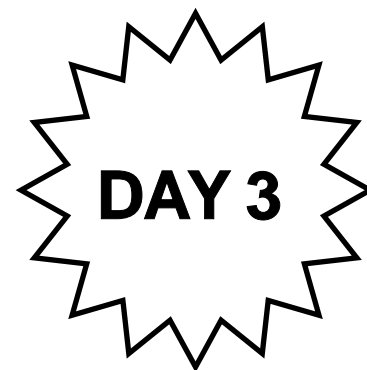


IN SOLIDARITY

April 17, 2004



Convention

Update 2004

‘We’re gonna rock,’ says Layton

NDP leader Jack Layton invited OPSEU members Friday to become part of change. “We’re gonna rock; we’re gonna shake up this government in this next election. We will have the most exciting team you’ve ever seen. You can help us build the country of our dreams,” he said.

He said exciting candidates have come forward to stand for the NDP, six of them OPSEU members. The six are Yvonne Bobb, Local 520; Dave Fluri, Local 635; Marlene Rivier, Local 479; Sue McSheffrey, Local 481; Carol Hughes, Local 604; and Gary Dale.

Layton also challenged members to get on with the job of rebuilding public services, saying that it has been done successfully elsewhere, as in Manitoba.

He warned that Paul Martin is quietly taking steps that will result in the dismantling of our health care system. “We don’t want publicly-funded health care; we want publicly-run health care: There’s a big difference,” said Layton. “We’re going to make a campaign out of this and we’re not going to let Paul Martin get away with doing this to public services.”

Pointing out that the Liberals are now re-announcing past announcements, he suggested that Canadians have been gullible in the past, and urged us all to be gullible no longer. Instead, “make some change happen” by helping elect the NDP candidate in Hamilton East, which will restore the NDP to official party status.

“Come to NDP.ca; become a part of what we’re doing,” Layton urged.



**Provincial
Women’s
Committee**



**Colours of
Hope Fundraiser**

Total Collected by end of Day 2

\$8,000

What happened Friday?

New Youth Committee established

By Karrie Ouchas

To the delight of many delegates, including the Youth Caucus, a constitutional amendment to establish a Provincial Youth Committee passed with the support of exactly two-thirds of voting delegates.

The Constitution Committee had recommended defeat of the proposed amendment. In part, it had argued that the top-down approach of a provincial committee is not the best way to involve youth.

The Constitution Committee was also not convinced that discrimination exists for young members as it has for members of the other two provincial committees. Delegates disagreed. Some felt that youth represent the



future of the union. For the long-term benefit of the union, we need to do succession planning.

The new Committee takes its place with the Provincial Women's Committee and the Provincial Human Rights Committee. It will have delegate status and the right to submit resolutions and constitutional amendments.

The Committee is intended to increase the involvement of young members in the union by establishing youth caucuses and committees within the regions and by developing and promoting programs to encourage youth to participate in Union activities. Increasing the awareness and understanding of youth issues throughout the membership is an additional goal.

The Committee will include one member from each region, elected at the regular biennial regional election meetings.

Support NDP, convention told

Although affiliation to the NDP has been deferred pending consultation with the labour movement, OPSEU members are encouraged to actively support the federal NDP in the upcoming election.

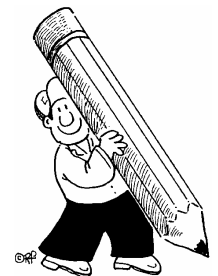
This follows a decision on Thursday by delegates not to give the NDP \$25,000 toward the upcoming Hamilton East by-election. If the NDP wins in Hamilton East they will regain official party status.

At the 2003 convention, delegates directed the board to draft a political action plan. The plan was put on hold following passage of Federal Bill C-24, which prevents unions from directly supporting any political party.

The decision on whether or not to officially affiliate with the party will be made after OPSEU, the National Union (NUPGE) and the NDP discuss ways to develop and approve "a viable mechanism to continue our historic relationship."

Written oath OKed

Delegates supported only a few of the 13 proposed amendments to the constitution. One amendment allows newly-elected stewards to submit a signed copy of the oath of office as an alternative to an oral oath. The change is intended to meet the needs of Locals covering a large geographic area.



A second amendment requires that multi-unit and composite locals establish budget lines for each unit, based on the number of dues-paying members in the unit and the projected unit activity for the year. The amendment is intended to provide flexible financial support for units.

Correction

In yesterday's edition, we omitted that CAAT Support part-timers are also prevented from unionizing under the Colleges Collective Bargaining Act. We apologize for the error.

Resolutions

New harassment phone line

Delegates passed two resolutions submitted by the Provincial Women's Committee.

One provided for the expansion, promotion, and monitoring of a 1-800 line for all members experiencing harassment and discrimination in the workplace and the union. As a result of an arbitration decision, OPSEU has already agreed to create a 1-800 number for members in Corrections.

A second resolution supported pay equity training for staff reps responsible for negotiations and for negotiating teams. The idea is to ensure pay equity is maintained in each bargaining unit.



OFL expenses demanded

In the interests of transparency and accountability, delegates agreed to insist that the Ontario Federation of Labour produce and distribute to its affiliates a full statement of the expenses and remuneration of its officers and representatives. Delegates also insisted that the production and distribution of the statement be a condition of affiliation.



Grievance status reports

Three resolutions will have implications for OPSEU's staff. One requires that OPSEU and its grievance department issue semi-annual status updates to each Local on its own grievances and Labour Board hearings. In addition, the grievance department is to endeavour to respond to inquiries within three working days.

A second resolution provides for one secretary for every two staff reps in the regional offices and a minimum of one full-time secretary at all times.

A third resolution requires that the OPSEU Policy Manual and the current Executive Board minutes be posted on OPSEU's website.

CAUT affiliation approved

Convention passed a resolution allowing an affiliation with the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) by those members of CAAT Academic who teach in university-level, degree-granting programs. The affiliation will advance the sector in common cause with another association and strengthen our voice on issues of public-sector, post-secondary education. The affiliation also has implications for job security, working conditions, and bargaining.

Delegates also supported the use of labour studies programs at the community colleges, where available.



Francophone issues

Convention supported three initiatives important to our Francophone members: the creation of strategic Francophone positions (negotiators, regional staff reps., etc.); the hiring of Francophone personnel where warranted; and hiring first in the Eastern and Northern regions.

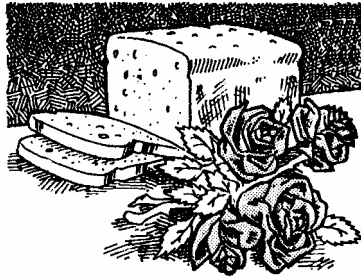
Change tax laws

Convention supported increased enforcement of environmental laws and changes to tax laws so that fines levied against corporations are not tax deductible.

Top Women Honoured

By Laurie Sabourin

The Provincial Women's Committee (PWC) held their annual Convention Breakfast on Friday morning. Over 130 members woke up early to enjoy a continental breakfast in the Dominion Ballroom.



and past recipient of OPSEU's Stanley Knowles Humanitarian Award. Judy spoke on the issue of child poverty. She does not like to talk about child poverty because children are not poor. "Child poverty is caused by their parent's poverty," Rebick said.

The Bakery, Confectionary and Tobacco Workers, Local 154G, from London, Ontario donated 60 boxes of Kellogg's cereal to help bring awareness to school breakfast programs. The donated boxes will be given to a school breakfast program in the GTA.

OPSEU President Leah Casselman welcomed those in attendance. She thanked everyone for all their hard work and dedication, and encouraged us to continue the struggle to bring women's issues to the forefront.

The PWC was honoured to have Judy Rebick as their guest speaker. She is past president of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women

The Bread and Roses Award was presented to Dr. Isla Carmichael for her outstanding contributions to the women's movement.

The following women received a Regional Recognition Award and a rose for their contribution in moving forward women's issues.

- Region 1 - Waltraud Knott
- Region 2 - Anne Marie Champaigne
- Region 3 - Laurie Chapman
- Region 4 - Aimee Axler
- Region 5 - Stephanie Blake
- Region 6 - Pauline Stewart
- Region 7 - Patty Walker

P3s wrong way to go

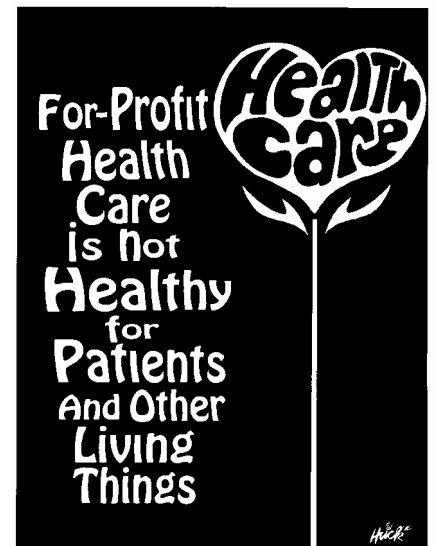
Convention delegates unanimously passed a motion to halt the adverse effects of public-private partnerships (P3s).

P3s are contractual agreements between public and private agencies or institutions to provide public services and/or public infrastructure. Using P3s, private companies are commissioned to design build, finance and operate any number of public facilities in the guise of cost savings and management efficiencies. Under the traditional model, public sector projects are funded, owned and managed by the government. With P3s, workers can expect wage cuts, job loss and unsafe working conditions. The traditional model has ensured fair wages, employment stability and health and safety standards.

P3s are the Liberals' response to public infrastructure debt, infrastructure renewal cost and future demand for public services. The Liberals claim

P3s avoid growing deficits and tax increases while still providing improved health care and education. In fact, P3s have resulted in service cuts, user fees, long-term debt and the passing of real costs to generations yet to come.

Convention called on OPSEU to take whatever steps may be necessary to protect the valuable work all public sector workers do now and will be doing in the future.



\$5,117.93 Collected

Donations were collected from convention floor to support the various requests from the members. This amount will be matched by OPSEU.