

## **Why join OPSECAAT? Because first, we're fighters!**

By Roger Couvrette

Why join OPSECAAT? Because first, we're fighters.

We will lobby, educate, and, yes, fight for your rights as part-time college workers.

We're educating the public and lobbying the government -- at public events, through our web site, in meetings with MPPs and cabinet ministers, with radio ads, press conferences, and more -- up to and through the provincial election campaign.

We're fighting to improve your working conditions. We are constantly raising issues related to the part-time college work environment: the lack of job security or recognition for years of service, the absence of a process to deal with complaints, the lack of orientation or professional development, the lack of benefits, and pay that is a fraction of what our full-time counterparts get.

We're fighting to change a bad law. The Colleges Collective Bargaining Act -- passed in 1975 -- denies part-time college workers the right to bargain collectively.

Ontario is the only province where part-time college workers do not have the right to form or join a union. Virtually all other part-time workers in Ontario -- in universities, liquor stores, in health care -- can and do belong to a union. It is only when we sit across from the employer at a

negotiating table that we will cease to be a source of disposable and cheap labour.

We're fighting for quality education and to end the underfunding of colleges in Ontario. Out of the ten provinces, Ontario is number nine in funding per full-time college student. In effect, this chronic underfunding is subsidized by the 17,000 women and men who work part time in Ontario's twenty-four community colleges. But discouraged part-timers are leaving the college system in droves, to be replaced by the next batch of 'disposable' workers. This 'turnstile syndrome' -- and, the way part-timers are treated -- has a profoundly negative impact on the quality of college education.

Why join OPSECAAT? What's in it for you? An organization devoted to fighting in every forum for your rights as a part-time college worker, that's what. We're fighting to end years of discrimination against part-time college workers in Ontario.

And bolstered by your support we will win this battle. You know why? Because, at OPSECAAT, first we're fighters.

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**Sign up with OPSECAAT today** Call us at 416-448-7433 or 1-866-811-7274

[www.collegeworkers.org](http://www.collegeworkers.org)

**Your membership is confidential**