

What OPSEU Has Done For You

- OPSEU has pushed for the rights of ambulance officers for their own bargaining unit, independent of other municipal employees.
- OPSEU negotiated a transition agreement that included a wage raise and protects service seniority rights.
- The union you choose must be prepared to bargain a collective agreement immediately: Only OPSEU has the expertise and the experience to take on the job of protecting your rights.

**On Jan. 9, 2002,
It's Time to
VOTE OPSEU!**

The OPSEU Ambulance Division Formula

**Strong Leadership +
Proven OPSEU Expertise +
Years of Experience =
Better Contracts
for Ambulance Officers**



Ontario Public Service Employees Union
100 Lesmill Road
Toronto, Ontario M3B 3P8
www.opseu.org

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OPSEU Ambulance Division

**A strong track record of
advocacy and achievement**





“OPSEU’s negotiating expertise and strong lobbying efforts over the past 20 years show OPSEU is the union of choice for Ontario ambulance personnel.”

— James Ramage, Hamilton Ambulance Service, Chair, OPSEU Ambulance Division

KEY DATES IN THE OPSEU STRUGGLE FOR BETTER AMBULANCE SERVICES

- 1979** OPSEU forms the Ambulance Labour Committee to lobby the Health Ministry to rectify the unfairness of the Emergency Medical Care Examination process.
- 1984** OPSEU sponsors a commission to probe the sloppy operations of the Windsor Ambulance Service. Commission Chair Stephen Lewis calls for higher provincial standards for emergency services and training for paramedical personnel.
- 1988** OPSEU sponsors a special inquiry into the operation of provincial ambulance services in Ontario. The Shapiro Inquiry recommends province-wide standards for ambulance services, and central bargaining for all Ambulance Officers.
- 1988** After an air ambulance crash on Pelee Island kills three, OPSEU lays a charge against Health Minister Elinor Caplan under the provincial Health and Safety Act. The charge is lifted only after Caplan agrees to order an inquiry. The McLeish Inquiry recommends a “housecleaning” and better funding for ambulance services.
- 1989** OPSEU launches a province-wide media and lobbying campaign for reduced response times for land ambulance services.
- 1990** After two officers are assaulted in a Windsor attack, OPSEU publicly advocates self-defence training for Ambulance Officers. To raise the profile of the profession, OPSEU sponsors free blood pressure testing at county fairs across the province.



- 1991** At OPSEU’s urging, the government commissions Carleton University Professor Gene Swimmer to head an inquiry into ambulance services. His report recommends one province wide ambulance and dispatch service.
- 1992** In May and again in November, OPSEU sponsors Ambulance Officers from across Ontario to converge on Queen’s Park to lobby the government to implement the Swimmer Report.
- 1992** In a landmark settlement, OPSEU reaches a Central Agreement with the management of 42 ambulance services. The deal standardizes wages and safety procedures across the province.
- 1993** OPSEU obtains legal standing at the inquest into the death of Peter Gervais, a Sault Ste. Marie boy. Province calls yet another probe into air ambulance services.

- 1994** Health Minister Ruth Grier tells OPSEU she supports central bargaining for ambulance services. The government also agrees to fund defibrillators and training for paramedics.
- 1994** OPSEU reaches a landmark Central Agreement that standardizes a classification system and pension plan for OPSEU members in 46 ambulance services, paving the way for a province-wide system of paramedics.
- 1996** The newly-elected Harris government passes Bill 7, which strips successor rights from Crown employees. The law forces OPSEU to re-organize its own members in downloaded Ministry and amalgamated ambulance services. Ambulance Officers respond: Over the next six years, OPSEU successfully re-organizes more than 2,000 Ambulance Officers across the province.
- 1997** OPSEU launches a province-wide Make It Public! campaign to protect central bargaining and safeguard provincial funding for emergency services.
- 1999** OPSEU negotiates another Central Agreement for ambulance services.
- 2000** OPSEU members challenge driver-demerit points system – and win!
- 2001** OPSEU lobbies hard for changes to Bill 58, Ambulance Collective Bargaining Act.