

# The Part-Time Times

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



**OPSEU organizers at a rendezvous in Sudbury March 14, from left to right:** J.L. Roy, part-time faculty at Collège Boréal and lead organizer for Boreal and Northern colleges; Debbie Leduc, treasurer, OPSEU Local 672 (Boréal – Support); Daniel Bouchard, chief steward, OPSEU 673 (Boréal – Faculty); John Closs, president, Local 655 (Cambrian – Faculty); Denis Boyer, OPSEU staff rep; Richard Larcher, vice-president, Local 632; J.P. Belanger, president, Local 673; Linda Frappier, steward, Local 672; and Roger Couvrette, president of the part-time and sessional college workers’ association (OPSECAAT). Inset: Roger Couvrette poses with Collège Boréal President Denis Hubert.

## Organizing drive in media spotlight as bus visits Sudbury

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# Organizing drive in media spotlight at bus visits Sudbury

OPSEU's blue "It's time!" bus rolled into Sudbury last week to a media reception that part-timer spokesperson Roger Couvrette called "the best ever" since his provincial media tour began Jan. 22.

The media event at Collège Boréal was aimed at drawing attention to the union's drive to win union rights for part-time and sessional college workers at all 24 Ontario community colleges.

"I grew up in Sudbury, so I always like going there," said Couvrette, president of the provincial organization of part-timers and sessionals (OPSECAAT) and a part-time faculty member at Centennial College in Toronto. "What people down south don't always realize is that Sudbury is a major news hub for all of northern Ontario, so coverage there is coverage across a huge area.

"We had a great reception."

The OPSEU media event at Collège Boréal was reported on by CBC Radio (French and English), MCTV and Channel 10 news, the Sudbury *Star*, and the community newspapers *Le Voyageur* and *Northern Life*.

The campaign doesn't need much promotion at Boréal, says J.L. Roy, a part-time faculty member there and OPSEU's lead organizer for Boréal and Northern College.

"We're just about running out of people to sign up," said Roy, who estimates his team has signed up about 85 per cent of part-timers at Boréal.

Roger Couvrette said the steady progress of the card-signing campaign is no reason for organizers to slow down.

"The organizing drive is just the very first step in the collective bargaining process," he said. "Our success as we move forward will depend on the support of part-timers and sessionals across the province, so we need to keep signing

cards and keep on reaching out to all the future OPSEU members we haven't spoken to yet."

The bus rolls on to Mohawk, Conestoga, and Humber Colleges next week.

## No reply yet from colleges re: bargaining

Meanwhile, OPSEU president Warren (Smokey) Thomas has yet to hear back from the colleges about his proposal to get collective bargaining under way.

Thomas wrote to the Colleges Compensation and Appointments Council March 7, inviting the colleges to recognize OPSEU as the bargaining agent for part-timers and sessionals.

He says he's unconcerned by the lack of response so far.

"Every party involved in this process, including the colleges, has voiced its support for bargaining rights for part-timers and sessionals," he said. "One way or the other, we'll be talking soon.

"In the meantime, we need to keep signing those cards. The campaign is going great, and we just need to keep up the momentum.

"Every card we sign builds our power."

*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 (OPSEU).*

**For full information about the OPSEU drive to win union rights for part-timers and sessionals at Ontario's community colleges, just visit or call!**

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