

The Part-Time Times

A newsletter for Ontario community college part-time and sessional employees and friends

Part-timers' lobby day wows Queen's Park

College part-timers went to Queen's Park in Toronto yesterday and came away with a promise from top Liberals that legislation to recognize their right to bargain collectively will be introduced this spring.

"The Legislation will be introduced this spring," colleges minister John Milloy said.

Part-timers from colleges as far away as Fanshawe (London) and Algonquin (Ottawa) took part in the marathon 11-hour lobby day, making their case in person to two dozen MPPs.

Cabinet ministers Milloy, Chris Bentley (Attorney General), and Brad Duguid (Labour) were among 14 Liberals who stopped by to talk.

"We couldn't have asked for a better reception," said Roger Couvrette, president of the provincial organization of part-timers and sessionals (OPSECAAT). "It was just a superb day. As the day progressed, our people just got more and more excited and happy with the way it was going.

"We significantly pushed our cause and very effectively advanced our agenda in terms of getting closer to collective bargaining."



Part-timers surround Labour Minister Brad Duguid yesterday at Queen's Park. Left to right: Eugene Swain (Fanshawe), Caron Fitzpatrick (Algonquin), Shirley Wood (Centennial), Candy Lindsay (Fleming), Duguid, Roger Couvrette (Centennial), Sabrina DeGirolamo (Seneca), Dave Shaw (Fleming), Sherry King (Centennial), J.L. Roy (Boréal).

Labour Minister Brad Duguid was among those who said the lobby was important to keep the issue on the front burner for the government.

"I think all the MPPs appreciated our commitment and they know that we're going to stay on this pretty doggedly," said Couvrette.

Nine of 10 New Democrat MPPs, including leader Howard Hampton, also attended the lobby, offering their

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full support. In the Legislature, NDP colleges critic Rosario Marchese tabled his second private member's bill to recognize bargaining rights for part-timers and sessionals. While largely symbolic, the bill raised the profile of the OPSEU campaign.

"Every MPP knew that part-timers were watching from the gallery," said Couvrette. "Every MPP knew we were voting Ontarians who play a role in the political life of this province."

NDP MPP France G linas also read OPSEU's petition to the Legislature, becoming the fourth New Democrat to do so. Cheri DiNovo, Peter Kormos, and Rosario Marchese read petitions last week.

These part-timers took part in yesterday's lobby: **Tim Burns** (Sheridan), **Roger Couvrette** (Centennial), **Sabrina DeGirolamo** (Seneca), **Caron Fitzpatrick** (Algonquin), **Anita Ford** (Georgian), **Sherry King** (Centennial), **Candy Lindsay** (Fleming), **J.L. Roy** (Bor al), **Dave Shaw** (Fleming), **Eugene Swain** (Fanshawe), and **Shirley Wood** (Centennial). OPSEU organizer **Martha Josephian** and **Betty Cree**, Chair of OPSEU's college support staff division, also took part.

The following MPPs stopped by to chat with part-timers:

Liberals: **John Milloy** (Minister of Training, Colleges, and Universities and MPP, Kitchener-Centre); **Chris Bentley** (Attorney General and MPP, London West); **Brad Duguid** (Minister of Labour and MPP, Scarborough Centre); **Steve Peters** (Speaker of the House and MPP, Elgin – Middlesex – London); **Sophia Aggelonitis** (Hamilton Mountain); **Bruce Crozier** (Essex); **Kevin Flynn** (Oakville); **Linda Jeffrey** (Brampton –



New Democrats mingle with part-timers at Queen's Park.

Left to right: Sherry King, Dave Shaw, Caron Fitzpatrick, MPP Paul Miller, MPP Andrea Horwath, MPP Rosario Marchese, MPP Michael Prue, Candy Lindsay, Roger Couvrette, MPP Cheri DiNovo, MPP Howard Hampton, Sabrina DeGirolamo, J.L. Roy.

Springdale); **Jeff Leal** (Peterborough); **Amrit Mangat** (Mississauga – Brampton South); **Phil McNeely** (Ottawa – Orl ans); **Lou Rinaldi** (Northumberland – Quinte West); **Tony Ruprecht** (Davenport); **Mario Sergio** (York West). **New Democrats:** **Cheri DiNovo** (Parkdale - High Park); **France G linas** (Nickel Belt); **Andrea Horwath** (Hamilton Centre); **Paul Miller** (Hamilton East – Stoney Creek); **Peter Kormos** (Welland); **Michael Prue** (Beaches – East York); **Gilles Bisson** (Timmins – James Bay). **Progressive Conservatives:** **John O'Toole** (Durham).



Thank you!

To all the brothers and sisters who participated in our college part-timers organizing drive:

On behalf of OPSEU, as one phase of our campaign ends and another begins, I would like to thank everyone who worked hard to complete the largest organizing drive in our union's (and likely Ontario's) history.

Your commitment has enabled us to continue our quest for bargaining rights. The thousands of cards you sent in have moved us forward substantially as we continue our battle for legislation and a representation vote. Please stay tuned: If and when a vote is ordered, we will definitely be asking for your help again.

Thank you for your labour and your unwavering commitment to justice for part-time and sessional college workers.

In solidarity,



Warren (Smokey) Thomas
President, Ontario Public Service Employees Union



For full information about the OPSEU drive to win union rights for part-timers and sessionals at Ontario's community colleges, visit www.collegeworkers.org or call 1-866-811-7274.

The Part-Time Times is authorized for distribution by Roger Couvrette, president of the Organization of Part-Time and Sessional Employees of the Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology (OPSECAAT), and Warren (Smokey) Thomas, president of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union.

