

Lock Talk



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Corrections welcomes the new faces on the MERC

At the OPS Divisional meetings held November 25, delegates to the meeting elected the new Corrections MERC Team for 2006-2008.

Three new members were elected to the team. Dan Sidsworth, a Correctional Officer from Local 234 at Vanier/Maplehurst Complex, was elected Chair of the team. Paul Johnstone from Local 224, Owen Sound Jail, and Eddie Almeida from Local 248, Hamilton-Wentworth Detention Centre, were also elected. Gord Longhi, Probation and Parole Representative, was re-elected to the team and was also elected team Vice-Chair.

Members elected to the Provincial Health and Safety Team are:

Curt Bishop, Chair, Local 670, Algoma Correctional and Treatment Centre; Lisa Kitchen, Vice-Chair, Local 154, Windsor P&P; Brian

Chauvin, Local 135, Windsor Jail, and; Emidio Casullo, Local 234, Vanier/Maplehurst Complex.

Dan Sidsworth says he looks forward to leading the Corrections Division for the next two years.

“We certainly have some challenges ahead of us,” he said. “We need to ensure that the design of the new facilities scheduled for construction is appropriate and that the facilities remain public. Overcrowding in the facilities and workload issues in P&P are still plaguing our members. And health and safety issues are always a large part of the delivery of correctional services. We certainly won’t have a lack of things to do.”

The updated MERC Team listing is on the OPSEU website at: <http://www.opseu.org/ops/merc/mercindex.htm>.

“Thanks for all your support”

Outgoing MERC Chair Dave Graves thanks all the members of the Corrections Division for their support, especially over the past year.

“It definitely wasn’t easy taking over the Chair position last year, and I couldn’t have done it if it wasn’t for the support of Len Mason, Neil Fraser, Gord Longhi, Rick Dagenais, and especially OPSEU Job Security Officer Sandra Harper. They were integral in keeping the MERC on track and focused on the outstanding issues.”

Dave, who didn’t stand for reelection this term, also thanks the members of the Division who have given incredible support to the team.

“The Corrections Division is only as strong as it is because of the strength of the members’ support,” he said. “We couldn’t do our job without you.”

Dave Graves was elected to the MERC in 1996, and prior to that was on the 1996 OPS Corrections bargaining team. Dave was also on the last two bargaining teams in 2002 and 2005.

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Mimico no longer being decommissioned

Staff at Mimico C.C. who received surplus notices can now file those under "Not At This Time."

An agreement signed Nov. 20, 2006 between the Ministry and the MERC spells out the details for the reversal of the decision to close Mimico.

In a nutshell, the agreement rescinds all surplus notices that were issued to staff on November 27, 2002, February 27, 2003, April 23, 2003, May 24, 2006 and June 7, 2006. Affected staff have the option of electing to remain/return as an employee to Mimico Correctional Centre based upon available positions and their respective continuous service date.

Please note that staff who have already taken Pay In Lieu or who left under VEO will not be affected.

If you have any questions, please call Dan Sidsworth at (416) 807-3469 or Sandra Harper at 1-800-268-7376 Ext. 8227. You can also read the full text of the agreement at:

http://www.opseu.org/ops/ministry/locktalk/mimico_2006.pdf

**For more information,
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