

# NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE!!

August 13, 2010

**OPSEU Local 596**

We're on the Web! [opseulocal596.org](http://opseulocal596.org)

## EMPLOYER WALKS FROM TABLE

The bargaining team has met with the employer on four separate occasions. Some progress has been made on the Local Demands presented to the employer, but many issues remain outstanding. The bargaining team is committed to negotiating with the employer in the following areas: benefits, wages, pensions, leaves, etc.

Bargaining was scheduled for the week of July 26-29, 2010. However, the employer has suspended bargaining until further notice, in order to consult with the Liberal Government on the rules and parameters of the Compensation Restraint Act of March 24, 2010.

WEB Link: [http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws\\_statutes\\_10p01\\_e.htm](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_10p01_e.htm).

Your bargaining team does not see the need for the delay and is committed to bargaining to reach a fair Collective Agreement.

The Liberal Government has injected itself into the bargaining process through the establishment of consultations beginning with the employer and Your Union (OPSEU).



"Drop dead. Well that's good start to our negotiations."

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Zeroes Won't Protect Public Services

As you may know, leaders from several public sector unions and employer groups met on July 20 with Ontario Finance Minister Dwight Duncan.

The subject of the meeting was what Duncan calls "compensation restraint." I call it what it is: cuts to wages and benefits for hardworking people.

The two-hour session was a staged media event and a re-hash of the March 25th Budget. The Minister wants all workers paid by the province (directly or indirectly) to accept two years of zero per cent pay increases. He calls this a wage freeze, but it's not. It's a cut.

First, he wants his staff to meet with unions and employers to discuss his plans. Second, he asked both sides to stop sending bargaining issues to arbitration.

I urge you to work with your co-workers, your local, your sector, and your OPSEU Executive Board Members to bring home the best deal possible in these challenging times.

No matter what the bargaining climate, we negotiate strong contracts when our members are ready to back their bargaining teams.

And don't forget that profitable corporations are getting massive tax breaks. Based on their expected profits of \$20 billion in 2010, Canada's Big Six banks will see their Ontario corporate income taxes fall by at least \$200 million you accept a wage cut, the money you give up won't go to save public services. It will pay for tax cuts for the banks on this year alone.

This fight is a fight against bad public policy. We will not hesitate to take whatever action is necessary to get what is fair and to get what OPSEU members need.

*Warren (Smokey) Thomas President,  
Ontario Public Service Employees Union*



"... and, finally, the union contract includes five minutes a day for you to smell the roses."

## 2010 ONTARIO BUDGET: PUBLIC SECTOR COMPENSATION RESTRAINT TO PROTECT PUBLIC SERVICES ACT, 2010

The McGuinty government is managing costs in one of its largest spending lines – compensation of public sector employees. Everyone who is paid through taxpayer dollars is being asked to do their part.

The government has passed legislation that will freeze the compensation structures of non-bargaining political and Legislative Assembly staff for two years.

It will also freeze compensation plans for all non-bargaining employees in the broader public sector, including the Ontario Public Service, for two years. This will help redirect up to \$750 million toward sustaining schools, hospitals and other public services.

When agreements expire and new contracts are negotiated, the government will work with transfer payment partners and bargaining agents to seek agreements of at least two years' duration that do not include net compensation increases.

The fiscal plan provides no funding for compensation increases for future collective agreements.

It doesn't matter whether contracts expire next month, next year or the year after that – all employers and employee groups will be expected to do their part.