

Property values
DOWN

Property taxes
UP

Local services
DOWN

User fees
UP

Profits
DOWN

Unemployment
UP

Taking 500 jobs and a \$21.2 million payroll out of our local economy will have widespread effects. As jobless workers pull up stakes and leave, local property values will weaken and fall. This will put pressure on Chatham-Kent municipal council to either increase property taxes, reduce municipal services, or charge more user fees. As unemployment rises, local business profits will fall. Some businesses won't survive at all.

It's a pretty high price for our community to pay for one mistaken, misguided government decision.

Say **NO** to closing
Southwestern –
and **YES** to
excellence in
public services!

Public service operations exist to serve the public, but governments have long recognized that facilities like Southwestern Regional Centre can play a key role in keeping local economies stable and thriving through good times and bad. Please contact your local MPP and municipal politicians to help stop the closure – and save a precious resource that helps hundreds of Ontario families.

**You can also contact
Dalton McGuinty directly at
(416) 325-3745.**

For more information,
visit www.opseu.org.



*Produced by the Ontario Public Service
Employees Union, proudly representing
8,500 Ontario developmental services workers.*

The McGuinty government plans to close
Southwestern Regional Centre in Blenheim.
Brace yourself for an

**Economic
Earthquake**

500 jobs - GONE

The McGuinty government plans to close Ontario's regional centres for people with developmental disabilities. Liberal Minister Sandra Pupatello says she'll shut centres in Blenheim, Orillia, and Smiths Falls "faster than you think."

It's a very bad idea. Closing regional centres will tear over 1,000 people with disabilities away from their homes, their friends, and the programs and services they now enjoy. For most, the specialized services they need simply aren't available elsewhere. Families right across Ontario will feel the pain if they lose these services.

The *economic* pain, however, will be concentrated in just three places. One of them is Blenheim. All of Chatham-Kent will feel the shock of the economic earthquake.

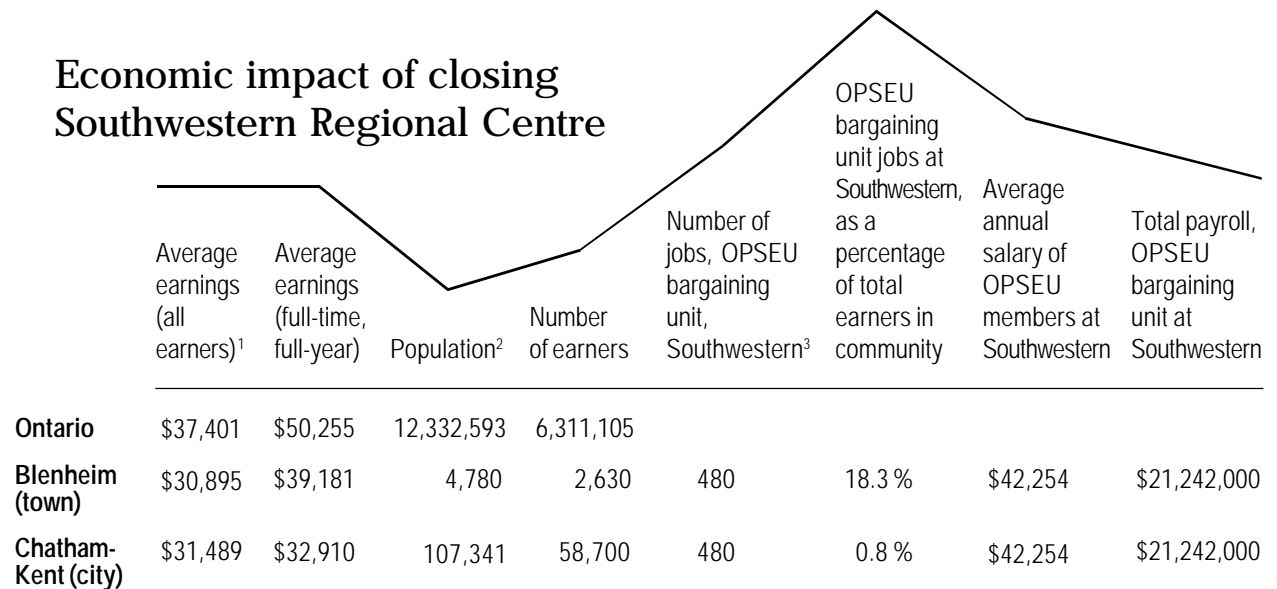
A \$21.2 million payroll - GONE

Southwestern Regional Centre employs over 500 front-line staff and managers. The payroll for the 480 unionized staff is over \$21.2 million a year.

Southwestern accounts for close to one per cent of the jobs in Chatham-Kent and a whopping **18 per cent** of the jobs in Blenheim.

These are not just any jobs. They're good union jobs that pay more than the average in our area. Wiping out these jobs will knock our economy for a loop and kill *at least* 200 private sector jobs as Southwestern staff move away and stop spending money locally.

Economic impact of closing Southwestern Regional Centre



¹ Estimate of average earnings based on 2001 census figures from Statistics Canada community profiles, increased by compounded rate of inflation of 6.3 per cent to August 2004.

² Community population figures are from the 2001 census; Ontario population is from the the *Ontario Demographic Quarterly*, Ontario Ministry of Finance, April 2004.

³ All OPSEU bargaining unit figures are August 2004 figures from OPSEU Information Services. Bargaining unit jobs as a percentage of total jobs in community may be less or greater depending on local workforce changes since 2001.