



The POSO Post

A newsletter for Province of Ontario Savings Office Staff

Issue #5, January 2003

4,000 customers sign petitions to save POSO; Tories ignore outcry, prepare for sale

"Most of (POSO) clients are older, and thus more likely to vote." - Murray Campbell, Globe and Mail
"I think it's silly. I think it's insane. It's unfortunate." - St. Mary's Mayor Jamie Hahn on POSO sale

OPSEU members and customers led a determined fight this fall to keep the Savings Office public, but the Tory government seems determined nonetheless to sell Ontario's "people's bank." OPSEU held spirited protests in Windsor and Guelph. Customers Howard Clynick Phil Dunbar, and Deputy Mayor Jack Dunn of Woodstock visited nine POSO branches (Woodstock, Hamilton, Guelph, Brantford, Walkerton, Owen Sound, Aylmer, Seaforth and St. Mary's) to build support for the campaign to keep the popular bank in public hands.

OPSEU members and customers collected more than 4,000 signatures petitions (including Clynick's 1,500) presented by MPPs including George Smitherman, Shelley Martel, and David Christopherson.

Resolutions

Thanks to municipalities including Woodstock, Oxford County, East Zorra, West Oxford, Owen Sound, Thunder Bay, Pickle Lake and Huron East for resolutions opposing the sale of the Savings Office. Thanks also to the many MPPs, Labour Councils, riding associations, and POSO customers across Ontario for their support.

Sale imminent: OPSEU working to protect your rights

We expect the government to announce a buyer for POSO in early 2003. OPSEU's Reasonable Efforts Committee is working on your behalf to ensure your rights and entitlements are respected during the period up to and including the proposed sale.

We recently met with the Ministry team to discuss options for any staff that may wish to stay in the Ontario Public Service. You remain OPS employees until the keys are handed over to the buyer, so you can still access your rights and entitlements under the Collective Agreement.

Your options include

- Applying for vacancies within the OPS
- Lateral transfers, where possible
- Job trades, where possible

The policy on lateral transfers, and a downloadable request form, is on OPSEU's OPS Collective Agreement site at: <http://www.opseu.org/ops/collective/transfers.htm>. If you are interested in a lateral transfer, fill out the form and return it to Human Resources, with a copy to OPSEU Job Security (fax number 416-448-7462).

OPSEU Pension Trust meetings will be held in various communities in the New Year. We will let you know the times and locations of these important meetings on your pension rights and entitlements.

Stay in touch with your team.

Your reasonable efforts team is:

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Authorized for distribution:

Leah Casselman, President

The POSO Post is sent to keep you informed of news from your Union and issues of concern to you at your workplace. Please contact David Cox at 416-268-7376 x 314 or at dcox@opseu.org, or see OPSEU's web site at <http://www.opseu.org/campaign/posoindex.htm>