



SEFPO

FRONT *lines*

Information for OPSEU members in the Ontario Public Service • June 16, 2006

You deserve the same rights as private sector employees...

Have your say on successor rights!

The OPSEU campaign to restore successor rights for Crown employees is going full speed ahead.

Successor rights allow unionized workers whose work is sold or transferred to a new employer to move with their work. In Ontario, workers in the private sector have successor rights. Crown employees don't. In 1995, Mike Harris re-wrote Ontario labour law to make it easier to dump jobs out of the OPS.

The result? Thousands of workers saw their jobs sold to private operators, downloaded to municipalities, or transferred to non-profit agencies. No part of the OPS was untouched. The OPS lost jobs in:

- highway maintenance;
- social assistance;
- psychiatric hospitals;
- property assessment;
- air ambulance;
- young offender facilities (and one adult superjail);
- print and mail;
- developmental services; and
- scores of other areas.

The work was still getting done, but the people doing it no longer had the wages, benefits, or pensions provided for by their OPS collective agreement.

Under the Liberals, work is still moving out of the OPS – even though Dalton McGuinty said in 2003 that “Public employees should have the same rights as employees in the private sector, and, as

Premier, I will restore successor rights for Ontario government employees.”

Restoring successor rights would protect employees whose jobs leave the OPS, but that's not all. By raising the cost of privatization and downloading, restoring successor rights would also keep jobs from leaving the OPS in the first place.

For the last two months, OPSEU locals have been campaigning to make Dalton McGuinty keep his promise.

Have your say!

Here are three things you can do today to protect your job tomorrow – and beyond:

1 Sign the “same rights” postcard. Contact your OPSEU local to get one. It's not too late! Many locals are still planning meetings or events in June and July to encourage every member to send a direct message to Mr. McGuinty.

2 Contact your MPP. Changing the laws of the land is all about political pressure, and your elected representative needs to know that you care about successor rights. To send your MPP an e-mail or download a fax message, go to <http://www.opseu.org/campaign/samerights/index.htm> and click on “Contact your MPP.”

3 Join a lobby team. Contact your local president or OPSEU regional office if you would like to be part of an OPSEU lobby team that visits your MPP to deliver our message face to face.