

Un Employed

March 14, 2006

News & Views of OPSEU Local 558 Striking Workers

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First full day of picketing a success

Monday was the first full day of picketing across all Centennial College campuses.

Jacques O'Sullivan, Local 558 picket coordinator, says that the poor weather hasn't deterred picketers' resolve to stand up for quality community college education.

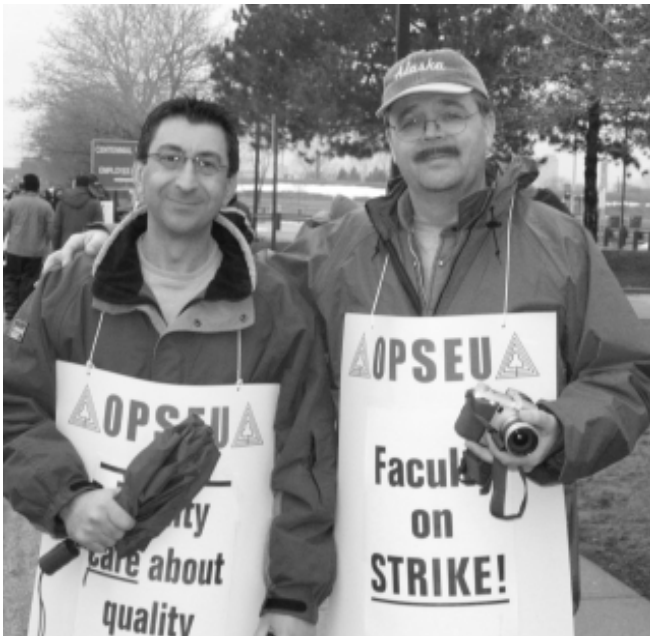
"Striking professors, counselors, and librarians are resolved, despite management's bad faith bargaining tactics, to fight for smaller classes and improvements to the teaching and learning environment," O'Sullivan said.

The OPSEU negotiating team has charged the employer team with bargaining in bad faith under the

Colleges Collective Bargaining Act. In the final hours of negotiations, the management team tabled a proposal that they knew would not and could not lead to a settlement. On the final night of negotiations, management retabled a demand to remove the existing cap on section limits. This would, in effect, have allowed management to assign faculty an unlimited number of classes.

"We would never accept such a horrible concession," O'Sullivan said. "Strikers can be proud of what we are doing."

The key to resolving this strike will be to pressure Dalton McGuinty to tell the management bargaining team to go back to the table and negotiate in good faith a deal that supports quality improvements.



Armed with an umbrella and camera, Angelo Spano and Jim Bardeau get the message out at Ashtonbee campus

Rally for Quality March 16, 11:00am

Plan to attend the rally for quality education and send a message to Dalton McGuinty. Every Centennial faculty member needs to be at this rally. Normal pickets will be cancelled that day. If you can't attend for accommodation reasons only, please call strike headquarters.

Please get there early (10:45) and remember to sign in with a Centennial strike team coordinator: Jacques O'Sullivan, Gus Wright, Debra Warren, Rita McGillivray, Chris Brown, Rosemary Stackhouse, Gary Schlee, or RM Kennedy.

How to get there:

- We recommend that you take the TTC
- Get off at Dundas stop on the Youngue Subway line
- Find other Centennial strikers at Dundas Square and sign in