

# COUNT *me* IN!



## NEWS AND INFORMATION ON **THE OPSEU CENSUS**

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COUNT ME IN: News and Information on the OPSEU Census - September, 2009 - Issue 1  
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# YOU make the difference in OPSEU's groundbreaking step into the future

In November, after much anticipation, OPSEU will launch its first ever membership and staff census. This project will reposition OPSEU as a union of choice for all; a union that values its members and staff because of their differences, not in spite of them.

Encouraged by the support of its members at the 2008 Convention, the OPSEU census will provide an accurate picture of OPSEU's membership and staff. President Warren (Smokey) Thomas is very excited about this revolutionary initiative. "OPSEU needs to learn more about those we represent and those who work for us in order to serve you even better," says Thomas. "...to give you the opportunity to fully take part in all your union has to offer."

The census is a major step in OPSEU's ongoing commitment to ensure that the union's policies, programs and services are inclusive and barrier-free. Thousands of OPSEU members will have the opportunity to stand up, get counted, and make a difference - charting the course for the future of their union.

OPSEU can't win it unless you're in it. Join your brothers and sisters in this rewarding experience with real results: Count Me In!



**“It's really exciting what OPSEU is doing. We're the first union to take it to this level. It's a great opportunity to move our union forward. It's so simple.”**

*- MPAC member*

## Why are we doing a Census?

**Our members and staff are our greatest assets.** It is important to have a clear understanding of who everyone is. With the census we will have an accurate picture that will allow us to serve the current and future needs of our members, their families and the communities in which we live.



*This Newsletter is authorized for distribution by Warren (Smokey) Thomas, OPSEU President*



**But WAIT!  
There's  
MORE!**



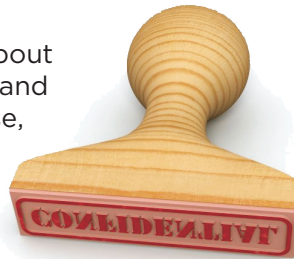
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out more!**

# Meet the consultants: TWI Inc.

## Ensuring confidentiality and independent expertise

We know that our members and employees are concerned about their privacy. We all want census results that are confidential and analysed by independent experts in the field. For that purpose, OPSEU has hired the services of TWI Inc., a leading global diversity consulting firm in the area of Human Equity™ to partner with us in the development, design, analysis and reporting of the census.

Having successfully executed and completed several workforce censuses, TWI is prepared for the challenges and opportunities that exist. This allows them to more effectively serve OPSEU in its census.



# Count Them In: Stories from the front line

For Greg, an OPS member, the OPSEU census is an idea whose time has finally come. On a personal level, Greg feels that unions have not always best represented people with disabilities. "We feel like we're on the outside watching, but not always involved. For example, members in wheelchairs are often unable to come to union meetings. OPSEU

only recently began doing audits for building accessibility.

Greg feels that the OPSEU census will help the union leaders and membership to understand where the gaps might be. This definitely impacts OPSEU's overall success. "The union is not strong enough if you're not representing all the members."

**COMING SOON!**

*Campaign Days in October!*

**Food! Free Giveaways!**

**Prizes! Fun for all! Coming to a region near you. Stay tuned...**

