

COUNT *me* **IN!** 

THE OPSEU CENSUS

The OPSEU Census: A mandate for change

by **Sue Dafoe and Archana Mathew**


In April 2008, Convention proved that solidarity works. After years of lobbying from OPSEU's Equity community, Convention passed a resolution calling for a census of our Union. This was a mandate from our membership to pay attention to the changing demographics of Ontario as OPSEU positions itself as the Union of Choice.

Creating an inclusive home in OPSEU for Ontario's increasingly diverse workforce makes the identification and removal of all barriers to participation an organizational priority. OPSEU has taken this opportunity to lead the process of change.

The OPSEU Census will unfold in two phases. This fall, a census of the entire membership will create a demographic snapshot of our current membership and staff. Next year, we will focus on identifying and making recommendations about how to remove any systemic barriers to participation in our membership and employment practices.

This is an enormous project with many layers. As with any challenge worth taking on, it will take the participation of our entire membership to make this project a success.

In the coming weeks and months, expect to hear more about the OPSEU Census. Surveys are now being drafted. Members and staff are getting ready to hit the ground running. By November we are planning to have your surveys out to you for completion.

Please ensure that you count yourself in. 

OPSEU to negotiate Broader Public Sector pensions

by **Marnie Niemi**

With limited government pensions available, OPSEU members can't afford NOT to have a pension plan.

The OPSEU Executive Board has approved the creation of a new pension plan for members of the Broader Public Service who are not already covered by a pension plan.

In Sector 2, for example — where over half of the bargaining units have only limited RRSP arrangements — pensions are a top bargaining priority. Without a pension plan, these members must rely on their personal savings to sustain them during retirement.

The OPSEU Pension Plan System — TOPPSfund — will be negotiated this fall across the province in Developmental Service and Child Treatment sectors 2, 7 and 15, where the need for pensions is greatest.

With flexible, matched contributions and sharing of risk for surpluses/deficits, "OPSEU has designed a pension plan that will be a good fit for these sectors" said OPSEU Vice President/Treasurer Patty Rout.

*TOPPSfund will be able to accept contributions as of January 1, 2010.
Watch for further details at the BPS Conference this November.*

TOPPS 
fund

*The OPSEU Pension Plan System
Régime de retraite du SEFPO*