

IMPORTANT

Information about your next collective agreement from your OPSEU bargaining team

To: All OPSEU members, Municipal Property Assessment Corporation
From: Your new bargaining team
Date: September 24, 2002
Re: Your next collective agreement

Dear colleagues:

This message is the first of many from your new bargaining team.

On Sept. 21 and 22, about 70 OPSEU delegates – your co-workers, elected by you – met in Toronto to map out strategy for the upcoming round of contract talks with MPAC. Delegates elected five of us to represent all of us at the bargaining table. We are Tina Faibish, Toronto; Ivan Herrington, Oshawa; Jennifer Reid, London; Jamie Stata, Owen Sound; and Peter Thompson, Windsor. The team has chosen Jennifer as chair and Tina as vice-chair.

Bargaining has always been tough with this employer. This time will be no different. We need your help and support to negotiate the contract we all need and deserve. We can't do it without you. That is why the bargaining campaign that was laid out on the weekend is so important.

The campaign has two parts. The first part is what goes on at the bargaining table; the second is what happens everywhere else.

1. First, to go to the bargaining table, we need to know what you need in your next contract. That is what the demand-setting process will tell us. The schedule is as follows:

- Stewards will distribute the demand-setting **surveys** this week.
- **Between now and Oct. 21, 2002**, each local will hold a **local demand-setting meeting** at which local members will set and prioritize their demands. The forms used to record these prioritized local demands are being mailed to each local now. They must be returned, together with the completed surveys and survey tabulations, to our OPSEU negotiator, Brian Gould, by Oct. 21. Please complete the survey promptly to give your local plenty of time to meet the deadline.
- Demands from MPAC offices across the province will be compiled and mailed out as a package to stewards a week before the **provincial demand-setting meeting**. It takes place **Nov. 16-17**.
- Bargaining should begin soon after. **VERY IMPORTANT: Depending on the employer's attitude, this round could happen very quickly. Talks could reach a critical point, such as a legal strike or lockout position, in January. Getting involved now is absolutely critical.**

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2. As a team, we need support at the bargaining table. This means finding allies who can help us talk some sense into our very difficult employer. Our municipal outreach campaign is designed to do exactly that.

- Delegates to the pre-bargaining conference received **lobby kits** and **training** to help tell the story of how the “Futures” restructuring project is destroying quality assessment services in Ontario. Please **volunteer to help your stewards** in this work. It’s easy, it’s fun, and it’s effective. It will help us a lot.
- Your former team chair, Will Presley, did a lot of work with OPSEU Communications to develop a web site to give municipal officials and ratepayers a place to go online to find out what’s happening at MPAC. **Please visit the web site at www.mpacrestructuring.ca**. We think you will be very impressed. The site includes:
 - Details of our action plan, calling on municipalities to ask Ontario Finance Minister Janet Ecker to step in and fix the disaster called “Futures.”
 - Our brief, entitled *A reckless plan: How Ontario municipalities and ratepayers lose out in the restructuring of the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation*.
 - Testimonials from OPSEU members on a wide variety of subjects, from “Assessment quality and customer service” to “How MPAC treats its staff.”
 - An online survey to help us collect the views of municipal officials and ratepayers.
 - Contact information for Bob Richards, MPAC Board members, and Janet Ecker, Minister of Finance.

Please help promote this web site with municipal officials, journalists in your area, MPPs, and ratepayers. You can send the web address around by e-mail, or deliver it face to face. Ask your steward for mpacrestructuring.ca business cards. **Note:** We advise you to do this on your own time, i.e., on breaks, at lunch, or after hours.

Other outreach work is under way as well. More details will be available in the days and weeks ahead.

MPAC employees deserve better treatment from their employer than they’ve had so far. Collective bargaining is the best option available to win the respect and fair treatment we all deserve. Thank you in advance for your support.

In solidarity,

Jennifer Reid, Chair
on behalf of your bargaining team

