

Action memo

Date: February 27, 2008
To: OPS Local Presidents
From: Warren (Smokey) Thomas, President
Re: ODSP Day of Action: Tuesday, March 4

Dear sisters and brothers:

Stewards from the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) met yesterday in Toronto and endorsed March 4 as a Day of Action.

On March 4, ODSP members will hold noon-hour information pickets outside local ODSP offices around the province to call on the McGuinty government to increase ODSP funding by an additional \$60 million in this spring's budget.

ODSP staff face a staggering caseload ratio of 530:1, more than double the national average. Studies have shown this is causing ill health, stress, tension and high rates of absenteeism among our members. Because of the caseload crunch, 325,000 Ontarians living with disabilities, and in poverty, are not receiving the public service they are entitled to.

The \$60 million would bring the ODSP caseload ratio in line with the national average of 250:1.

The ODSP sub-committee of the Community and Social Services MERC is leading this important fight. The sub-committee has the full support of the OPSEU Executive Board and I know it can expect your support and participation, as well.

I am asking you to contact your ODSP stewards and offer any support and help you can to make March 4 a success.

As we move into OPS bargaining this year, we anticipate workload will be a major issue at the bargaining table. Nowhere is this more evident than at ODSP.

Thank you in advance for helping your sisters and brothers deliver a strong message to the McGuinty government on March 4: Ease the ODSP Caseload Crunch Now!

In solidarity,



Warren (Smokey) Thomas
President

cc: OPSEU Executive Board
Central Enforcement and Renewal Committee
Community and Social Services Ministry Enforcement and Renewal Committee, ODSP sub-committee
Local Services Division, local service representatives, job security officers