

The Part-Time Times

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

Cards being signed across Ontario: OPSEU calls for voluntary recognition



Campaigning at Sault College: From left to right: Roger Couvrette, president of the part-time workers' association; Gayle Verdecchia, Sault organizer; Jennifer Rennison, Region 6 staff representative; Lorri Foley, President, Local 612 (support); Marg Bruni, OPSEU regional secretary; Richard Belleau, lead organizer for Sault and Confederation Colleges; behind Richard is Scott Kennedy, OPSEU staff representative; Sandra Hodge, part-time faculty and campaign organizer; Glen Dahl, full-time faculty; Peter Graf, full-time faculty; and Jeff Arbus, President, Local 613 (faculty). Stories and more photos inside.

OPSEU bus keeps rolling on: from Windsor to Welland, to the Soo....

OPSEU's blue organizing bus continued its Ontario tour with a visit to Windsor's St. Clair College, March 4, followed by tours of Niagara College March 10.

At press time, Roger Couvrette was leaving Sault Ste. Marie, headed for a meeting at College Boreal in Sudbury.

Couvrette, president of the organization of part-time and sessional college workers (OPSECAAT) said the reception from college workers at Windsor Niagara, and Sault Ste. Marie was astounding.

But something really exciting happened on his visit to Niagara College's Niagara-on-the-Lake campus.

"Not only were we allowed space inside the cafeteria. The administration was making

announcements about our tour on the public address system," Couvrette recounts.

"It was something like: 'OPSEU has set up tables for their part-time campaign outside the cafeteria. Stop by and meet Roger Couvrette, president of the college part-time workers association.' This is really unprecedented - and appreciated!"

Couvrette, joined by OPSEU Region 2 Executive Board Members Jay Jackson, Ed Almeida and Mike Grimaldi, also had the chance to meet the President of Niagara, local MPP Peter Kormos, labour council representatives, and student president Heather Minow.

At a gathering in Welland, Local MPP Kormos testified to the importance of the campaign.

With a chance to address part-time workers, Couvrette reminded them "Ontario is the only province where part-time college workers are not allowed to form a union," said Couvrette. "Part-time workers at McDonalds have the right to form unions," he said. "We're denied that right."

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!

www.collegeworkers.org
1-866-811-7274



Photo courtesy Sheri Bolton

Roger Couvrette (right) with Region 2 Vice-President Jay Jackson at Niagara College.

OPSEU asks colleges for recognition as union for part-time workers

OPSEU is calling for the 24 community colleges to recognize OPSEU as the union for 12,500 part-time workers.

OPSEU President Warren (Smokey) Thomas wrote last week to the Colleges Compensation and Appointments Council asking for a meeting to kick-start a process where part-time and sessional employees could bargain a contract.

“It is clear that the continued statutory exclusion of these employees from collective bargaining is unconstitutional,” Thomas wrote.

“It is also clear that the part-time and sessional college employees have expressed a strong desire to be represented by OPSEU.”



The bus visits the Windsor campaign: Florry Lang, President of OPSEU Local 137 (Support), campaign organizer at St. Clair College; Sue Mclelland, Local 137; Thelma Serviss, campaign organiser; Evelyn Anger, lead organizer, Southwestern Ontario colleges; Barry June, Local 137; Gerry General, Counsellor; Roger Couvrette; Floyd Curtis, Steward and Faculty PT campaign organizer, St. Clair College; Gayle Cross, Local 138 (faculty) steward; Mark Colangelo, Local 138; Cathy Craig, Local 137 executive; Candy Lindsay, vice-president of the college part-time workers association.



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).