

**Everyone
needs
support.**

BARGAINING BULLETIN



News from the CAAT-Support negotiating team

Strong team ready with a plan for this round of bargaining

Words from the Chair...

This round of bargaining kicked off at our divisional pre-bargaining meeting Sept. 27 and 28. Delegates elected a strong team to represent you and developed an exciting and effective strategy for this round.

On Jan. 12 and 13, delegates from all colleges met to discuss and vote on demands. We listened to your representatives, and have now started the work to take your demands and priorities to the bargaining table.

The exchange of proposals took place on Feb. 12. Our exchange document can now be viewed on the CAAT Support bargaining page at www.opseu.org.

In this round we're more prepared than ever. You've already returned 2,700 bargaining surveys. Mobilizing is starting early so we can build on the 93 per cent rejection vote and our 85 per cent strike mandate in the last round.

The team's heading into this new round with confidence - knowing that members will be involved in the process and provide support when asked. Your support is the cornerstone of bargaining: members making their voices heard, not just seven individuals who represent you.

We're anticipating a tough round of negotiations. As in previous rounds, we count on your full and active support, so we can come back with the best deal possible.

Our new logo reads "Everybody needs support!" We chose this slogan because it speaks to the value of the work we all do. It describes our jobs within the college system from registration clerks that help students register for courses, to library technicians that help with research projects, to maintenance staff who make sure we have a clean and safe work environment. Everyone needs support.

YOUR BARGAINING TEAM

Rod Bemister, Chair; Local 561, Seneca College
Marg Rae, Vice-Chair, Local 109, Fanshawe College
Richard Belleau, Local 731, Confederation College
Rick Nemisz, Local 351, Durham College
Florry Lang, Local 137, St. Clair College
Rasho Donchev, Local 559, Centennial College
Katherine Hilyer, Local 656, Cambrian College

Got questions?

Contact the bargaining team at:

bargaining@rogers.com

Approved for distribution:
Warren (Smokey) Thomas, President
Ontario Public Service Employees Union

Meet your team....

Rod Bemister, Chair

Rod has worked at Seneca College since 1988. He's a technician in the English Language Institute. Vice-president of his local for four years, he's now president of the largest support staff local in the college system. Rod was vice-chair of the bargaining team in 2003 and chair of the team in 2005 and 2008. Rod's also chair of the provincial Employee Employer Relations Committee and a former member of the Classification Review Committee. This is Rod's fourth round of negotiations.

Marg Rae, Vice Chair

Marg has worked as a Technologist at Fanshawe for eight years. She was chief steward at her local and is now the local president. Marg also sits on the Union/College Committee and the Employment Stability Committee at Fanshawe. She was elected to the provincial Employee Employer Relations Committee in 2005 and 2008. This is Marg's second round of negotiations and her experience will serve us well during this round.

Richard Belleau

Richard has been employed at Confederation College as a Skilled Trades Worker for 14 years. He's been chief steward and is now local president. Richard served on three previous bargaining teams and brings experience from the Grievance Scheduling Committee, Joint Classification Committee and Employee/Employer Relations Committee. Prior to being involved with OPSEU Richard was an activist with the Brotherhood of

Railway Airlines and Steamship Clerks. He's been actively involved in health and safety and has served on the last three bargaining teams.

Rick Nemisz

Rick started at Durham as a General Maintenance Worker in 1976 and became involved with his local in 1977. After the strike in 1979, he became the local president and has held this position for 27 years. Rick served on the bargaining team between 1989 – 1997 and again in 2003, 2005 and now the 2008 team. He's looking forward to bringing his experience to this round. Rick has worked on the Joint Insurance Committee, Grievance Scheduling Committee and Employee Employer Relations Committee.

Florry Lang

Florry has been working for St. Clair College since 1999 as a Chemical Engineer Technologist. She became active in her local in 2000, serving as trustee, 2nd vice-president, 1st vice-president and finally as president for the past four years. She's been active in health and safety and co-facilitates for her regional educational as a Workers Health and Safety Instructor. Florry was elected as EERC co-chair in September. She's bargained a variety of collective agreements as an OPSEU MDT in 2006. As the president of a composite local she's bargained three collective agreements for her members. This is her first round of bargaining on the CAAT support team and she looks forward to the experience and opportunity.

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Rasho Donchev

Rasho has been working for Centennial College since 2004 and became active in his local in 2005. He now serves as vice-president of his local. He's been highly involved with the new Classification System providing workshops and training seminars for the support staff. This is his first round of bargaining. Rasho is our first youth member on the team and brings a fresh perspective to bargaining.

Katherine Hilyer

Katherine has worked at Cambrian College as a Programmer/Analyst since 2000. She's been local president for six years. She sits on the provincial Employee/Employer Relations Committee, is a co-facilitator for OPSEU training and has taken several courses through OPSEU's educational program (Steward 1, Duty to Accommodate, Advanced Grievance Handling, Employee/Employer Relations and Co-facilitation.) This is her first round of bargaining.

Roy Storey, OSPEU Staff Negotiator

Roy started his career with the Department of Lands and Forests as part of the Seasonal Fire Crew in 1970. He moved to the Department of Highways in 1972 as a full-time worker, and moved back to Natural Resources in 1974.

Roy was elected to the OPSEU Executive Board in 1975, 1977, and 1979. He stepped down from the Board and became a Staff Representative in 1979.

As a testament to his skill, Roy was promoted to Supervisor of Negotiations and later to Supervisor of Regions 6 and 7. Roy was heavily involved in the first three rounds of Ontario Public Service bargaining under the right-to-strike, two of which were settled after strikes. Roy retired in Dec. 2003, but agreed to come back for this round of CAAT-S negotiations in Aug. 2007.

Roy's favorite saying, quoting his good friend, former OPSEU Chief Negotiator Andy Todd, is "employers come and go, collective bargaining is forever."

**For the latest bargaining update visit:
www.opseu.org and look for the button.**

