



THE

Quality Times

Number 3
March 9, 2006

Strike Bulletin of OPSEU Local 655
Cambrian College Academic Personnel



Negotiations Update

Go to the OPSEU website for the latest on bargaining.

Incidents

On the Line

There have been a couple of incidents at one of the picket stations with a disgruntled driver.

When it looks like any situation could escalate, picketers are to call over their Picket Captains to deal with the situation.

If people have video cameras available, OPSEU Local 655 President John Closs recommends that any incidents on the picket lines be videotaped.

Here are a few 'Picket

Picket Protocols

Line Procedures' we want to highlight.

Report any unusual incidents to the Picket Captain, who in turn makes reports to Strike Headquarters.

Maintain a strong picket line, but don't obstruct public use of the sidewalk or roadway.

Talk to people who cross the line and try to convince them to support the strike, but minimize aggression.



On the left, Prof. Norm Morin gets a coffee from a student supporter. On the right, it is about getting the 'it's about quality' message across.

Government Times Announcement of Tuition Increase To Coincide with College Strike

Ontario Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities Chris Bentley announced Wednesday that post-secondary tuition fees are to be increased at an average annual rate of five percent per year. The announcement ended the two-year freeze in tuition increases that the McGuinty government introduced when it came to power.

While an announcement had been widely expected, no date had been announced until Tuesday, the first day of the strike that college faculty have been forced into by college management's refusal to make any offer that would begin to address the quality education issues raised by faculty.

Under the Liberal plan, tuition would be allowed to increase by a maximum average of 5 per cent at each institution. The province said about 90 per cent of college students would see tuition rise by about \$100 as a result of the change. For university students, about 70 per cent would see tuition increases near \$200, according to provincial calculations. "Increases in tuition fees may vary, but the majority of undergraduate students will see increases below 4.5 per cent," the government said.

For professional, graduate and certain other pro-

grams, institutions can increase fees to a maximum of 8 per cent in the first year of study "but only if the institutional average is 5 per cent or less, the student access guarantee is in place, and the money buys improvement in quality." Increases would in subsequent years would be capped at 4 per cent.

Prior to the announcement of the tuition freeze by the McGuinty government in 2003, annual tuition fee increases for all college programs were capped at 1.9 per cent. This meant an annual increase of \$34 per year for most college students. Under the new McGuinty tuition framework, tuition fees will increase up to 4.5 per cent or \$100 in the first year, and up to 4 per cent in the second and third year for students in most programs.

First year students in high cost or as more commonly known, deregulated tuition fee programs will see a maximum increase of 8 per cent in 2006-2007 until 2009-10. This will result in a one-year increase as high as \$880 for students enrolled in the Computer Animation program at Sheridan College, earning the honour of Ontario's most expensive community college program of \$11,000 per academic year.

Visit Local 655's Website for more information

WWW.OPSEU655.CA

Strike Headquarters Phone Number: 521-1530

Message to Part-time and Sessional Employees

John Closs



As you know, the unionized academic employees at the twenty-four colleges of applied arts in Ontario are on strike.

each and every college student gets more time, more attention, and more feedback from the people who are helping them learn.

As a part time or sessional employee at Cambrian, this strike also affects you. The Ontario government has barred you from joining our bargaining unit by legislation but you work in the same classroom and with the same students as we do. The College has suspended all teaching for the duration of the strike and if the strike lasts more than a week, you will be losing wages.

That is our goal in and we recognize the critical role that you play in the college so our bargaining team has some demands that could make a difference for you. First, we want to see you paid for the hours that you actually work not just for the hours that you are in the classroom. We are demanding that you be treated similarly to full time faculty and that you are compensated fairly for the hours you spend on preparation for your courses and evaluation of your students' progress.

Second, many of you have also worked as partial load faculty, who are part of our bargaining unit. We have demanded that partial load teachers who have taught a course should have the right to continue teaching that course.

Members of the union who are on strike will be able to collect modest strike pay but since you cannot be a member of the bargaining unit, you will not be eligible for even that small stipend. Our union, the Ontario Public Service Employees Union is in the midst of a campaign to win bargaining rights for part time and sessional employees in the colleges but that will not happen overnight.

Obviously, we did not want a strike. Going on strike is a severe financial hardship for our members and a severe educational hardship for the students we teach. Unfortunately, our employer, represented by the College Compensation and Appointments Council, left our bargaining team with no choice.

Essentially, this round of contract negotiations is about the quality of education that students receive in our community colleges. It is about having smaller class sizes and more faculty so that



Wednesday

Some good things that happened today...

- Thanks to the Groundskeepers for delivering the firewood to the Main gate picket line. Kept us warm, and busy!
- Thanks to CAW Falconbridge/Mine Mill for their show of support! More than a dozen of them drove over to show support. Great flags!
- Thanks to the Liaison staff who generously brought us coffee and hot chocolate
- Thanks to Betty and Chantal who came on a 3 pm run (especially appreciated as the sun was lower and things were cooling down) and poured hot coffee for us, with muffins to boost our spirits.
- As well, thanks to the Millwright students who took the time to drive across town with a supply of Timmy's for their faculty mem-

bers.

- Thanks to Bruce for coming and walking the line during lunch again! We're looking forward to the activities!
- We had coffee, tea and goodies from Michel Barbeau, coffee from darryl Lake who has apparently asked the NORCAT people to park outside the College.
- Cathy Branch baked us some delicious cookies and Kevin Branch delivered them this afternoon.
- Thanks to Rev Anne Germond from the Church of the Ascension on Sparks St, who is allowing some parking at the church. Some OPSEU 655 members belong to her congregation.



... and some sad things too

- A handful of drivers, who do not seem to be connected with Cambrian, continue to approach the lines too quickly. Stay Alert!
- One newly-hired dean thinks that appropri-

ate interaction is "And what arrangements are YOU making to catch up after the strike?" The faculty member correctly told him that he, not she, would be making the arrangements.



Tuition Increase: What They Have to Say ...

"We aim to give students the best post-secondary education possible. Through our Reaching Higher Plan, our government is investing in more spaces, increased student aid and improved quality. But more needs to be done to enhance quality. To achieve our goal, we need an additional contribution from students. For every \$3 extra Ontario invests under Reaching Higher in post-secondary education, we are asking students to contribute \$1."

"As part of the government's commitment to students and to ensure Ontarians get the best value for their investment in postsecondary education, our government is also creating the Higher Education Quality Council to monitor quality and access. The council is an independent body that will help us ensure continued improvement of the post-secondary education system by monitoring quality in the sector, access to post-secondary education and the accountability of institutions."

Chris Bentley—Ontario Minister of Training Colleges and Universities

"The government is attempting to deflect anger over tuition fee increases by pointing to changes in student assistance but the fact is a 5% annual tuition fee increase over the next four years will effectively wipe-out more than the student financial assistance investment to be phased in over the same period. In fact, for every dollar invested in student aid more than a dollar will be clawed back through tuition fee increases."

"This is a bad day for Ontario families who are already struggling to pay high tuition fees. At a time when the Ontario government could well be sitting on a \$1 billion surplus, today's announcement is shameful. Other provinces, with fewer resources than Ontario, have taken the lead by freezing and reducing tuition fees."

"The money allocated to colleges and universities through McGuinty's Reaching Higher" plan last year was barely enough to bring Ontario funding up to

the national average and only after five years. These tuition fee hikes are a huge step backward, both for this government and for working families."

Jesse Greener, Chair, Canadian Federation of Students (Ontario)

"After participating in many stakeholder consultations, and after 26,000 college students across Ontario asked the government to cap tuition increases at the rate of inflation, the government ignored students plea."

"Students in high cost programs will be the hardest hit. While the government has maintained the cap on the number of programs institutions can class as "high cost", they have put already expensive programs further out of the reach for most working class Ontario families."

Matt Jackson, President of the College Student Alliance (CSA).

"Although we are very disappointed in today's tuition fee announcement, this government has finally begun to improve the administration of our student financial aid and grants system. This will correct a major, systemic problem that no previous government has adequately addressed,

Tyler Charlebois, Director of Advocacy for the College Student Alliance.

"We have been on record for years stating that we support the long-term goal of zero tuition for post-secondary education in Ontario. Today's announcement takes us farther away from that goal. ... There is no way that raising tuition fees can make post-secondary education more accessible to students."

Paddy Musson, Chair of OPSEU's College Academic Division.

"The resolution of our bargaining dispute is not higher tuitions. It is for the colleges to table an offer that addresses the issue of quality to provide more faculty, and more faculty time, for each and every student."

Ted Montgomery, chair of OPSEU CAAT(A) bargaining team.

