



FRONT *lines*

SEFPO

Information for OPSEU members in the Ontario Public Service • August 15, 2006

Rates rise for meals and mileage

OPSEU members who travel as part of their jobs in the Ontario Public Service are getting an increase in the rates they receive for meals and vehicle expenses.

After months of lobbying by OPSEU members at the ministry level and centrally, the employer has agreed to increase rates as follows:

- **Effective Aug. 14, 2006**, OPSEU members will get up to 40 cents a kilometre in southern Ontario and up to 41 cents a kilometre in the north when they use their own vehicle for business purposes. The rate is reduced on a sliding scale as the number of kilometres driven increases (see chart).

To view the full text of the agreement between Management Board of Cabinet and OPSEU, visit <http://www.opseu.org/ops/frontlines/mealkm.pdf>.

Parks campaign channels public anger over cuts

Summer vacations haven't stopped provincial park users from telling Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty not to cut park staff.

The McGuinty government has cut the equivalent of 226 summer jobs in the parks, affecting everything from garbage collection to park warden patrols to nature education. In response, over 1,300 people have signed OPSEU's online petition, while hundreds more have filled out postcards distributed by OPSEU members at park gates. Visit www.saveontarioparks.ca for more information and to sign the petition.

In an unexpected turn of events, the campaign has also struck a small blow for healthy nutrition for children. In late July, OPSEU President Leah Casselman went public with a news release calling on the government to drop the 344 examples of the Pepsi logo from the Ontario Parks kids' website at www.campsite24.ca. A few days later, Pepsi pulled its distinctive red-white-and-blue logo from the site and replaced it with the logo for Aquafina, its brand of bottled water.

Consumption of soft drinks has been linked to obesity, type 2 diabetes, osteoporosis, and tooth decay.

New kilometric rates

Effective Aug. 14, 2006

Kilometres driven	Southern Ont.	Northern Ont.
0-4,000 km	40 cents/km	41 cents/km
4,001-10,700 km	35 cents/km	36 cents/km
10,701-24,000	29 cents/km	30 cents/km
Over 24,000 km	24 cents/km	25 cents/km

- **Effective Sept. 1, 2006**, meals will be reimbursed at these rates:

- \$8.75 for breakfast;
- \$11.25 for lunch; and
- \$20.00 for dinner.

Members must submit receipts to be reimbursed for meals.