

February 12, 2008

To all OPS Local Presidents,

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

On Saturday, March 1, 2008, OPSEU is holding regional meetings for all OPS Local Presidents. The purpose of these meetings is to “kick start” the 2008 OPS bargaining round.

Many of you had suggestions on how to improve the process after the last round of bargaining. We listened to your ideas, and we are making some changes this time around that you should find interesting.

The biggest change is the bargaining timelines. This time, the teams will begin negotiations in the fall, and negotiate issues *first*. Essential and Emergency services will *not* be bargained unless we reach an impasse with the government on the issues.

We believe this change goes to the heart of what many members in the OPS want from bargaining. They want to hear what’s happening with *their* issues, not endless months of essential services bargaining.

We have heard that many members are interested to hear about plans for this round of bargaining, and some are even now making preparations. At the meeting on March 1, you will learn more about this and other changes for the 2008 round. You will also get information on the bargaining timelines, and on the demand-set process, particularly how it will work in your local.

So whether you are a new Local President, or one of our many “seasoned veterans,” you will find this meeting useful and informative. You should have already received information on the times and locations of your regional meeting. If not, please contact your Regional Office.

Please make every effort to attend this session, and we look forward to a successful round of bargaining.

In Solidarity,



Warren (Smokey) Thomas
President



Eric Morin
Chair, Central Enforcement and
Renewal Committee