

Views from the Front Line



Our mobilizers have been listening to you: here are some facts on how your information will be protected and put to use.

We spoke with Wendy Shannon, a Census Mobilizer from Region 4 to get the views from the frontline. Wendy is a longtime activist and has worked at Ongwanada Hospital for 22 years.

Q

What's one of the biggest myths that you've heard?

A

Members have asked me: "If my boss isn't allowed to ask personal questions why is it OK for the Union to do so?" Many may not know that a number of Employers in Canada, such as Mount Sinai Hospital, Home Depot Canada, and the Ottawa Police Service, have already undertaken workplace surveys similar to the OPSEU Census. Those surveys share the same goal as our Census — to find out who our members are and what their needs and priorities are so that services can be improved.

Q

Why does the Census ask so many personal questions?

A

The questions in the Census are based on the 2001 Census of Canada. In fact, the questions are a lot less "personal" than the information required for a credit card application. For example, the Census does NOT ask about bank account information, your home address, citizenship or immigration status, or your social insurance number. If you are uncomfortable answering a particular question, skip it and move on to the rest of the Census.

Q

How could knowing about my personal life be useful to the Union?

A

Well, for example, if we know that 25% of our members have elder care responsibilities, maybe it's time to look at our policy on family care; or maybe it's time to re-examine what priorities we're bringing to the bargaining table.

Q

Aren't these questions illegal?

A

Actually, this kind of process is encouraged by both the Ontario and Canadian Human Rights Commissions. Just like how you are asked for your postal code at your local grocery store, more information means more informed decisions.

**You now have until
December 11th to
count yourself in.**

Go to www.twiinc.ca/opseu today!