

TO: All Presidents with members in the Ministry of Economic Development & Trade
All Stewards in the Ministry of Economic Development & Trade

FROM: Brian Gould, OPS Supervisor/Negotiator

DATE: 28 June 2007

SUBJECT: **Ministry of Economic Development & Trade**
ERC Minutes – Friday, February 2, 2007

Attached, for your information, are the minutes of the above captioned meeting.

Please post or otherwise make them available to the members in your workplaces.

Also attached is a MERC referral form which should be used when referring unresolved local issues to the ministry level. The referral should be sent care of the Job Security Unit with all the supporting documentation, (e.g. minutes, correspondence, etc.), with any referrals.

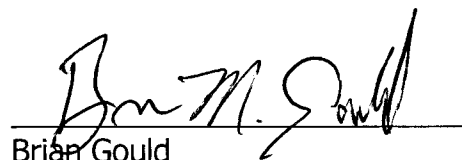
PLEASE NOTE: THESE MINISTRY MINUTES WERE PREPARED BY THE EMPLOYER.

AUTHORIZED FOR DISTRIBUTION:

IN SOLIDARITY,



Warren (Smokey) Thomas
President



Brian Gould
OPS Supervisor/Negotiator

/rw
att.

cc: MERC Chairs
Ministry ERC

**MEDT/ MSBE / MRI / MIA / MDR
MERC MEETING MINUTES
Friday, February 2, 2007
3rd Floor Boardroom, Human Resources Branch
900 Bay Street, Toronto**

Present: **Ministry**
Dan Keating for
Angela Faienza, Co-chair
Lynda Bullock

OPSEU
Ron Langer, Co-chair
Diane Pelletier
Fred Sheehy
Sandra Harper


ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
A. Business Arising		
1. Minutes	Co-chairs signed minutes of November 23, 2006 meeting. Minutes will be posted on StaffNet.	
B. Business Arising From Minutes		
1. Successor Rights	Successor Rights was proclaimed on December 20, 2006, in Ontario. OPSEU acknowledged the Government meeting it's commitment to reinstate successor rights in Ontario as per their election promise to provide unionized workers in the OPS the same rights as unionized workers in the private sector.	

2. Health & Safety	The Union raised the Issue raised regarding the Ministry's Health & Safety Committee not having held any meetings. AMAPCEO no longer has a rep on the committee and the Management rep has not been finalized.	Employer to review with AMAPCEO and report at next MERC meeting Management representative to be confirmed.
3. Scent Free Policy CERC Update	Union provided an update. A sensitivity brochure to be sent out to staff with a memo from MGS. A Health and Wellness Strategy to be communicated by fiscal year end.	
4. Labour Relations Training – CERC Update	Union provided an update. Meeting held January 24, 2007 regarding joint training sessions, review training materials and finalize plans for regional training rollout.	
5. Employee Survey	Employer updated MERC on the survey results and the meetings that had been held to discuss issues raised by results. Recommendations are being distilled and drafts from meeting recommendations and will go to MEC likely in March 2007 for review of recommendations and approvals to being implementation, communications and rollout of approved activities resulting from meeting recommendations. A full OPS survey will commence on February 26, 2007 which all OPS employees will be able to participate in.	
6. Ministry Business Plans	Plans are not final as yet and will be shared with OPSEU once they are final.	

7. Appendix 33 – Unclassified - CERC	Union advised that a memo was issued to all HR Directors on December 14, 2006.	Employer to provide a copy of the memo to the Union.
8. Reduction of OPSEU staff numbers	OPSEU raised its ongoing concerns that OPSEU numbers continue to decline while AMAPCEO numbers increase particularly in the Ministries this MERC represents. The CERC has been tracking hiring stats and this appears to be a trend in the OPS. Employer was advised that Rebuilding Public Services is a priority for OPSEU for 2007 including the reversal of this trend. Employer responded that the Ministry work is changing which is likely why there have been a number of non OPSEU ads being posted.	
9. Meal, Travel & Hospitality Directive	Discussion took place around the interpretation of the new policy, the need for itemized receipts and it was noted that MEDT response time is better than the average.	
10. Sr. Policy Advisor – Program Delivery Unit	OPSEU raised the issue of classification and continues to challenge the classification of this position. The employer disagrees with OPSEU and believes the position is properly classified based on the duties and responsibilities of the position. The parties agreed to disagree on this matter. Position review of all OPSEU positions will take place under the Joint Job Evaluation program once it is finalized.	
11. Mandatory Retirement Ends	OPSEU spoke to the end of mandatory retirement which came into effect December 12, 2006, in Ontario. The benefit impact to those working beyond 65 was discussed.	

C. Standing Items		
1. Active Surplus	0	
2. VEO	0	
3. Long Term Temporary Assignments/ Unclassified Contracts	Report Tabled	
4. Vacancy Report	Employer tabled.	
5. Ontario Works	No Ontario Works employees currently in the ministry.	
D. New Business		
1. Automobile Insurance Act Changes	OPSEU raised strong concerns about the impact on the recent changes under the Insurance Act and the negative impact it has on their members who travel on government business. Concerns or the negative impact on employees' personal vehicle insurance premiums, personal liability issues and the recommendation that OPSEU members will be finding alternative travel arrangements until this matter can be resolved.	

2. Minister of Finance Pre-Budget Consultations	OPSEU raised concerns that the government is looking for programs or services that are no longer required to be provided by the OPS. This could result in job losses for OPSEU members. OPSEU's point is that this kind of activity is not conducive to the rebuilding of government services for Ontarians	
3. Next Meetings	Monday April 30, 2007 Monday September 10, 2007 Monday November 26, 2007	


 Ron Langer, Co-Chair
 MEDT

Dated: JUNE 18/07


 Dan Keating/Angela Faienza Co-Chair
 MEDT

Dated: June 18/07