

# ***The Real Deal***

Bargaining news from your OPSEU Central  
Bargaining Team in the Ontario Public Service

Issue #4  
October 4, 2001



## **Document storm continues**

This week, your Central Team continues to deal with essential service information flowing across the table from the employer. The employer is now bringing in their “specialists” to explain in detail the duties of various essential service positions.

Despite the amount of information coming in (with a promise of more to come), the Team is still confident that they can settle essential service issues in a timely manner and

get on to the issues. To keep this process flowing, four mediators are available to work at the bargaining centre and attempt to settle disputes if they arise.

On a lighter note, the Central Team reports that they have all survived the cold and flu virus that has been stalking the bargaining centre, although the management team is now looking a little under the weather. Some of the team members have also been able to get out to local membership

meetings in Toronto in order to keep members up to date.

One accomplishment has been the signing of the overall essential services conditions document and the protocol.

“The work is tedious, but we’re extremely upbeat,” said Marg Simmons, chair of the OPS Central Team. “Our task has been made easier thanks to the members who have helped us verify the information.

## **Public Service Fair launches OPS bargaining**

Ontario’s public services have never been more important.

That was the message from over 400 OPSEU members and citizens who converged on the North Bay waterfront Sept. 29 to celebrate public services and the people who provide them.

The event was also the official launch of this round of collective bargaining for 45,000 OPSEU members in the Ontario Public Service (OPS). The OPS contract expires Dec. 31, 2001.

Autumn sunshine, a grooving blues band, and great food made for a great day. OPSEU

members came by bus from Hamilton, Toronto, Orillia, Sudbury, and Timmins. Members from Hearst were on the road at 4:00 a.m.

First Nations drummers introduced a stellar lineup of speakers, including Bruce Davidson of Concerned Walkerton Citizens.

OPSEU president Leah Casselman told the crowd the same Tory policies that have plagued the Ministry of Environment have hit every ministry in the public service.

“Walkerton taught us that a

public service destroyed by extreme layoffs, cuts, and privatization is too weak to prevent disaster and too weak to respond if disaster strikes,” she said. “This round of bargaining is about the public service after Walkerton. We have a huge opportunity here, in this next round of bargaining, to talk about the importance of public services. We’re seeing more and more the need for quality public services, and more and more need for being able to hold the government accountable.”

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# ***POST AND CIRCULATE***

# Training for OPS members ongoing

The following OPS Mobilization and Service Area Coordinating Group (SACG) training sessions are scheduled:

Oct. 13, 14

## Region 3:

OPS Mobilization Training  
Holiday Inn, Peterborough

## Region 4:

OPS Mobilization Training  
Four Points Sheraton, Kingston

## Region 5:

OPS Mobilization Training  
Colony Hotel, Toronto

## Region 6:

OPS Mobilization Training  
Timmins Regional Office

More sessions are scheduled.  
Watch here for updates.

## How to contact your team members

You can contact the Central Team directly at (416) 815-1406, by fax at (416) 815-1412 or by e-mail at [centralteam@opseu.org](mailto:centralteam@opseu.org).

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**The Real Deal is your only accurate source of Central Team information during this round of bargaining. If you don't read it here, you can't be sure it's true. Don't rely on gossip and rumours. We will provide the facts.**

*The Real Deal will be available by fax, by e-mail, and on the OPSEU web site at [www.opseu.org](http://www.opseu.org). To receive it directly, send your secure fax number to Lesley Williams at (416) 443-1762 or send your e-mail address to [lwilliams@opseu.org](mailto:lwilliams@opseu.org).*

*Authorized for distribution by Marg Simmons, chair, Central team, and Leah Casselman, president.*