

# Lock Talk



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## New escort agreement reached

### Settlement sets out procedures for escorting inmates outside the institution

OPSEU has signed a new Memorandum of Settlement spelling out training rights and procedures for escort duty.

Reached with the assistance of Arbitrator Gerry Lee, it will offer escort training to all Correctional Officers.

“This agreement addresses the fact that escorting inmates outside of the institution for medical appointments and such is an inherent and integral part of our job,” said Daryl Pitfield, union co-chair of the Provincial Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee.

“As most, if not all, Correctional Officers in institutions will now be escort-trained, there will be no excuse for the use of others to perform the escorts,” Pitfield said.

Eddie Almeida, vice-co-chair of the Committee said: “With the escort issue finally on its way to resolution, we can now concentrate our energies in other important areas.

“Although there will likely be implementation issues, this marks, we hope, the beginning of the end of a more-than-10-year fight to improve safety on

community escorts and to ensure that Correctional Officers continue to perform this important work.”

The agreement contains other important elements:

- All classified COs who are not currently trained for community escorts shall be offered escort training.
- The employer agrees, where practical, that classified COs shall be offered the basic escort training before unclassified COs.
- Existing classified COs may decline the basic escort training. Those who do, or who do not complete the training, will be grandfathered for the duration of their employment.
- Classified COs who initially decline the training may apply for it at a later date.
- Unclassified COs will be required to complete the training, with training offered based on date of hire.
- The basic escort training for all existing classified and unclassified COs will be complete by Sept. 9, 2005.

Brian Chauvin and Barry Scanlon were also members of the provincial health and safety team involved in the negotiations which led to the agreement.

Full details are on the website at <http://www.opseu.org/ops/ministry/locktalk/locktalkjuly2004.htm>

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Authorized for distribution:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leah Casselman'.

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