
THE BOTTOM LINE

No. 4

All the news for Local 420

Friday 10 Mar 2006

RALLY AT QUEEN'S PARK!!

WANNA GO?

Paddy Musson reported late Wednesday that there will be a Provincial Rally at Queen's Park for College Faculty on Thursday March 16. Buses need to be booked, so they need to know how many members will commit to heading to the "Big Smoke".

Musson believes this event has the power to pressure the government and rally the CAAT faculty members. If it is anything like the rallies in 1984 and 1989, this is *the* event to attend. The rally will start at 11 am and likely be over by 2:30 pm.

It will be a good day to show support for all the work done by our CAAT Bargaining team. It will be a good day to ask the government to deliver on their promise of "more faculty time for students". Pop and hot dogs, even veggie dogs, are on the menu.

OPSEU is supplying 20 buses total for the southern regions, and offering airfare to a few members from Regions 6 and 7. Locals can decide themselves if they want to hire more buses to meet demand.

Two buses are being supplied for St. Lawrence and Loyalist Colleges, one for each college. Considering that round-trip travel, plus the rally, will take about 8.5 hours total, OPSEU Local 420 President Bernie Belanger has offered that any local faculty who attend will get 8 hours credit, or two picket shifts.

Interested members of Local 420, contact your picket captains to express a commitment to traveling. Picket Captains...relay member names and numbers ASAP to Local 420 Head Office or Wayne Boicey.

Time to use our power: *Casselman*

OPSEU members can bring the strike by college faculty to a quick and successful end if they use their power to communicate, says OPSEU president Leah Casselman.

“With 125,000 members, we should be getting our message out to the Premier, to the Minister, and to every MPP every minute of every day,” she said. “Every editor of every newspaper in this province needs to see how strong the support is for these striking members.”

E-mail addresses for every MPP and every newspaper editor in Ontario are available on the web at <http://www.opseu.org/medial/index.htm>.

“This strike is about quality education,” said Casselman, who kicked off the strike yesterday with members of Local 732 at Confederation College in Thunder Bay. “It’s about having more faculty, and more faculty time, for each and every college student. It’s time for Dalton McGuinty to tell the colleges to wake up and smell the coffee, and get back to the bargaining table with an offer that responds to our demands.”

Casselman said it was “ironic” that OPSEU is bargaining to get what McGuinty himself wants for the colleges.

“Dalton McGuinty wants to be known as the Education Premier,” she said. “He wants more faculty; we want more faculty. The only folks who don’t seem to get it are the college presidents.”

Casselman scoffed at employer statements that the union’s demands are too costly.

“Education doesn’t cost, it pays,” she said. “Dalton McGuinty gets it. He knows that a modern economy depends on knowledge. That’s why he’s pledged \$6.2 billion in new money for post-secondary education.

“If the college presidents don’t know how to manage their money, maybe that’s something McGuinty should be looking into.”

On the line at Confederation, Local 732 president Kaia Beaudry stressed the importance of face-to-face communication with students and the public.

“We really appreciate that people take the time to roll down their car windows and chat with the striking teachers,” said Kaia Beaudry, President of Local 732. “The public have been awesome. They are miffed at management for not showing any respect for the issues being put forward by the faculty and we appreciate that.” *Source: OPSEU Head Office, Communications, 8 March 2006.*

Tuition fee hikes are a step in the wrong direction, OPSEU says

TORONTO – The McGuinty government’s move today to allow tuition fees to rise for college and university students is a step in the wrong direction, the Ontario Public Service Employees Union says.

“We have been on record for years stating that we support the long-term goal of zero tuition for post-secondary education in Ontario,” said Paddy Musson, Chair of OPSEU’s College Academic Division. “Today’s announcement takes us further away from that goal.”

“We believe in Mr. McGuinty’s three principles of quality, accessibility, and accountability for post-secondary education,” Musson said. “There is no way that raising tuition fees can make post-secondary education more accessible to students.”

A news story quoting an OPSEU spokesperson earlier today gave the mistaken impression that the union approved of the fee hikes as a means to settle the current strike by college faculty. This is not the union’s position.

“The resolution of our bargaining dispute is not higher tuitions,” said Ted Montgomery, chair of the union bargaining team. “It is for the colleges to table an offer that addresses the issue of quality to provide more faculty, and more faculty time, for each and every student.” *Source: OPSEU Head Office, March 8, 2006.*

Announcements

Meeting Notice

There is no Local 420 General Meeting planned for this week.

Meeting day to be determined for next week.

Stayed tuned!

Ernie Parsons stops at the Information Line

Contributed by Scott Whalen, 8 March 2006

OPSEU members should expect the current strike to last at least three weeks, then faculty could be legislated back to work, predicts Prince Edward-Hastings MPP Ernie Parsons.

Parsons, a former Loyalist teacher himself, stopped at the Information Picket on Wednesday afternoon for about 30 minutes, and fielded questions from members on the line.

The local MPP said there were no plans for the McGuinty Liberals to wade into the current breakdown of negotiations because the government wants to respect the process. He predicted both sides would not be speaking this week, and he stressed that the government is urging the two sides to return to the bargaining table.

He also stressed his government's commitment to issues of education quality, pointing to Tuesday's announcement of the student access guarantee.

In a news release issued Tuesday, the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities stated that, under the access guarantee, "students in need will have access to the resources they need for their tuition, books and mandatory fees".

Under the guarantee, the government will provide assistance to almost 200,000 students from lower- and middle-income families. Institutions that want

to increase fees may do so only if two conditions are met: they must participate in the student access guarantee, and any fee increases must improve the quality of programs.

Parsons said the Liberals have also helped by increasing the grant portion of financial assistance through the OSAP program. However, some student groups have already criticized the proposal, saying it allows for increased tuition and leads to higher debt loads.

Asked what kind of response he has been hearing about the strike from members of the public, Parsons said he has received some emails and phone calls from students, and a few parents, who are not pleased. He said while it might only be perception, the view of some is that OPSEU members could be in for a long fight.

Rightly or wrongly, Parsons said, there is a perception that the issue at the heart of the strike is a salary increase. He was reminded by a few members of the local that OPSEU members, more than anyone, have the interests of quality of education at heart and are fighting for improvements to a system that will benefit students first.

A number of members shook Parsons's hand as he prepared to leave and thanked him for stopping to discuss the issues with local OPSEU members. While Parsons was greeted warmly by

some, other OPSEU members said afterwards they would have liked to hear some more encouraging words from the local MPP.

Loyalist President Maureen Piercy, Vice-President Finance and Corporate

Services John Rigsby, and Human Resources Director Karen Cullen also spoke to a number of OPSEU members on Wednesday afternoon. It was the second day in a row that Loyalist managers came out to the Line.



Bernie Belanger meets with Karen Cullen, John Rigsby, and Maureen Piercy on Day One of the strike. Vice-President Academic Margaret Scott (not pictured) also visited the line, as did many members of Loyalist Support Staff. Photo: Harry Plummer

Quotable Quotes

Cherish your vision and your dreams as they are the children of your soul, and the blueprints of your ultimate achievements. – Napoleon Hill

SAFETY TIPS FOR THE PICKET LINE

Dress Accordingly

Before leaving for picket duty each day, check the weather report, and dress accordingly. Do not overdress. This can cause you to sweat and in turn leave you cold. Don't put on too many socks, this will cause a decrease in circulation. Layers work best, you can always take a layer OFF! You can also put clothing articles in your car or the trailer if need be.

Hypothermia & Frostbite

In really cold weather, where there is a risk of **hypothermia** and **frostbite**, make sure all exposed body parts are covered-ears, hands, and face. Warm footwear is also important. Frostbite can happen quickly without you realizing. Signs of **hypothermia** include uncontrollable shivering, impaired or slurred speech or vision, and clumsy movements. Muscle stiffness is a severe symptom. Seek medical attention immediately. Signs of **frostbite** include gray or yellowish patches on the skin especially fingers, toes, face, and ears, but can occur on any exposed skin. The first symptoms are usually numbness or itching and prickly pain. The skin remains soft but becomes red and flaky after it thaws. Severe frostbite looks waxy, and skin is pale and feels cold, hard, and solid to the touch. Areas turn blue or purple when thawing and large blisters may appear when the area warms up. If you think you have frost bite, do the following:

Get out of the cold into a warm place. Go to your car! Warm affected area with another warm body part. Remove any tight clothing to increase circulation. Drink warm fluids to help increase circulation and warm the body. Caffeine and alcohol are not good choices! Again seek medical attention if warranted!

Hydration

Drink lots! Water is best. You should consume about 1½ litres of water while you're picketing to prevent becoming dehydrated. Walking uses up energy and causes water loss, so stay topped up! Try to eat before your picket tour. Bring food and snacks to keep your energy level up.

Sun & Wind Protection

Wear sunscreen, even on cloudy days. UV rays are strongest between 10 am and 4 pm. Dermatologists recommend the use of sunscreen beginning in January when the sun's rays get stronger. Don't forget your sunglasses and lip protector. Both wind and sun can burn them.

Night Safety

At night, wear light colored clothing and a reflector vest. Always carry a picket sign, it will make you more visible. Walk facing traffic. **Always picket in pairs for safety! Be aware of what's going on around you!**

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!!!

Chances are none of us will be charged as a result of a labour dispute. However, the Local Strike Committee must be prepared to contact a lawyer immediately should any members be arrested.

If arrested, follow these 7 basic rules:

1. Offer no resistance, either physical or verbal.
2. Don't make oral or written statements to the arresting officers.
3. Request that someone inform Local Strike Headquarters immediately. OPSEU will provide legal counsel.
4. Go along to the police station and correctly identify yourself: your name, address and phone number.
5. Refuse to answer any questions other than those regarding identity.
6. Request to see a lawyer and ask why you have been arrested.
7. Keep cool, regardless of the tactics used by police.

As a rule, a person arrested is released in a few hours after signing a "promise to appear" in court. Ideally, a lawyer should read it before we sign it; if no lawyer is available immediately, read the document carefully, it should specify the charge against you and the date of the alleged offence.

No one should be detained more than 24 hours without a court appearance; however, it could be longer on weekends.

Remember:

- **No oral or written statements to police**
 - **Remain calm**
 - **Ask for a lawyer**
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LABOUR PAINS



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



"Henderson, you're already doing the jobs of three people... how can you possibly have time to join a union."

WEATHER ON THE LINE

This forecast brought to you by your Ontario College Presidents! Rain! Rain! Rain! Flood! Torment!

| 5-Day Forecast | SAT MAR 11 | SUN MAR 12 | MON MAR 13 | TUE MAR 14 | WED MAR 15 |
|----------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| |  |  |  |  |  |
| HIGH | 7°C | 11°C | 8°C | 7°C | 0°C |
| LOW | -5°C | 0°C | 3°C | 2°C | 0°C |
| CONDITION | Cloudy Periods | Light Rain | Light Rain | Light Rain | Light Snow |
| P.O.P. | 30% | 60% | 90% | 90% | 90% |
| WIND | Calm | W 25 km/h | E 10 km/h | W 40 km/h | W 35 km/h |

Source: www.theweathernetwork.com

Updated: 9 March 2006, 1200 EST

KEEPING IN TOUCH

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TODAY'S WEATHER



| | |
|-----------|-----------|
| High | 9°C |
| Low | 4°C |
| Condition | Rain |
| P.O.P. | 90% |
| Wind | S 20 km/h |
| Humidity | 91% |
| Rain | 2-4 mm |

See the back page for a complete 5-day forecast

TEAM CAPTAINS!! WE WANT TO HEAR FROM THE FRONT LINE. PLEASE FORWARD COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS TO THE COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE AT HEAD OFFICE. ATTACH A FILE, OR PHOTO.
