

# The Part-Time Times

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

## Liberals stand pat on Bill 90

*No major changes to deeply flawed Bill as Liberal MPPs vote against key OPSEU amendments*

First the good news: A bill that will recognize collective bargaining rights for part-time and sessional college workers is heading to the Legislature for Third Reading and could become law this fall.

Now the bad news: As written, Bill 90 [which changes the *Colleges Collective Bargaining Act* (CCBA)] – contains no provision for an early vote so part-time and sessional college staff can quickly choose OPSEU as their bargaining agent.

And more bad news: Bill 90 is discriminatory. It will deny all college workers – full-time and part-time – many rights and protections that are currently enjoyed by most Ontario workers under the *Labour Relations Act*.

And more bad news: Bill 90 removes clauses from the *Colleges Collective Bargaining Act* whose only purpose was to protect college students and the quality of education they receive.

At Queen's Park yesterday, members of the Standing Committee on General Government spent two hours debating changes to Bill 90. In the end, MPPs left the bill pretty much as is.

"We've got the right to bargain collectively, but

they've made it as difficult as possible for us to exercise that right," said Roger Couvrette, president of the organization of part-time and sessional college workers (OPSECAAT). "We've still got a lot of work to do before we are unionized and can start bargaining."

Couvrette attended the committee meeting along with OPSECAAT Vice-President Candy Lindsay.

To become law, Bill 90 still needs to go through Third Reading in the Legislature and then receive Royal Assent. The timing of both is unknown.

OPSEU President Warren (Smokey) Thomas expressed disappointment at the government caucus members, who voted *en bloc* against every amendment put forward by the union except for two minor housekeeping matters.

"Since Bill 90 was introduced, members of the McGuinty government have been signalling that they were open to making improvements to it," he said. "Looking back, I don't believe those statements were sincere at all.

"It's clear to me that the government's approach to this bill has nothing to do with justice for workers and nothing to do with quality education. For them, it's all about keeping costs down and keeping well-connected college presidents happy," he said.

Meanwhile, OPSEU's applications for certification are at the Ontario Labour Relations Board. It is not clear how the passage of Bill 90 will affect those applications.



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At the Standing Committee, OPSEU's motions for amendments to Bill 90 were moved by Cheri DiNovo, who filled in for fellow New Democrat Rosario Marchese. Marchese has been a stalwart of the OPSEU campaign from the start.

Conservative MPPs in attendance were Jim Wilson and Bob Bailey (substituting for Joyce Savoline). Liberal MPPs in attendance were Reza Moridi, Carol Mitchell, Mike Colle, Amrit Mangat,

and David Zimmer (the last three substituting for Jim Brownell, Kuldip Kular, Bill Mauro, and David Oraziotti, who were all absent).

The committee meeting was chaired by Linda Jeffrey, a Liberal MPP from Brampton.

For more information about Bill 90, please see past issues of *The Part-Time Times* at [www.collegeworkers.org](http://www.collegeworkers.org).

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**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](http://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.*