

The Correct view



The Factual Report on
Corrections Negotiations

Issue #4
October 11, 2001

Klein opens wallet for Alberta public service

Despite familiar tales of provincial budget woes, the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees (AUPE) reached a tentative three-year agreement with Klein's Tory government on October 3.

The settlement will give provincial employees:

- a five percent raise in the first year
- a four per cent raise in the second year
- a salary re-opener in year three.

The salary re-opener allows the union to negotiate another pay raise in the third year of the contract without affecting any other provisions of the collective agreement.

AUPE members who work shifts also got a substantial

boost to their income. Shift premiums for evenings and nights have been raised to \$1.75 per hour from \$0.75. Weekend shift premium went up from \$0.25 per hour to \$1.75.

Another big factor in the tentative agreement is movement on the pay grid. Unlike Ontario, Alberta has seven different pay grids for correctional officers, and the employer unilaterally places new employees on the grid based on education and experience. It can take up to seven years to reach the top level of pay. In the new agreement, most employees will move at least two steps up on the grid.

In an exclusive interview, AUPE corrections representative Earl Thompson

said that he expects his members to ratify the deal.

"Our members are very happy," Thompson said. "We just got new uniforms, and with the combination of the pay raise, the shift premium and the grid movement our members are looking at a wage increase of at least 15 per cent. This government is showing a lot of respect for corrections. It will be interesting to see what happens in Ontario."

Interesting, indeed. On October 2, 2001, Harris said in a speech to the legislature, "...our society and our economy are strong and resilient." Let's see if Ontario has the same respect for the people who keep this province safe.

Little progress this week

Little progress has been made this week in settling essential service issues. The Team continues to exchange documents with the employer,

and an arbitrator has now been assigned to attempt to settle disputes as they arise.

More next week.

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POST AND CIRCULATE

Two new features to watch for

The Correct View will feature two new sections in upcoming issues. The first, *Waste Watchers*, will highlight examples of waste in the Ministry of Correctional Services at a time when employees are looking for a decent contract. Members can participate by sending in examples of waste that they are aware of. Waste examples must be verifiable, and the names of those submitting examples will be kept confidential on request. Those examples chosen for *The*

Correct View will receive a *Lock Talk* T-shirt. Send your submissions to the Corrections Team by fax at (416) 815-1412 or by e-mail at correctionsteam@opseu.org.

The second feature, *Inside Negotiations*, will give members a look into the mechanics of the negotiation process. Explaining how things transpire at a bargaining table will help members get a better feel for the process. Watch for this soon.

Your corrections team

Region 1: Jack Hopkins, L. 122

Region 2: Barry Scanlon, L. 230 (chair)

Region 3: Larry Cripps, L. 309

Region 4: Jim Bothwell, L. 467

Region 5: Dave Graves, L. 521 (vice-chair)

Region 6: Rick Dagenais, L. 642

Region 7: Len Mason, L. 737

You can reach the bargaining team at (416) 815-0284, by fax at (416) 815-1412 and by e-mail at correctionsteam@opseu.org.

***The Correct View* is your only accurate source of Corrections 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 Correct View will be available by fax, by e-mail, and on the OPSEU web site at 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.

The Correct View is authorized for distribution by Barry Scanlon, chair, Corrections team, and Leah Casselman, president.