



OPSEU Bargaining 2002 Update

From Local 232's website www.opseu232.org - What's New Page

January 25, 2002

Central Team Applies for Conciliation

As a result of the Employer's total disregard and lack of respect for the work you (our members) do "to keep the lights on" in the work place, just to try and deliver **Ontario's Public Services; which after 6 years of cut backs as the Provincial Auditor has cited in his report - as critical, especially with Ontario's food safety and road safety.** The Central Team has taken a decisive step to get proper recognition for your issues at the bargaining table. For the complete details - see the Jan. 24 edition of The Real Deal.

Thanks for all your efforts in supporting the bargaining team to date - it's time to step it up! Decorate the inside of your office cubical with OPSEU Stuff, wear OPSEU buttons and black on Tuesdays. Be creative! Be sure to look for the "Enough is Enough" CD/DVD playing on a computer near you!

Casselman To Visit Hamilton on Monday

OPSEU President, Leah Casselman will be in Hamilton at the **Connaught Hotel (Connaught Room) on Monday Jan. 28, 2002 at 7 PM** speaking with members about our campaign to Rebuild Ontario's Public Services and restore its ability to protect public safety and the public interest.

Members will tell you that a strong public service needs people who are committed to careers in the public service, and you get commitment from people when you show them you have the same commitment to them. People need recognition and respect for the work they are doing.

Members of the bargaining team will also be on hand to give an update on what's happening or not happening at the bargaining table.

Local 232 General Membership Meeting - Feb 1, 2002

The Local will be holding a general membership meeting on Feb 1, 2002 at 12 noon to elect Stewards, the Executive and delegates to this year's convention. A light lunch will be provided. A Bargaining Update will be included as part of the meeting too. At 1 pm we will rerun the meeting (except the elections) for those members unable to attend at noon.

OPSEU Local 232 has new website address: www.opseu232.org

Membership Update Committees / Phone Trees

The Stewards are currently updating our membership lists, so if you receive a memo with either a membership card or change of address form attached, please complete it and return it to your Steward before the end of January. In addition, please provide us with your home phone number so if we need to communicate a message through our phone tree, we can get in contact with you.

Inside/Outside Training a Big Success

Thanks to all those members and Stewards who gave up their weekend to attend Region 2's Inside/Outside Strike Prep Training the weekend of Jan 19/20 in Guelph and St. Catherines. The cross pollination of creative ideas (especially those of Corrections) will prove to be very effective in maximizing pressure on the Employer to bargain an "A" contract.

Grievance settlement hikes OPS mileage

A grievance settlement has resulted in a significant increase in mileage rates for members in the OPS. The old and new rates for Northern and Southern Ontario are shown in the grid below. The increased rates will apply, retroactively, to all travel expenses claimed after April 1, 2001.

Note these rates only apply from April 1, 2001 to December 31, 2001. A permanent increase to the mileage rate is being pursued at the bargaining table.

Please contact your Manager regarding submitting a travel claim for reimbursement for the increased allowance. Any concerns can be directed to your Steward or the MERC Team.

Rates	Old	New
Southern Ontario		
0 - 4,000 km	30 ¢	33.75 ¢
4,001-10,700	26 ¢	29.25 ¢
10,701-24,000	22 ¢	24.75 ¢
Over 24,000	18 ¢	20.25 ¢
Northern Ontario		
0 - 4,000 km	30.5 ¢	34.25 ¢
4,001-10,700	26.5 ¢	29.75 ¢
10,701-24,000	22.5 ¢	25.25 ¢
Over 24,000	19 ¢	21.25 ¢

MPP Lobby - The next phase of rebuilding Ontario the Public Service is to obtain support of your Local MPP. If you are interested in participating in this campaign, please contact the OPSEU Regional Mobilizers in the Guelph office at (519) 837-3330 or by email guelphmob@opseu.org.

System Officers - The Information Technology Working Group (a subcommittee of CERC) met on Jan 7, 2002 with four representatives of the OPS Employer from the Negotiations Secretariat and the Corporate Chief Information Office (CCIO). More details are on the OPSEU website - www.opseu.org

Strike Vote = 'A' Contract

If required, when the Bargaining Team calls for a strike vote, it's used to measure the mandate the Bargaining Team has from the membership. It does NOT mean that the membership will automatically go out on strike. Far from it, a high percentage of contracts, where there's strong a strike vote will settle without a strike/lockout ever taking place. A strong mandate of 90%+ gives the Team that much more leverage at the table in negotiating an "A" contract.

In the auto industry, a strike vote is taken before they ever sit down at the bargaining table – that's how they bargain in that sector. In the Public Service, the strike vote is taken near the end of process.

In 1999 only two thirds of the membership voted – of that about 67% voted in support of their bargaining Teams. In the end, the Employer's offer (post strike vote) – our current agreement was base on that level of support given to the team. This around, when it's called for – let's give the Team a 90-95% strike vote and watch how the Employer responds! Note there will only be one vote taken prior to a strike (if required).

Did You Know - Helpful Hints

If you hadn't thought of it - be sure you put off any major purchase until after the contract is ratified - have your prescriptions filled - kids dental appointments completed - buy extra toilet paper (dry goods, extra) with the next 3 pay cheques. As well, talk to your financial institution about there policy on skipping loan/mortgage payments, if necessary - it's better to be prepared - just in case (you never know what the future holds)!

Phone Polling - Viewpoints Research is conducting a poll on behalf of OPSEU of the membership as we move forward in bargaining. Taking the time to assist with the survey is a big help to our OPS bargaining teams.