

“If you pull at the supports of any system enough, that system will collapse and you will have a disaster.”

– Bruce Davidson,
Concerned Walkerton Citizens

It protects your safety.

It protects your money.

It protects your interests.

But after six-and-a-half years of cuts, layoffs, privatization, and mismanagement by the Conservatives at Queen’s Park, the Ontario Public Service (OPS) is in crisis.

Your safety at risk

● In the Walkerton Inquiry report, Justice O’Connor said that “budget reductions... made it less likely that the MOE would pursue proactive measures that would have prevented or limited the tragedy.”

● O’Connor said that the government’s “distaste for regulation” meant that, after they privatized Environment labs, the new private labs were not required to phone the local Public Health Unit or the Ministry of the Environment if they found samples of tainted water. This contributed to hundreds of people falling ill.

● Water isn’t the only area where our safety is at risk! Ontario now has **eight** full-time provincial meat inspectors – down from 150 in 1996. Ontario has laid off **all** its Farm Products Inspectors – the people who used to check our fruits and vegetables for toxic pesticides. Ontario probation and parole officers have the highest caseloads in Canada, and can only meet with offenders for 30 minutes **a month** on average.

Your money at risk

● Ontario’s provincial auditor has found that, in a \$180-million contract with the Conservatives, the Andersen Consulting firm was charging taxpayers up to **six times more** than it would have cost to have public employees doing the same work. The director of the project for Andersen was making **\$575 an hour!**

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

● The privatization of our air ambulance system cost the government over \$2 million in severance pay alone – just to have the **same** paramedics perform the **same** service for the private operator.

We all pay the price for “Walkertonization”

There should be a name for what’s been happening to our public services.

There is: “Walkertonization.”

Walkertonization is what happens when you pull away at the supports of a system until it collapses. It’s happening today, in every Ministry of the Ontario Public Service. It involves:

- selling off services;
- wiping out rules;
- axing jobs;
- reducing job security, job quality, and wages for public employees, while increasing workloads, frustration and stress;
- creating confusion, not leadership; and
- undermining employee morale.

Walkertonization creates a mismanaged, fragmented patchwork of a public service that can’t even protect public safety, let alone the public interest.

It’s time we did something about it.

Help us work for you!

It's time to rebuild the Ontario Public Service.

Over 45,000 OPSEU members aim to do just that. In fact, that's why we're on strike.

We're fighting to make government work better.

We're fighting for public safety, value for money, and a professional, accountable, open public service that serves the public interest, not private profit.

We're fighting for respect and recognition for front-line workers.

We need a better place to work so we can do what we want to do most – our jobs.

Please give us your support.

A message from front-line public employees – members of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union.

Call David Tsubouchi (416) 327-2333

Cabinet Minister David Tsubouchi is the boss of all Ontario Public Service employees. **He needs to hear from you.**

Tell him you **support** strong public services.

Tell him you want to see OPSEU members in the Ontario Public Service **back on the job** with a collective agreement that respects and recognizes their contribution to Ontario life.

Tell him to support the foundation of the public service – **people** – **by negotiating fairly** with public employees.

You can also fax Tsubouchi at (416) 327-3790, or send an e-mail to dave_tsubouchi@ontla.ola.org.



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We can't ignore
the lessons of
Walkerton...



It's time to rebuild

our
Ontario
Public Service