

Table Talk June 5, 2001

June is Local Demand Review month – take part!

OPSEU members in the Ontario Public Service are finalizing their demands this month in preparation for contract talks later this year. **Local Demand Review** is the last stage in the demand-setting process that began five months ago.

All OPS locals have now received the complete package of demands. Their job now is to make sure that the priorities that came out of the February demand-setting meetings are the right ones.

“It is very important that as many members as possible take part in the Local Demand Review,” said OPSEU president Leah Casselman. “When we get into negotiations, our bargaining teams need to know that they are fighting for exactly what the members want.”

Bill 25 affects bargaining

Local Demand Review is different this year because of Bill 25.

Introduced April 30, Bill 25 changes the Public Service Act and parts of the Crown Employees Collective Bargaining Act. It will allow the employer to hire new unclassified employees for up to three years. It will let the employer create a new category of “term classified” employee. It will let private operators be the boss of government employees. It will let

private operators change some workplace rules that, currently, can only be changed by Cabinet. It will override the rules of the Ontario Labour Relations Act to give the Ontario Provincial Police Association the chance to absorb some 2,500 OPSEU members. More details on the Bill are at <http://www.opseu.org/campaign/bill25index.htm>.

Bill 25 creates a new bargaining environment for OPS employees. We may need a few new demands to deal with this new reality. If so, Local Demand

Make a presentation to the public hearings on Bill 25

The government has agreed to one day of public hearings on Bill 25. We do not yet know what day it will be, but it will likely be either June 11, 13, or 18. Time is short – they want to pass the Bill June 19. If you’ve got something to say about this law, take part in the public hearings! To get on the list, send your request to:

Standing Committee on
General Government
c/o Anne Stokes, Clerk of the
Committee
Rm. 1405, Whitney Block, 99
Wellesley St W.
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A2

Get on the list!

To receive *Table Talk* by e-mail or fax, send your e-mail address to lwilliams@opseu.org or fax your fax number to L. Williams at (416) 443-1762.

Review is the place to create them. For more information on Local Demand Review and how it works, contact your local president or next-ranking local officer.

E-mail and fax requests are accepted. E-mail:

anne_stokes@ontla.ola.org

Fax: (416) 325-3505

All you have to say is something like, “This is to formally request standing before the Standing Committee on General Government to make remarks on Bill 25.” **Make sure to include a phone number so the clerk can reach you.**

*Authorized for distribution by
Leah Casselman, president.*