

Lock Talk



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Thank you, Barry

It is with deep regret we announce that Barry Scanlon, Corrections MERC Chair, has taken a management position with the Ontario government. Barry leaves behind a legacy in OPSEU generally and Corrections in particular that is unlikely to be rivaled. As a member of the Corrections MERC team since 1992 (and chair of that team since 1994), he led the team that negotiated scores of agreements protecting members' job security, negotiated lateral transfers and job trades for those displaced by jail closures and helped create hundreds of full-time jobs for unclassified members. He was one of the driving forces behind the Corrections anti-privatization campaign.

Barry's most recent accomplishments came as a result of chairing the last two OPS Corrections bargaining teams.

Those who worked with Barry will certainly miss his friendly, engaging and empathetic manner. We won't forget the countless hours he spent on the road, driving to hearings, meetings, demonstrations and rallies, often with his kids in tow. We also won't forget his overflowing OPSEU bags and infamous "backseat of the car" filing system (experts predicted that if the car ever caught fire, it would have burned for four days). Yet Barry not only could find that eight-year-old

memo at a moment's notice, he could tell you who was at the meeting and likely what each of those people are doing today. He never forgot a name or a face.

Corrections is a better place thanks to Barry Scanlon. On behalf of the Corrections Division, we wish Barry the best in his future endeavours.

Changes to the MERC

As a result of Barry's departure, there are changes to the Corrections MERC team.

Vice Chair Dave Graves moves to the position of Chair. "With Barry's departure, we have lost a valuable resource, and the team will miss him," Graves said. "His calm, rational approach to problem solving is something the team will definitely continue."

Dave brings a wealth of experience to the role of Chair. With nearly ten years' experience as MERC Vice Chair, and 28 years experience as a correctional officer, he knows his way around. Dave has also sat on three separate Corrections bargaining teams.

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“We have many challenges ahead,” Graves said. “One of our priority issues is implementation of the Resources Position Management (RPM) agreements that were signed last May. If the employer doesn’t fully implement the agreements we will take it back to the Board to get an order. We are also concentrating on the workload and rollover issues in Probation and Parole.

“I have received countless phone calls and e-mails from local presidents and activists,” Graves said. “I can’t thank everyone enough, and we appreciate your continued support.”

Neil Fraser of Local 248, first alternate to the team, will now move up as a member. The team will designate their new Vice Chair at a later date. The members of the team are:

Dave Graves: Chair

Len Mason: Member

Neil Fraser: Member

Gord Longhi: Probation and Parole Member

For more information,
call Don Ford (ext. 7442) at
1-800-268-7376 or
(416) 443-8888.
E-mail: dford@opseu.org

A big date is looming

For those who didn’t mark it on your calendars, 2006 is the year the contract expires for the private jail in Penetanguishene. Let’s all remember the heart-warming words of then Leader of the Official Opposition, Dalton McGuinty, in 2003:

“Ontario police services have been opposed to private jails, host communities have been opposed to private jails, and we have heard similar concerns from both our corrections officers and the inmates of these facilities. We would not breach contracts with private companies operating jails but we would not renew the contracts and no new private jails would be opened. Private jails are a failed experiment and have no place in Ontario.”

In the days and weeks ahead, the Corrections Division will mobilize to ensure that Dalton remembers what he said. Stay tuned for details.

Authorized for distribution:



Leah Casselman, President