



# TableTalk *update*

The latest bargaining and mobilizing  
news for OPS members

November 28, 2008

## “What a great day!” - Thousands participate in OAD Recognition Day

“What a great day”, is how many members, mobilizers and local leaders are describing the day that was about was all about recognizing the contribution of 16,000 OPSEU members in the Office Administration (OAD) classification to excellent public service.

Events were held across the province, with 17,000 blue OPSEU mugs, 20,000 “Respect” buttons and 10,000 “Respect” stickers distributed to members. Events were varied, and OAD

members were very appreciative for the show of support.

This day could not have been a success without the phenomenal organizing of the regional mobilizers, local executives, the provincial OAD mobilizer, the leadership of the bargaining teams and support of the Executive Board Members.

Photos of the events will be available on the OPSEU website.

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## Central/Unified talks continue, trouble brewing in Corrections

Talks continue to progress at the Central and Unified tables. However, things are not that smooth at the Corrections table.

This past week the employer has discussed with the Corrections bargaining team a “Wall to Wall” bargaining unit, which would bring hundreds of non-correctional positions into the bargaining unit. This is one of the many takeaways the employer has proposed, and the Correctional bargaining team is outraged with the re-structuring of our bargaining category. Three members of the current Correctional Bargaining Team were involved in a wildcat strike in 1979 which established a separate Corrections bargaining category.

David Kerr, Chair of the Corrections Team, says, “It took a wildcat strike in 1979 to achieve a separate category for the Corrections bargaining unit, we are not about to negotiate it away 29 years later”

The Correctional bargaining team is encouraged by the member support it is receiving and will continue its struggle to ensure all members of our category get the type of collective agreement improvements we all deserve.

### Corrections Bargaining Team Quote of the week

“An employer who makes enemies with their Correctional Officers had better get used to making friends with their criminals.”

# Know what's on the table

Part of the employer's opening position is the removal of eye exams and rest breaks for VDT operators.

The actual proposal reads: "Given the technological improvements, delete article pertaining to Video Display Terminals (VDTs) and corresponding rest breaks and eye exam benefit."

It's funny; the teams have never seen a study that says VDT displays are now perfectly

safe. Or that all OPS worksites have the latest equipment. Yet the employer wants to remove this benefit, just like they did in the last round of bargaining.

Translation? Removal of this benefit has nothing to do with "technological improvements." It has everything to do with the employer trying to save money – at the expense of your eyesight.

And no one is willing to pay that price.

## Mark Dec. 10 on your calendar

Dec. 10 is "Fight For Your Rights" Day for the thousands of unclassified members of the OPS.

Events will be scheduled across the province, with a large event scheduled for Toronto at 25 Grosvenor St., beginning at noon.

OPS mobilizers will be getting specific information out to locals. Also, watch the OPSEU website for more details.

### Authorized for distribution:



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Central/Unified Team*



*David Kerr, Chair*



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