



February 26 2008

Dear Sisters and Brothers of the ODSP:

It is my pleasure on behalf of the executive board of OPSEU to welcome you to today's important mobilization meeting in preparation for the March 4 ODSP Day of Action.

Few in the Ontario Public Service work as hard, but for as little public support, as those employed by the Ontario Disability Support Program. By now, we are very familiar with the findings of repeated surveys looking at conditions in your workplaces. Ontario imposes a greater caseload burden on its income support workers than any other province in Canada.

The result has been a deterioration of the health of ODSP workers caused by unrealistic workplace demands and a worsening of public services for those who rely on your frontline service.

This abuse must stop. That is why I look forward to taking part in the ODSP Day of Action. At every opportunity I will reinforce your goal that the ODSP needs \$60 million more in this spring's provincial budget to reduce your caseload ratios to the national average.

Your presence at today's mobilization meeting speaks to your dedication to building a stronger union movement in Ontario. I am truly grateful for your participation and willingness to return to your members with the message that our strength grows and our demands will be met when we stand together in common cause.

All the best today and on March 4.

In Solidarity

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Warren Thomas". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Warren (Smokey) Thomas
President