
THE BOTTOM LINE

No. 2

All the news for Local 420

Wednesday 8 March, 2006

BAD-FAITH BARGAINING BY ADMINISTRATION?

ONTARIO LABOUR RELATIONS BOARD MIGHT INVESTIGATE

TORONTO – Education quality is the central issue as 9,100 Ontario college faculty, members of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union, prepare for a strike set to start at midnight tonight.

Talks broke off after union negotiators tried without success to bargain changes to the collective agreement that would reverse the decline in education quality in the colleges, providing for smaller classes and more faculty so every college student would get more time, more attention, and more feedback.

Unfortunately, the employer's bargaining team wouldn't agree to OPSEU's demands on quality education issues, and even tabled last-minute concessions that moved the two-sides further apart.

"The union will be going on strike to get exactly what Premier McGuinty says he wants for our students – higher quality education," said OPSEU president Leah Casselman.

"Over five days of negotiations, management did not table a proposal until 9:30 p.m. Monday, March 6. Incredibly, that last-minute proposal moves backwards from the offer that management had in place at the time of the strike vote," said Ted Montgomery, chair of the OPSEU bargaining team.

"The management team's complete failure to bargain in good faith is shocking and deplorable. Management has wasted five days and never put an offer on the table until the last minute. Not one of the issues of quality has been addressed in their offer," he added.

Ontario's 24 community colleges are represented in bargaining by the College Compensation and Appointments Council. The faculty have been without a contract since Aug. 31, 2005.

Source: www.opseu.org, News Release, March 6, 2006

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TODAY'S WEATHER



High	1°C
Low	-10°C
Condition	Cloudy periods
P.O.P.	20%
Wind	E 5 km/h

ON THE STRIKE LINE

Some Do's & Don'ts of Picketing

For many, this is our first experience of a strike. Here are a few tips of what are appropriate actions on the line.

Please...

KEEP INFORMED – Read **THE BOTTOM LINE**, news releases, and listen to radio and TV news items.

KEEP IN TOUCH with your Team Captain.

KEEP YOUR SPIRITS UP – Help each other by being positive in both words and actions.

On the Information Line...

Revised and reprinted from "News 420 Update", No. 1, 1989 Ontario College System Strike

KEEP MOVING with your signs

PROVIDE "LINE CROSSERS" with the facts about the real issues

WEAR APPROPRIATE CLOTHING for the weather and time of day.

Please don't...

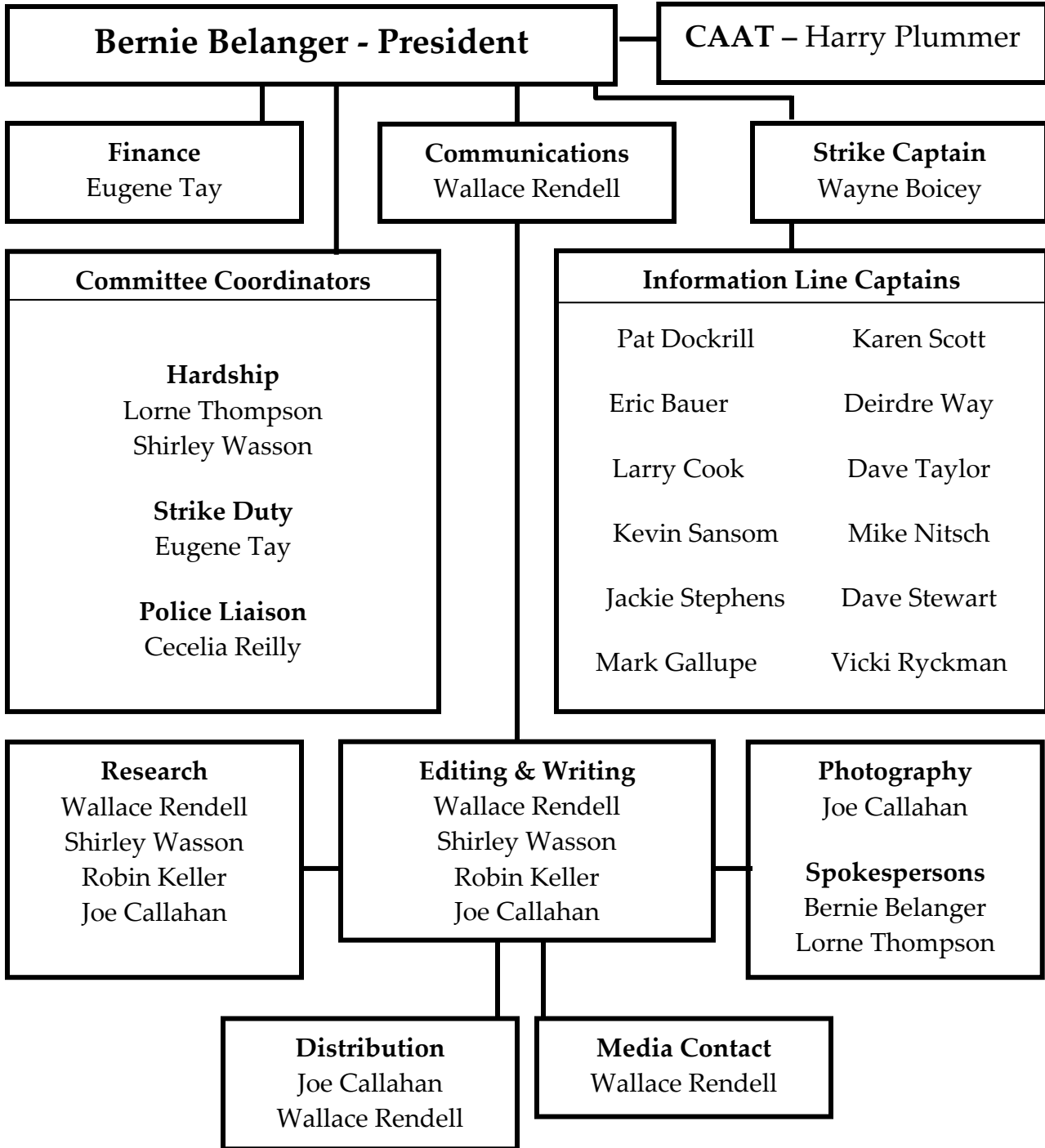
SPEAK TO THE MEDIA – Refer all contact to Bernie Belanger or Lorne Thompson. It's important that our message is consistent and accurate.

BLOCK TRAFFIC or right of access. Remember,...good public relations are vital, now and after the strike

KEEP IN TOUCH!!

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LOCAL 420 STRIKE COMMITTEE



McGuinty must get involved to end strike

Premier Dalton McGuinty must get involved to direct the colleges to settle the strike, OPSEU faculty bargaining team chair Ted Montgomery told a Toronto news conference today.

“There should and could have been a settlement without a strike. But the colleges were intent on pursuing an agenda of confrontation,” said Montgomery. “We have never seen stonewalling like this before. The province needs to step in and see that their investment is properly spent.”

The McGuinty government has provided funding -- \$6.2 billion over five years, he noted. “The premier said some of this must be spent on new faculty and for more time for faculty with their students. That is exactly what we are asking for.”

Montgomery, of Seneca College, was flanked at the news conference by OPSEU First Vice-President/Treasurer Smokey Thomas, negotiator Lester Yearwood and two members of the bargaining team, Sandi Webster of St.Clair College and Jeff Arbus of Sault College.

Thomas pledged the full support of OPSEU for the faculty strike. He said the colleges have long suffered from bad management. “I’d have the government

look into the entire college system, not just this dispute,” Thomas said.

Bad faith bargaining?

The union has sought legal advice on whether management violated the Labour Relations Act by reversing its position on class size at the 11th hour of negotiations. “They actually proposed to remove the existing cap on the number of classes that a teacher can be assigned in a term,” Montgomery said.

“It’s bad faith bargaining to table a position that you removed previously,” Montgomery said.

Students: Don’t give up hope

Montgomery advised students to help make sure the faculty strike would be short one. “We encourage students to call upon the McGuinty government to act now, to ensure that the Rae report is put into effect so that the investment in education is not squandered.”

“Students should not give up hope and drop out of college. We will make up for lost class time after the strike – that has been the history in these types of disputes.”

Students and strikers alike can e-mail McGuinty at:

Dalton.McGuinty@premier.gov.on.ca

Source: www.opseu.org/caat, News Release, March 7, 2006

LABOUR PAINS

Courtesy Carol Simpson Productions © 1999. Reprinted with permission of the artists. Visit their website for more workplace cartoons, www.cartoonwork.com



WEATHER ON THE LINE

Wet and windy Thursday through Friday, and same again Monday, so get out your foul-weather gear!

5-Day Forecast	THU MAR 9	FRI MAR 10	SAT MAR 11	SUN MAR 12	MON MAR 13
HIGH	8°C	10°C	9°C	7°C	5°C
LOW	-3°C	0°C	-3°C	2°C	4°C
CONDITION	Rain	Light Rain	Cloudy Periods	Scattered Showers	Light Rain
P.O.P.	90%	80%	30%	40%	100%
WIND	S 20 km/h	W 35 km/h	Calm	NW 20 km/h	NE 20 km/h

Source: www.theweathernetwork.com

Updated : 7 March 2006, 15:00 EST