



# VIOLENCE AT WORK: IT'S **NOT** PART OF THE JOB!

## Action memo

**Date:** February 12, 2008

**To:** All stewards in Community Services bargaining units

**From:** Warren (Smokey) Thomas, President  
Deborah Gordon, Chair, Community Services Divisional Council

**Re:** Update on our campaign to end workplace violence

Dear sisters/brothers:

We wrote you on Jan. 22 to announce we've launched the campaign. We have the following updates to tell you about.

- 1) Phone survey the week of Feb. 18:** Research from Statistics Canada shows that nearly one in five violent incidents happen in the workplace. We have hired Oraclepoll Research to survey by phone 500 members in Community Services to find out about their experience with workplace violence. We need to know how widespread the problem is so we can lobby the province to make the laws stronger. All individual responses will be kept strictly confidential. Please let your members know they might get a call from Oraclepoll.
- 2) Who is on your JHSC?** Please submit the names of your Joint Health and Safety Committee members (OPSEU) or worker health and safety reps by web [www.opseu.org/bps/social/endviolence.htm](http://www.opseu.org/bps/social/endviolence.htm), e-mail [endworkplaceviolence@opseu.org](mailto:endworkplaceviolence@opseu.org) or phone at 1-800-268-7376 ext. 8207. We know these members will be key to our campaign's success. Thanks to the stewards who have submitted names. For everyone else: please do so as soon as you can.
- 3) Regional workshops:** We're planning workshops, one per OPSEU region, for April and May on enforcing the Occupational Health and Safety Act to prevent and protect against workplace violence. Patti Markland, L. 448, will organize these workshops as the campaign's Membership Development Trainee. You may hear from her in the coming weeks. Please offer her any help you can.

Thank you in advance for helping us make this campaign a success.

In solidarity,

Warren (Smokey) Thomas  
President

Deborah Gordon  
Chair, Community Services Divisional Council

cc: OPSEU Executive Board, Community Services Divisional Council, local service representatives, local services supervisors, BPS supervisor