 18. Discussions and exchanges of proposals continued through Thursday and today.

The employer has applied for conciliation as allowed under the Ontario Labour Relations Act (OLRA). In conciliation, if the two sides in a contract negotiation can't come to an agreement on their own, they can ask for and receive the help of a special mediator (a "conciliator") appointed by the Ministry of Labour.

Conciliation is designed to produce collective agreements. However, if either side decides that conciliation is not working, conciliation ends and the clock starts ticking towards a legal strike or lockout position.

OPSEU members should not read too much into the employer's application for conciliation. All it tells us is that MPAC is in a hurry to get a collective agreement, which we already knew. We'd like a new contract soon, too, for that matter. To that end, bargaining resumes Jan. 7.

Employer cracking down on non-work computer use

It's probably a good idea to remove any and all material that is not work-related from your MPAC computer. The employer has informed us at they will be looking at disciplining people for "misuse" of their equipment (under our collective agreement, this does not include union business).

Depending on how bargaining goes, those wishing to be disciplined may well have plenty of opportunities in the weeks ahead – and for a better purpose.

Keep in touch!

To keep in touch with your OPSEU bargaining team, contact the member responsible for communication with your office. For confidentiality, please use our home e-mail addresses, listed below:

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