

The Part-Time Times

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

Bill 90 passes Third Reading

Only one step left before new law recognizes bargaining rights for part-timers and sessionals

Legislation to recognize the right of college part-timers and sessionals to join a union and take part in collective bargaining passed Third Reading at Queen's Park on Wednesday.

Just one more step, Royal Assent, remains before Bill 90 becomes law.

"Let's admit right off the top that this is not a perfect piece of legislation," said Roger Couvrette, president of the Organization of Part-Time and Sessional Employees of the Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology (OPSECAAT). "We don't have the bargaining units we wanted. The 'deemed strike' provision of the *Colleges Collective Bargaining Act* (CCBA) is gone. We don't have successor rights. We don't have binding arbitration. And we don't have first contract arbitration.

"It isn't perfect, but what is? We'll have to learn to work with – and around – the imperfections."

Couvrette said he expects Bill 90 to receive Royal Assent before the end of 2008.

Meanwhile, the campaign to get part-timers and sessionals into OPSEU and at the bargaining table as soon as possible continues.

"We have some work to do yet before two new part-time bargaining units are certified," said Couvrette, "but we are getting closer to our goal.

"The right to bargain collectively for part-time college workers – incorporated in an imperfect Bill 90 – is worth fighting for, and fighting hard. When we realize our goal, we will all owe ourselves a big pat on the back, and one heck of a celebration."



Wednesday at Algonquin, from left to right:

OPSECAAT Vice-President Candy Lindsay; Jacques Belanger (organizer, La Cité collégiale; Claude Lacelle (OPSEU Local 416 and lead organizer, Algonquin); Caron Fitzpatrick (organizer, Algonquin), OPSEU Local 416 President Jan Strickland (Algonquin – Support), OPSECAAT President Roger Couvrette; OPSEU Local 415 President Pat Kennedy (Algonquin – Academic); Mary Anne Jackson Hughes (organizer, Algonquin); and Local 415 Vice-President Jack Wilson.

On the road again

Roger and Candy get warm welcome at Algonquin

Roger Couvrette and Candy Lindsay are on the road again.

The president and vice-president of the

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Roger Couvrette and Candy Lindsay with Local 415 steward Rod Bain, chief OPSEU card-signer at the Perth campus of Algonquin college.

organization of part-time and sessional workers (OPSECAAT) made Algonquin College the first stop on a province-wide tour to update OPSEU locals and part-time campaign activists on where the campaign is at now.

Couvrette and Lindsay were received enthusiastically on Oct. 1 by OPSEU local presidents Pat Kennedy (academic) and Jan Strickland (support

Coming your way!

Roger and Candy’s tour of Ontario will land at Lambton College in Sarnia on Oct. 9. Planning is under way for information sessions at Mohawk and Niagara Colleges soon after.

OPSEU college locals that have already scheduled Local Executive Committee meetings or General Membership Meetings are invited to contact Roger (rcouvrette@gmail.com) to arrange for an in-person campaign update.

staff) as well as part-time activists from both Algonquin College and La Cité collégiale.

“Local 415 has stated very clearly that we will provide whatever resources we can to make the next phase of the campaign an unqualified success,” said Jack Wilson, vice-president of OPSEU Local 415, the academic local at Algonquin.

Couvrette and Lindsay also stopped at the Perth campus of Algonquin Oct. 2.

“We really want to get out to a lot of the smaller campuses on this tour,” said Couvrette. “A lot of our supporters have done a lot of great work on this campaign, and we really want to keep them in the loop with as many face-to-face meetings as we can do.”



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.