



Blow the whistle!

OPS employees have a strong interest in making sure the public service is doing its best to protect public safety, safeguard tax dollars, and ensure public accountability for government actions.

When OPSEU members witness mismanagement, waste, corruption, or actions that may endanger public safety, they need to be able to speak out. Right now, though, public employees may be afraid to talk for fear of reprisals at work – harassment, discipline, or even dismissal. That’s why public service “secrets” often come to light in a brown envelope dropped off at a news reporter’s door. It may make for good news, but it’s not always good for the public service.

In 1993, the government of the day made changes to the Public Service Act that allowed public employees to take their concerns and information to a special Commissioner. The

Commissioner would be able to investigate claims and make government accountable for its actions – all the while protecting the identity of the “whistleblower.”

While passed by the Legislature, this part of the Public Service Act was never officially proclaimed into law (except for the Walkerton Inquiry only, where it helped OPSEU members participate). After the Walkerton tragedy and the Andersen Consulting fiasco, it is clear that public employees need “whistleblower” protection now more than ever.

That’s why your union is demanding it at the bargaining table. Because no one knows how to make government work like the workers on the front lines of public service delivery.

Stand up for accountable government – support whistleblower protection for public employees.

What's on the table:

Bargaining proposals as of Feb. 14, 2002

UNION PROPOSAL

In its proposal Dec. 18, the union's Central bargaining team tabled this:

1. MEASURES FOR RENEWAL OF THE OPS

- b) As part of its renewal program the Employer agrees to proclaim the already enacted "whistleblower" legislation so that employees can point out waste and inefficiencies within government without fear of reprisal.
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