

OPSEU Impact

NEWS FOR OPSEU MEMBERS AT MPAC FROM YOUR LEADERSHIP TEAM

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Municipalities targeted in lobby

Pelham is first to pass new resolution against Futures plan

Your OPSEU leadership team is working with members to target about 20 areas around the province as part of our municipal lobby campaign. The campaign, which works hand-in-hand with the web site at www.mpacrestructuring.ca, is designed to let municipal officials know what is really happening to property assessment, and why it matters to them.

The Town of Pelham, in Niagara Region, is the first municipality out of the gate in the campaign. Town council passed a resolution Oct. 7 calling on Ontario Finance Minister Janet Ecker to intervene at MPAC and repair the damage to quality assessment services done by the Futures program. Look for more results soon!

While many Tax Collectors and better-informed municipal councilors know about the problems around the Futures program, municipalities may not know just how much the restructuring of MPAC is costing them. Some municipalities are already paying for their own staff to check MPAC's work; others are losing millions of dollars in missed assessments on building permits, etc.

OPSEU members at MPAC have always had good relationships with municipalities; last year, 100 municipalities passed resolutions opposing the Futures program. Strengthening those relationships will be crucial in the tough weeks and months ahead as we head to the bargaining

table. It may just be the thing that prevents a strike or lockout.

To get involved in the campaign, contact the OPSEU team member for your area (see list on page two).

Surveys are in; provincial demand setting meeting goes ahead Nov. 16-17

Oct. 21 was the last day for MPAC offices to send in results from the local demand survey and local demand-setting meetings. The information should now be in the hands of OPSEU Negotiator Brian Gould, along with a list of each local's top five demands. Brian will tabulate the information for presentation to the provincial demand-setting meeting, slated for Nov. 16-17 in Toronto.

Be prepared

As we get ready for bargaining, we all need to be prepared for what might happen. Your team is committed to bargaining in good faith towards a satisfactory outcome for all. Nonetheless, we all know that we have a difficult employer. Of the 500 or so Ontario bargaining units represented by OPSEU, none has seen more ruthless cuts combined with such dramatic increases in workload.

We don't want trouble in this round of bargaining, but we do intend to attain our goals. That could mean a strike or lockout in the not-too-distant future. You can help yourself now by being prepared.

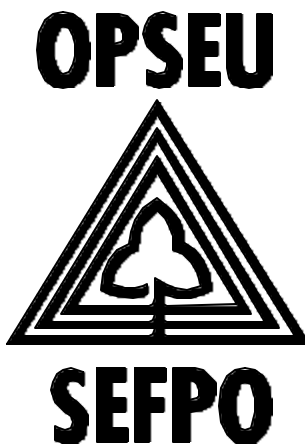
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Now is the time to avoid making big purchases and reduce your household expenses generally. Get in touch with your bank or credit union now to find out about deferring loan payments, such as mortgage payments, in the event of a strike.

If things go the way we hope, there won't be a work stoppage and you'll be able to spend what you saved a few months from now. If there is a work stoppage, you'll be glad it didn't take you by surprise.

CSR grievances set over to January 2003

The union has received, through the disclosure process, the information we were seeking related to the individual grievances around the Customer Service Representative job competitions. Those grievances have been set over to January 2003. We have no hearing dates as yet.



Keep in touch with your team

Your OPSEU leadership team aims to stay in close contact with members in all MPAC locations. To make communication easier, each team member is responsible for two-way communication with particular offices. If you have a question, a comment, or information the team needs, please contact the team member for your area. Assignments are as follows:

- **Jennifer Reid:** London, Brantford, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Little Current, Kenora
- **Tina Faibish:** St. Catharines, Barrie, Toronto, Mississauga, North York
- **Ivan Herrington:** Durham, Peterborough, Lindsay, Pickering, Bancroft, Trenton
- **Jamie Stata:** Goderich, Owen Sound, Parry Sound, North Bay, Timmins, Dryden, Thunder Bay, Fort Frances
- **Peter Thompson:** Sarnia, Chatham, Windsor, Hamilton, Cambridge, Guelph
- **Bill Robertson** (still assisting the team for now): Ottawa, Brockville, Pembroke, Cornwall, Kingston