



# OPS CONTRACT 2002

Information for OPSEU members in the Ontario Public Service

SECOND  
EDITION  
Feb. 16, 2002

# 36.6%?

# We'll take it.

Last year, the Tories at Queen's Park found a nifty back-door way to vote for a **big** raise for Ontario MPPs.

If the election is held in 2003, the compounded value of that raise will be **36.6** per cent. Not bad!

Lame-duck Premier Mike Harris called it "fair." It's no wonder public employees are saying that what's good for the goose is good for the gander.

In the last eight years, inflation has cut the buying power of OPSEU members in the Ontario Public Service by over 12 per cent. In that time, OPSEU members have sacrificed over \$900 million to keep the province running.

Yet in its Feb. 14 offer, the employer offered wage improvements of just 1.95, 1.95, and 1.95 per cent in each successive year of a proposed three-year contract.

(The employer has also dangled an extra 0.5 per cent increase if union teams agree to:

- a) make it much harder for unclassified employees to get converted to classified status; and

- b) let the employer hire people into classified jobs **without posting** in some cases where they already have somebody in mind for the job.

Your teams have rejected this proposal.)

Your OPSEU bargaining team for all workers except those in the Corrections Category (Corrections has yet to table a wage demand) has asked your employer for a deliberately modest 12 per cent pay hike over two years.

Why is this "modest?" Here's why: With inflation projected at two per cent per year over the next two years, our wage demand is *still* too small to bring our buying power on Jan. 1, 2004 up to its Jan. 1, 1994 level.

A 12 per cent pay hike is **not** a raise. It's wage *recovery* – and partial wage recovery at that. But it sets the stage for real progress in future rounds.

**Vote to reject** the employer's Feb. 14 offer – and send your bargaining teams back to the table with a strong mandate to get a fair wage offer.

# What's on the table:

*Bargaining proposals as of Feb. 14, 2002*

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## EMPLOYER PROPOSAL

### Wages

1.95% across the board. January 1, 2002  
1.95% across the board. January 1, 2003  
1.95% across the board. January 1, 2004

The Employer also proposes an across the board increase of up to .5% in the first year, in exchange for productivity and efficiency gains related to the Employer's proposals on job postings and unclassified conversions.

## UNION PROPOSAL

### 5. Wages and term

- a) Term 24 months, to expire Dec. 31, 2003. General wage increase of six (6) per cent Jan. 1, 2002, six (6) per cent Jan. 1, 2003, compounded.