

Down to the crunch:

The next three days are crucial

Jan. 20, 21, and 22 are the last three days scheduled for contract talks between OPSEU and MPAC. It appears that by the end of Wednesday, we will either have a collective agreement or we will have reached an impasse. If we have no deal by then we will be looking at immediate actions to put more pressure on this employer. Such activities could include taking a strike vote and setting up strike committees.

As we've said all along, a strike at MPAC would be very different from strikes in other bargaining units. A strike would be not just a withdrawal of services, but also a freeing-up of resources. We would picket, to be sure, but we

Resolution watch:

139

A total of 139 Ontario municipalities have now passed OPSEU's resolution in support of quality property assessment services. This has gone far beyond the 94 municipalities that passed resolutions in 2001, when we warned them of the damage that Futures would do.

would also use the opportunity to intensify our campaign at the provincial, municipal, and neighbourhood level.

For now, keep your fingers crossed, wear your buttons, and wait for news on Wednesday or early Thursday.

Button makes a splash

A new button dreamed up by OPSEU members at MPAC has made quite a splash in offices across the province. The button, depicting a fish (a fish skeleton, really) saying "Bravo," means absolutely nothing to anyone who is not an MPAC employee.

Demand for the buttons has outstripped supply – partly because MPAC managers want them, too – so we've ordered an extra 500. They should be available and ready for shipping on Tuesday, Jan. 21.

Please show your support for your

bargaining team by wearing or displaying the button every day!



FOI appeal hits final stage

We're getting closer.

Six months ago, OPSEU used the Freedom of Information (FOI) process to ask MPAC for details of a "Municipal Customer Satisfaction Survey" it conducted in March 2002. MPAC denied the request flat out. OPSEU appealed. We are now very close to a ruling on that appeal.

As far as we know, the survey asked municipalities to say how they feel about the service they've been receiving from the corporation since MPAC launched its downsizing

rampage in 2001. If all the resolutions passed by municipalities are any indication, it's not surprising MPAC wants the results kept secret.

Sherry Liang, an Adjudicator with the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario, had given MPAC until Jan. 13 to explain in detail why the survey could not be made public. That date is now past. Unless the Adjudicator asks OPSEU for further details, the next step is the last one: her ruling.

Stay tuned for further details.

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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Build the Impact

OPSEU Impact is available to all OPSEU members by e-mail or fax. Please share it with your co-workers. If you would like to receive it directly, please send an e-mail to jevans@opseu.org. Give your full name and your local number if you know it. Indicate that you would like to receive *OPSEU Impact*, and give the e-mail address or fax number where you would like it sent.

