



# FRONT *lines*

Information for OPSEU members in the Ontario Public Service • November 25, 2005

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## New deal brings federal jobs to the OPS

*OPSEU protects existing members, welcomes new ones*

An estimated 700 federal jobs will be transferred into the Ontario Public Service under a new deal between Ontario and the federal government.

The Labour Market Development Agreement, signed this week, will see some federal Employment Insurance (EI) programs transferred to the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) on Jan. 1, 2007.

The programs relate to apprenticeship, integration of recent immigrants, literacy and essential skills, skills upgrading, aboriginal peoples, and workers who face barriers to employment. These programs are already provided provincially in most of Canada.

All programs will end up in the Labour Market and Training Division of the MTCU.

Under an agreement between the Ontario government and OPSEU, federal employees will be covered by the OPSEU collective agreement as soon as they come into the OPS. They will not have to apply for their own jobs.

Jobs will be assigned to the closest possible OPS job classifications and paid according to the OPSEU contract. Federal employees who are placed into lower-paying jobs will have their salaries “red-circled.”

In the OPSEU bargaining unit, former federal employees will have full recognition of their seniority, which will be dovetailed with that of OPSEU members.

Former federal employees will have their job security guaranteed for three years. Classified OPSEU members in the Labour Market and Training Division will have the same guarantee.

“I know that OPSEU members in the OPS can appreciate the uncertainty that federal employees are facing right now,” said Terry Baxter, OPS Supervisor for OPSEU. “The agreement we’ve made assures them of a smooth transition and protects current OPSEU members at the same time.”

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## Still no news on MoF transfer

The Ontario government has made no new announcements about its plan to have the Canada Revenue Agency take over Ontario’s corporate tax system.

First announced over a year ago, the proposed transfer would affect hundreds of OPSEU members in the Ministry of Finance.

The union opposes the transfer.

“Handing over responsibility for corporate taxes to the feds will cost Ontario money and reduce the province’s flexibility to manage its own revenues,” said Terry Baxter. “The government still hasn’t made a believable business case.”