



The Source

The factual report from the OPS Bargaining Teams

Issue 4

December 17, 2004

Demanding the demands

Usually by now the members would know our “Top 10” demands for this round of bargaining – what do we really want in this round?

The employer has not agreed to table a full response on demands before Christmas. We expect they will early in the New Year. Until

then, our demand priorities will remain unpublished. Strategically, it would not be to our advantage to give the employer notice of any demands when they are not willing to give notice of their position.

Stay tuned – we’ll keep you informed.

Corrections demands

We are in receipt of the members’ demands. A strategy employed in this round is to not have the list distributed as the employer should not know our demands until such time as they are willing to share their position at the bargaining table.

Your Corrections Bargaining Team has reviewed the demands from the members and we are ready to share them with the employer when the employer indicates a willingness to come to the table.

We will let you know as soon as that happens.

Access allowed to OPSEU website

At the CERC table on Aug. 26, 2004, the issues of MERC minutes and member access to the OPSEU website were discussed. The employer agreed in principle that MERC minutes could be posted on the Intranet. The employer also agreed that OPSEU members, as per the “governing corporate directions on internet usage,” could access OPSEU’s website at work during break times.

POST and CIRCULATE

Mobilizing – a great start

By Marg Simmons and Barry Scanlon

We can't thank you enough. By mid-fall, the employer got a shock, as OPS members said "we'll do what it takes to support our team." OPS members in every local have been active. You have filled out the "put the face on public services survey" by the thousands. You wore black T-shirts on Tuesdays. Fairness Demand It stickers now appear in the most unusual places. And, on Nov. 27, OPS members traveled long distances to send a message loud and clear to McGuinty: "Don't break your promises: Rebuild public services."

Locals are well on their way to being prepared. Local mobilizing committees are the base to support the team. We truly appreciate everyone's efforts. Every conversation about bargaining makes a difference. Your creativity,

as always, helps to keep us going. Your energy and actions have inspired us. It gives us all greater confidence and strength at the bargaining table.

As your team members, we have attended locals meetings, area council discussions, and regional meetings in every corner of the province. We heard your concerns about the Liberals plan to cut 6,000 jobs from the OPS. We are cut to the bone and services are suffering. We know the Tory-inspired plans won't rebuild public services.

We hope each of you has a happy and safe holiday. Let's catch our breath. Spend some time with our families and friends. In January, we know that when we work together, we are a force. We will hold McGuinty to his promise to value our work and the services we provide.

Your OPSEU OPS bargaining teams

Central/Unified team:

Marg Simmons (Chair), Central Enforcement and Renewal Committee
Linda Thibert, OPSEU Region 1
Doug Peebles, Region 2
Kathleen Demareski, Region 3
Rhéal Delaquis, Region 4
Paul Myers, Region 5
Eric Morin (Vice-Chair), Region 6
John Watson, Region 7
Bob Houston, Administrative category
Brian Chauvin, Corrections
Carl Thibodeau, Institutional & Health Care
Sandra Noad, Office Administration
Beth Anich, Office Administration
Ken Fraser, Technical/Operational & Maintenance
Moira Cowan, Unclassified members

Corrections team:

Jack Hopkins, OPSEU Region 1
Barry Scanlon (Chair), Region 2
Glenna Caldwell, Region 3
Robert Curran (Vice-Chair), Region 4
Dave Graves, Region 5
Joe Wright, Region 6
Len Mason, Region 7

The Source is your only accurate source of Central and Corrections bargaining team information. Do not rely on gossip and rumours. We will provide the facts. Your editors are Len Mason, Beth Anich and Moira Cowan. *The Source* is authorized for distribution by Barry Scanlon, chair, Corrections team, Marg Simmons, chair, Central bargaining team and Leah Casselman, president.

This week's team member profiles

Sandra Noad

This is the third time for Sandra as a representative on the Central Bargaining Team, in 1999 and in the 2002/03 round. A member of the OPS since 1979, Sandra became involved in OPSEU as a steward and has been the president of Local 101 on and off for at least 15 years. Currently, she is the 1st vice-president of the local. Sandra also sits on a variety of committees including CERC, JESS and as MERC chair for the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care.

Sandra is proud to be a public servant, mother, daughter and mostly a grandmother! Sandra is a very proud member of the Office Administration category (OAD) which is the largest group in the OPS. She believes the OAD can truly have a strong voice in this union.



Carl Thibodeau

Carl was elected by the Institutional Health Care (IHC) category to represent them at the central table. Carl has been employed with the Ontario government as a Cook 2 since 1984. He spent the first nine years of his career at the Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital and is currently employed at the Thunder Bay Jail as a Food Services Officer.

Carl is a steward in Local 737 and has been on numerous bargaining teams with the OPS over the years, the last time being in the 1994-1996 round. Carl looks forward to hearing feedback from the members and being part of the team that brings the members an "A" contract.

