



TableTalk *update*

The latest bargaining and mobilizing
news for OPS members

January 22, 2009

Get out and vote!

Next week, OPS members across Ontario will cast their ballots. This is a reminder to all members **to get out and vote!**

The bargaining teams have recommended the following:

Central Collective Agreement

The Central Collective Agreement covers ALL members in the OPS. The Central Bargaining Team recommends members vote **YES** to the Central Tentative Agreement. You can get more information on the agreement at: <http://www.opseu.org/ops/barg2008/tabletalk/table-talk-update-centralunified-jan9-2009.htm>.

Unified Bargaining Unit Agreement

The Unified Bargaining Unit agreement covers all members in the OPS EXCEPT those members in the Corrections Bargaining Unit. The Unified Bargaining Team recommends members vote **YES** to the Unified Tentative Agreement. You can get more information on the agreement at: <http://www.opseu.org/ops/barg2008/tabletalk/table-talk-update-centralunified-jan9-2009.htm>.

Corrections Bargaining Unit Agreement

The Corrections Bargaining Unit agreement covers ONLY members in the Corrections Bargaining Unit. The Corrections Bargaining Team recommends members vote **NO** to the employer's offer. You can get more information on the offer at: <http://www.opseu.org/ops/barg2008/tabletalk/table-talk-update-corrections-jan6-2009.htm>.

The teams have asked that as many members as possible cast their ballots. When it comes to ratification votes, the results have a real impact on the next round of bargaining. For rejection votes, the impact is felt almost immediately.

"Four years from now, the employer will refer back to the results of our ratification vote," said Central/Unified Bargaining Team chair Eric Morin. "They will use the number of members who voted as a yardstick to gauge member interest, and that will affect how things unfold at the table."

Corrections Bargaining Team chair David Kerr can't stress enough how important it is for Corrections to have a high voter turnout.

"Our strength at the bargaining table depends on two things: how high the strike vote is, and how high the member turnout is," Kerr said. "We need everybody to vote, so the employer knows this bargaining unit means business."

Voting takes place Jan. 27-29. Locations and times are posted on the OPSEU website at: <http://www.opseu.org/ops/barg2008/vote-locations-2009.htm>.

Questions answered

Many members have asked questions regarding how the actual vote is being conducted, e.g. what happens if a member's name is not on the voter's list.

A list of questions and answers is posted on the OPSEU website at <http://www.opseu.org/ops/barg2008/vote-questions-and-answers.htm>. Members can also contact their local presidents with any inquiries.

Court Reporters' campaign ongoing

The campaign continues to stop the Ministry of the Attorney General's harmful plan to take away transcript work from court reporters and give it to regional typing pools.

The Central/Unified Bargaining Team did present the employer a comprehensive position on this issue. However, the employer would not make any substantial moves to resolve it at the bargaining table.

OPSEU is urging members to keep the pressure on Attorney General Chris Bentley. On June 1, the union will return to Grievance Settlement Board Vice-Chair Randi Abramsky to try to resolve the issue.

A Jan. 17 article in the Toronto Star quotes a letter written to Bentley from the Criminal Lawyers Association, outlining their concerns with the proposed changes. This shows the union's message is getting out there.

"The administration of justice is at serious risk if transcript production is not kept with the skilled professionals who are in the courtroom and are familiar with the case," said mobilizer and court reporter Helen Haggith.

Authorized for distribution:



*Eric Morin, Chair
Central/Unified Team*



David Kerr, Chair



*Warren (Smokey) Thomas, President
Ontario Public Service
Employees Union*