

OEB Voice

Information for OPSEU members at the Ontario Energy Board,
part of the Ministry of Energy No 2. August 5, 2003

It's your future; be informed

The Ontario government has passed a law (Bill 23) that will make the Ontario Energy Board a self-funding regulatory agency or Crown Corporation. The funding of the new OEB's operations will be from fees it continues to collect from stakeholders rather than from a government of Ontario budget.

This law was proclaimed on Aug. 1.

The OEB will be transferred or divested from the Ontario government, probably next March.

Your jobs will be transferred to the Ministry of Energy until a reasonable efforts agreement is signed. When your work is divested to the new OEB, you will no longer be part of the Ontario Public Service and you will no longer have the protection of its collective agreement.

OPSEU is concerned both for the Ontario public good and for changes which may have an impact in your workplace and your job.

Get answers to your questions

OPSEU held meetings on June 2, for non-management OEB employees and provided information on the divestment process, and the rights and entitlements of those represented by OPSEU.

- Another meeting is scheduled for **September 4**. It's at the Northern District Library, 40 Orchard View Blvd., Room 200. [Just north of Yonge and Eglinton]
- To find out about this meeting and how you can stay informed see "**Let's stay connected!**" on the next page.

You have legal rights

OPSEU members of the joint Reasonable Efforts Committee will meet with Ministry of Energy management to negotiate a Reasonable Efforts Agreement that will preserve your rights and entitlements. We have asked for a meeting date and the names of management members.

OPSEU members whose jobs are being divested at the OEB are protected by Appendix 18-Schedule B of the OPS collective agreement (page 153). It sets the rules for transferring staff out of the OPS. It requires the Employer to meet with the OPSEU Reasonable Efforts Committee to ensure that your rights are protected.

An offer of employment to the new OEB follows the signing of the Reasonable Efforts Agreement. You will have three working days to accept the offer. If you do not respond, you will have been deemed to accept the offer. If you do not accept, it is considered that you have resigned. If you resign you do not qualify for Employment Insurance

Once you have accepted the offer you will no longer be in the OPS and you will be ineligible for closed OPS competitions. If you return to the OPS after accepting your offer, you cannot carry over your seniority back into the OPS.

You read Appendix 18 carefully. The following is one of the important articles that will be reviewed at the joint Reasonable Efforts Committee.

Article 6.2.1 which says "the employer will propose in negotiations with the receiving

Continued overleaf

Make sure you have all the facts.

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employer that the job offers shall be at a salary of at least 100 per cent of the respective employee's weekly salary at the time of the transfer and recognize the service and seniority in the Ontario Public Service (OPS) of each employee for the purpose of qualification for vacation, benefits (except pension), layoff and job competition, severance and termination payments to the extent that they are provided in the proponent's workplace or if none, the OPS."

If you have special circumstances – such as maternity leave, secondment or LTIP - you can get answers at the meeting Sept. 4.

Protect your rights

OPSEU would like to continue representing OEB members. Union affiliation preserves your rights and entitlements in the long term after your transfer from the Ontario Public Service.

If OPSEU is organized at the new OEB the terms and conditions of work in your offer of employment are frozen until your first contract is signed. As OPSEU members in the Broader Public Sector, you will not pay dues from the time you sign your Offer letter until the first contract is signed.

OPSEU will recognize previous AMAPCEO OPS seniority in the employees' offer of employment if OPSEU is the one bargaining unit created in the new organization.

OPSEU union dues at 1.325 per cent are competitive with other unions and are 100 per cent tax deductible. Dues pay for grievance administration, contract negotiations, member services, conventions, educationals, meetings, local administration, etc. Without a union, you have no protection and the cost of retaining a lawyer could run into thousands of dollars.

OPSEU represents approximately 510 agencies in the Broader Public Sector. Some of these groups have fewer than 10 people. Each one has its own contract. However, each has access to OPSEU specialized services such as negotiators, house legal counsel, local service

representatives, job security officers, grievances officers, health and safety officers, benefit and pension officers, human rights and education campaigns officers.

The Team appreciates the many OPSEU staff who are assisting our OEB members.

Let's stay connected!

Ask a Reasonable Efforts Team contact about joining an information tree with your home e-mail or telephone number. For Quick Post items, upcoming meetings, and further contacts check your OPSEU bulletin board in the copy rooms. Volunteer to be an Team information contact and stay in the loop.

Your OPSEU Reasonable Efforts Team:

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OEB VOICE is a regular update for OPSEU members in the Ontario Energy Board. Tell us what you want to see in future issues. To receive the newsletter by secure email send your non-work e-mail address to Janet Sakauye and Lina Buccilli. For more information see the OPSEU website: www.opseu.org. Go to OPS button at the top and pull down the menu to By Ministry, then click GO. We're under the Ministry of Energy. If you do not have home access you can see the web page and open a free email account at public libraries.

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Leah Casselman, President

