

UNITED WE STAND

Issue 5

Monday, September 12, 2011

OPSEU Local 109

H U H ? ? ?

Fanshawe's Dr. Howard Rundle and some other Ontario college presidents have said publicly they are "perplexed" and confused by the CAAT support staff strike and don't understand why we walked out.

They're not the only ones shaking their heads. What **OUR** members don't understand is why Dr. Rundle told CTV Two London on Sept.7 that the two sides differed by only by 1.5% and that "isn't that far apart" (<http://youtu.be/VsWCTLf1HQM>). Three days later, with no changes in the situation, the College held a news conference where Dr. Rundle said the parties were so far apart there was no point in returning to the table (<http://www.londoncommunitynews.com/2011/09/opseu-strike-perplexes-fanshawe-president/>).

Scene #1 of this Twilight Zone saga began just before midnight on Aug. 31 when College Employer Council (CEC) CEO Don Sinclair told our bargaining team he wouldn't talk to them until they called him to accept CEC's offer. Then CEC issued a media release on Sept. 8 (<http://www.thecouncil.on.ca/download/11856>) saying the Council always wanted to talk but the union wouldn't. (OPSEU has been asking for resumption of talks since Sept. 1 <http://www.opseucaatsupport.org/2011/09/01/college-workers-to-walk-off-job-sept-1/>).

When our bargaining team chair invited Mr. Sinclair to the table to talk, he said no (http://www.cp24.com/servlet/an/local/CTVNews/20110908/110908_college_strike_talks/20110908/?hub=CP24Home).

Mr. Sinclair said, in essence, he won't come back to the table and negotiate a collective agreement until we tell him what will be in the collective agreement we haven't yet negotiated.

Now **THAT'S** confusing!


Fanshawe fires part-time staffers

At least two part-time staff have been fired by the College for refusing to cross our picket line.

The two workers — both long-time College employees — received terse letters from Human Resources abruptly terminating their employment. This type of treatment is just another reason why part-timers should be unionized, so they have some rights.

Meanwhile, the Local is receiving reports of some part-time staff working up to 40 hour a week, with very limited time for breaks and lunch.


Weather Forecast for Tuesday, September 13



Chance of thundershowers

High: 26°C
Feels Like: 31°C
Low: 14°C
Wind: SW 30km/hr
POP: 40%


LONDON



Chance of thundershowers

High: 26°C
Feels Like: 31°C
Low: 15°C
Wind: SW 35km/hr
POP: 40%


ST. THOMAS



Chance of thundershowers

High: 25°C
Feels Like: 30°C
Low: 15°C
Wind: SW 40km/hr
POP: 40%

SIMCOE



Chance of thundershowers

High: 25°C
Feels Like: 30°C
Low: 14°C
Wind: SW 35km/hr
POP: 40%

WOODSTOCK

Local 109 starts campaign to target MPPs seeking re-election

Voters in Ontario will go the polls Oct.6. Meanwhile, many MPPs from our region are seeking re-election. This is a great opportunity for us to spread the word about the strike and our issues — and to encourage MPPs to use their influence to get both parties back to the table.

Here is the list of area MPPs and key officials, their emails addresses and telephone numbers. Please remember to be polite and respectful in your communications. Each letter or email should include your name and address so the recipient will know that your communication is legitimate.

Hon. Dalton McGuinty, MPP (Ottawa South)
Premier of Ontario
Phone (Queen's Park): 416-325-1941
E-Mail: dmcguinty.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org
Twitter: @Dalton_McGuinty

Hon. John Milloy, MPP (Kitchener Centre)
Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities
Phone (Queen's Park): 416-326-1600
E-Mail: jmilloy.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org
Twitter: @John_Milloy

Tim Hudak, MPP (Niagara West-Glanbrook)
Leader of the Official Opposition
Phone (Queens Park): 416-325-8454
E-Mail: tim.hudakco@pc.ola.org
Twitter: @timhudak

Andrea Horwath, MPP (Hamilton Centre)
Leader, New Democratic Party of Ontario
Phone (Queen's Park): 416-325-2777
E-Mail: ahorwath-co@ndp.on.ca
Twitter: @andreaorwath

Area MPPs

Toby Barrett, MPP (Haldimand-Norfolk)
Phone (Simcoe Office): 519-428-0446
E-Mail: toby.barrettco@pc.ola.org
Twitter: N/A

Hon. Chris Bentley, MPP (London West)
Attorney General of Ontario
Phone (London Office): 519-657-3120
E-Mail: cbentley.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org
Twitter: @Chris_Bentley

Ernie Hardeman, MPP (Oxford)
Phone (Woodstock Office): 519-537-5222
Toll-Free Phone – 1-800-265-4046
E-Mail: ernie.hardemanco@pc.ola.org
Twitter (executive assistant): @TaraKBarry

Hon. Deb Matthews, MPP
(London North Centre)
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
Phone (London Office): 519-432-7339
E-Mail: dmatthews.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org
Twitter: @Deb_Matthews

Hon. Steve Peters, MPP
(Elgin-London-Middlesex)
Speaker
Phone (St. Thomas Office): 519-631-0666
E-Mail: speters.mpp@liberal.ola.org
Twitter: N/A

Khalil Ramal, MPP (London-Fanshawe)
Phone (London Office): 519-668-1104
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Twitter: @KhalilRamalMPP

This newsletter is published by the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) Local 109, proudly representing support staff at Fanshawe College, and expresses the views of the Local.

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