



Contracting out: Stop the stupidity

Contracting out may have hurt the Ontario Public Service more than any other policy.

It has certainly been a waste of money. In the Andersen Consulting fiasco, Ontario's provincial auditor found that taxpayers paid the company's top manager \$575 **an hour**. Auditor Erik Peters said public employees could have done the \$200-million job for **one-sixth** of what Andersen charged. Andersen employees billed the government an average of \$24,000 **each** in "out-of-pocket" expenses.

Without receipts. Without any accountability.

The auditor said privatized highway maintenance cost more than the public system in **three out of four** cases he looked at.

The October 2001 sell-off of our air ambulance system cost the province \$2 million in severance pay alone – just to have the private operator hire the **same** paramedics to perform the **same** service!

And the Walkerton tragedy showed us that contracting out is more than a waste of money. When government sees public safety as little more than "red tape" that gets in the way of private profit, **it can also be fatal.**

This government's program of privatization is costly, dangerous, and stupid. Contracting out destroys public services. It also destroys jobs. It is the number one threat to the job security of OPSEU members in the OPS.

Your current collective agreement has done a lot to protect members whose jobs are contracted out. It's time to go one step further. To protect jobs and services, your OPSEU Central bargaining team has called for a moratorium on contracting-out for the life of your next collective agreement.

It is clear that the government does **not** know what it's doing. Let's stop the stupidity called contracting out – before it wrecks something else.

What's on the table:

Bargaining proposals as of Feb. 14, 2002

UNION PROPOSAL

1. MEASURES FOR RENEWAL OF THE OPS

- c) As a further part of renewal, the employer agrees that there will be no contracting out during the life of this collective agreement.
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