

MEMORANDUM

September 2, 2005

Urgent Notice

OPSEU

Dear OPSEU Activist!



SEFPO

Syndicat des Employé-e-s
de la Fonction Publique
de l'Ontario

OPSEU is at its best when we act to support our members as they fight to achieve a fair contract.

OPSEU youth are currently taking on just such a struggle in Windsor. These 45 OPSEU members are all students at the University of Windsor. They work at a duty free store on the Ambassador Bridge.

Their current terms of employment automatically terminate them after 12 months of work. Their hourly pay is around the \$9.00 mark. The specific issues involved in their struggle are set out in the accompanying flyer.

Their employer is American billionaire Matty Maroun. He owns the bridge, the duty free stores on both sides of the river, several trucking and warehouse companies and acres of real estate in Ontario and Michigan.

The strike started on September 2 and the picket line has been strong. On Tuesday, September 6, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. the duty free store will again be in operation using scabs.

We must support these OPSEU members. They are working because they need to cover the costs of their education. With the high cost of tuition they are taking a stand to help build a strong future.

Please come out on Tuesday to support their picket line! Make sure that Matty Maroon and his managers don't get away with the use of scabs.

On Tuesday, you will be joining other union members from across Windsor who are also supporting these workers.

If you can attend please call the Windsor OPSEU office at 519-977-7550 or David Loney (Staff Rep) at 1-647-285-7763. The picket line is near the duty free store at the Ambassador Bridge (off Patricia Street – Windsor).

In solidarity,

Leah Casselman
President

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ON STRIKE: Ambassador Bridge Duty Free Store

Our jobs are on the line!

U.S. billionaire Manuel (Matty) Moroun is the private owner of the Ambassador Bridge and Duty Free Stores. Together, the bridge and stores take in revenue of more than \$100 million per year.

But the Ambassador Bridge Corporation has walked away from contract talks with the 45 University of Windsor students who work at their Canadian duty free outlet.

On Sept. 2, the company closed the store, rather than responding to a proposal from our union, OPSEU. On Tuesday, Sept. 6, they plan to re-open using "replacement workers."

On strike to keep our jobs

We are now on strike to keep our jobs and win a fair collective agreement.

Moroun only hires students at the Windsor duty free store. He only lets us keep our jobs for 12 months. After that, we're automatically terminated – with no chance of renewal. It's a system that lets him avoid dealing fairly with employees.

Wages are an issue, too. Under our last contract, duty-free employees were paid a maximum of \$9.25 an hour. The last wage increase was in 2002.

Students have rights, too

Like most university students, we're struggling with rising tuition fees and skyrocketing student loans. We need our jobs to pay for our education.

But Moroun refuses to change the status quo. That's why our members voted 100 per cent to reject the employer's offer on Aug. 18.

Strike-breaking? No Way!

We don't want to be on strike. We want to return to the bargaining table and negotiate a fair contract.

But it takes two to negotiate – and hiring strike-breakers is no way for an employer to try to reach an agreement.

Help us show that Windsor won't stand for this kind of anti-union bullying!

How YOU can help...

Support the striking duty-free workers

- Don't shop at the Ambassador Bridge Duty Free Store
- Use the Detroit-Windsor Tunnel instead of the bridge
- Join us on the picket line at 707 Patricia Road

Send a message to Dan Stamper, President of the Ambassador Bridge Corporation

- Tell him and Matty Moroun that they need to get back to the bargaining table
- Let them know, you won't be crossing their bridge or shopping at their duty-free store until they negotiate a settlement to the strike.

Dan Stamper, President, Ambassador Bridge Corporation

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For more information, visit www.opseu.org

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