

NO MORE CUTS

Rebuild our public services!

THE ISSUES
APRIL 2005

Benefits improvements are long overdue

Lay your card down on the table!

Health benefits are important to everyone. All members, at some point, will need a prescription, or dental work, or eyeglasses, or maybe even have to spend time in the hospital.

That's why a benefit plan is so important. Unfortunately, the OPS benefit plan is badly outdated, and improvements are long overdue.

What do we want?

How about semi-private hospital coverage that *actually pays for* the cost of a semi-private room?

How about vision care coverage that *actually pays for* a pair of eyeglasses?

How about having a benefit plan that is based on costs in 2005, not 1985?

We also want the employer to pay for the cost of

the Ontario Health Premium (a tax that they imposed after promising not to impose any new taxes). We want to improve access to Long Term Disability so that members don't have to fight for years to get benefits at a time when they are least able to protect themselves.

Last, but certainly not least, **we want a drug card!** The "pay first, refund later" method for prescription drugs is ridiculous considering the cost of some medications. **NOBODY** should have to check their bank account before deciding whether they can get their pills.

Unfortunately, the employer is moving in the opposite direction, specifically around eye exams for VDT operators.

We have lots of work to do to get these long overdue improvements this round. **We can't afford to wait any longer.**

What's on the table:

Bargaining proposal as of March 27, 2005

EMPLOYER PROPOSAL

VDT Issues

It is a legitimate question as to how frequently and under what criteria a routine eye examination and other related considerations are required for computer operators.

UNION PROPOSAL

Benefit Issues:

- Employer payment for the Ontario Health Premium
- Remove dental and drug deductibles
- Provide a drug card
- Improve vision care, dental care, chronic illness care and semi-private hospital care
- Improve access to Long Term Disability provision