

# 2012

# CONVENTION UPDATE

## Number 1 - April 19, 2012

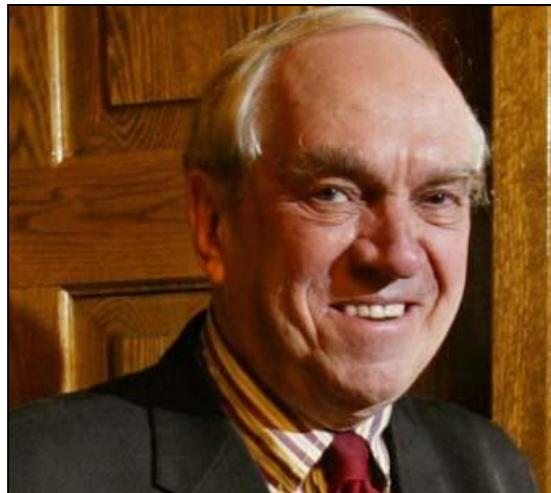
# OPSEU bestows top honour on Broadbent

**John Edward “Ed” Broadbent** is the former leader of the federal New Democratic Party (NDP), well known as an honest and charismatic politician. His life of public service has focused on emphasizing tax reforms, the connection between economic development and human rights, equality for women, building stronger communities, ethics in government, and industrial organization.

Broadbent’s socialist leanings were not bred-in-bone. He was born in 1936 to Conservative-voting parents in the union-oriented company town of Oshawa, Ontario. His parents did not discuss politics. Throughout his high school years, Broadbent was an excellent student interested in current affairs, but it was his university experience that prompted him to declare himself a democratic socialist. He studied philosophy at Trinity College in the University of Toronto, graduating in 1959 first in his class. He went on to earn his doctorate in political science at the University of Toronto. Broadbent also trained as a Pilot Officer in the Royal Canadian Air Force University Reserve Training Plan.

Broadbent was a university professor when he was elected a Member of Parliament from the Oshawa-Whitby riding in 1968. By 1975, he was leader of the federal NDP, succeeding David Lewis. He remained leader of the party for 15 years before his retirement from political life in 1989.

Broadbent led his party through contentious constitutional debates (i.e. patriation of the Constitution, free-trade,



*Courtesy of Canada.com*

Meech Lake Accord) and weathered a western revolt before capturing the party's biggest seat count ever in 1988 when they took 43 seats. This record remained unchallenged until the 2011 federal election, when Jack Layton led the party to capture an astounding 103 seats.

Though he retired from politics in 1989, Broadbent has continued to follow his passion for democratic rights and equality. He has authored and/or co-authored more than 10 books and is past director of the International Center for Human Rights and Democratic Development.

In 1993, Broadbent was made an Officer of the Order of Canada, the second highest honour for merit given in Canada. He was promoted to Companion to the Order in 2001.

Broadbent re-entered the political arena in 2004, coming out of retirement

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# inSolidarity

 **OPSEU** Ontario Public Service  
**SEFPO** Employees Union  
Syndicat des employés de la  
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*(Broadbent continued from page 1)*

and winning a seat in the Ottawa Centre riding, citing “the deepening inequality in Canada.” He resigned in 2006 to care for his terminally-ill wife, Lucille.

In 2008, Broadbent came out of retirement once again to join former Prime Minister Jean Chrétien to help negotiate a formal coalition agreement between the Liberals and the New Democratic Party, which was supported by the Bloc Québécois. The coalition was formed in a bid to replace the Conservative Government of Prime Minister Stephen Harper. Had the coalition been successful, it would have been the first in Canada since World War I.

In 2011, Broadbent announced the creation of a new institute to explore social democratic policy and ideas. The Broadbent Institute will reach out to social democrat-leaning academics for their ideas, provide education and train activists, but be independent from any political party.

Broadbent is stepfather to Paul and the adoptive father of Christine. He enjoys the company of his four beautiful grandchildren, movies, reading and music from Billie Holiday to Maria Kallas. He is not a fan of rock ‘n’ roll.



The Stanley Knowles Award is given to the individual who best exemplifies the spirit, dedication and ideals of the late parliamentarian and social democrat, Stanley Knowles, through their commitment to social justice.

## Human Rights Award—Individual

# Greg Snider

**Greg Snider**, Local 714, is a long-standing advocate for human rights, particularly for individuals with disabilities. In his 29 years of service in the Ontario Public Service (OPS), Snider has held many positions, including local president, founding member and Chair of the Disability Rights Caucus, Chair of the Human Rights Caucus and a member of the Ontario Federation of Labour’s (OFL) Persons with Disabilities Committee. He is also an active leader within his community, holding such positions as Chair of the Thunder Bay Labour

Council, church board member and NDP riding executive board member. He is an active member on the Board of the Thunder Bay Injured Workers Support Group and has an avid interest in issues facing injured workers.

Though now semi-retired, Snider maintains a keen interest in a broad range of disability and broader human rights issues, both within and outside of OPSEU.

It’s these significant contributions that have earned Snider this year’s Human Rights Award for an individual.



## Honourary Lifetime Membership Award

# Paddy Musson

**Paddy Musson**, Local 110, has made significant contributions to union activism locally, provincially and nationally. As an educator, Musson was committed to quality education. She is an advocate for the rights of women and those that are marginalized. Musson was previously awarded the OPSEU's Bread and Roses Award.

Musson's tireless work has resulted in improvements in the colleges and education. She has mentored numerous activists, sharing her wisdom and guidance.



*Courtesy of IFPexpress.com*

# Linda Mugford

**Linda Mugford** has been the Treasurer of Local 310 for many years. Mugford is one of the founding members of the OPSEU Aboriginal Circle and has agreed to continue as a "friend of the circle" member now that she is retired. Mugford continues to be active in her First Nation community.



# Don Jordan

**Don Jordan**, Local 102, worked in the Ontario Public Service for 33 years until he retired in 2011. He worked at the Oxford Regional Centre and the London North Ministry of Labour.

Jordan has held the positions of local first Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary. Don served multiple terms as a Trustee on the OPSEU Pension Trust.

Every time there was a need for members to lobby a MPP, Jordan was there. Any time there was a bus trip, the London or Windsor buses made a stop in Woodstock to pick up Jordan. He has attended OFL Days of Action and was on strike twice with OPSEU, always a strong presence on the picket lines.

A workhorse within the region, Jordan allowed others to lead the parade, but was always an active participant.

## Tim Brown Award

# Pauline Saulnier

**Pauline Saulnier** is a passionate, proud Métis woman who has Métis ancestry on all sides of her family tree. Saulnier is the mother of three wonderful children; Benjamin, Ashley and Justin. She is the mé mère to two adorable grandchildren: Kaiden Pilon and Jolene Saulnier.

Saulnier has worked for the Ontario Government since 1987. Currently, she works as a Bilingual Ontario Disability Support Caseworker in Orillia. Saulnier joined the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) in 1996 and immediately began volunteering as a steering committee member for Métis Child and Family Services. In 1998 Saulnier ran for the position of Secretary of the Georgian Bay Métis Council (GBMC), and was elected president from 2000 to 2003. Under her presidential



guidance the GBMC was able to obtain funding to open the “Métis Shoppe,” funding to celebrate Aboriginal Day, funding to create a board manual, to do fundraising and have council meetings and cultural awareness events such as floats, dances, etc.

In 2007, Saulnier joined the OPSEU Aboriginal Circle under Tim Brown’s leadership and became Vice-Chair of the OPSEU Aboriginal Circle in 2008. With Tim Brown’s passing, Saulnier was elected as his successor to the Chair of the Circle.

In 2010, Saulnier was honoured to receive the 2010 Suzanne Rochon Bennett Volunteer of the Year. The award recognizes individuals who contribute as a volunteer to Métis Nation of Ontario year round and have done so for a number of years.

## Leah Casselman Award – Individual



# Jennifer Smith

**Jennifer Smith**, president of Local 334, demonstrated courage, solidarity and collective perseverance with her members during their eight-week strike at the Kawartha-Haliburton Children’s Aid Society.

She creatively engaged the members and the media to overcome the tyranny of a malicious executive director determined to break the union.

## Leah Casselman Award – Local

# Local 666

**Local 666** represents workers at the Child and Family Centre. These members serve hundreds of children throughout the Sudbury, Manitoulin and Chapeau regions who suffer from mental health and behavioural issues. As a no-fee service, the work of these skilled professionals is in high demand and is a lifeline to many, as well as a much-needed resource for other service providers, including the Children’s Aid Society and the Youth Justice system.

Increases in funding for children's mental health have been virtually non-existent for years. These members have gone above and beyond to meet the needs of the individuals they serve, even with the lack of funding, often putting client needs before their own.

In addition to funding issues, the members of Local 666 found themselves facing a relentless employer, determined to take from them while maintaining the director on the “sunshine list.” With an initial strike vote of 96 per cent, these activists took their fight to the street.

Despite freezing temperatures, they kept the heat on the employer while building friendships among themselves

that will last a lifetime. No longer just “friendly co-workers,” the members of Local 666 became true union “brothers and sisters.”

After weeks on the picket line, the members of Local 666 ratified a contract that fought back the employer’s concessions, exemplifying union solidarity and strength.



Courtesy of [northernlife.ca](http://northernlife.ca)

This is the nineteenth year that the editorial committee of *In Solidarity* has produced the daily updates. We will provide a record of Convention events and happenings.

#### **Who we are:**

**Laurie Sabourin**, Local 368

**Karrie Ouchas**, Local 340

**Lisa Bicum**, Local 125

**Nancy Hart-Day**, Local 234

**Virginia Ridley**, Local 116

Ex-officio members are:

**James Tocker**, Executive Board Liaison

**Don Ford**, OPSEU Communications.



**united  
we win**

2012

**unis,nous  
gagnons**

ONTARIO PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYEES UNION CONVENTION  
CONGRÈS DU SYNDICAT DES EMPLOYÉS DE LA FONCTION PUBLIQUE DE L'ONTARIO