



BPS CONFERENCE 2013



To: Presidents of Locals with Broader Public Service Units
Unit Stewards or Highest Ranking of Broader Public Service Units
All BPS Sector Executives

From: Warren (Smokey) Thomas, President

Date: March 27, 2013

Subject: 2013 Broader Public Service (BPS) Conference and Sector Meetings

Sisters and Brothers,

I invite you to attend the 2013 Broader Public Service (BPS) Conference and Sector meetings. The conference will be held at the Sheraton Hotel, located at 123 Queen St. West, Toronto, on Friday, June 21, Saturday, June 22 and Sunday, June 23, 2013.

This year marks the 21st anniversary of the official recognition of the Broader Public Service as an integral and distinct division in OPSEU. In keeping with our theme of Developing, Networking and Advocating in our communities (DNA), the core message is one of encouragement to all of our BPS Sectors that we are all in this together and that we can collectively work together to effect change in our locals and our communities.

Friday's plenary will provide a delivery of topics focusing on our theme of "Common Dreams in the Age of Austerity." Renowned author Linda McQuaig is our keynote speaker Friday morning followed by a panel discussion moderated by Karl Flecker, Canadian Labour Congress Director of Human Rights and Anti-Racism. Panelists are OPSEU's own Rick Jansen, an outspoken critic of public-private-partnerships particularly in health care; Larry Brown, Secretary-Treasurer of the National Union of Public and General Employees; Deena Ladd of the Workers' Action Center; and Linda McQuaig. Members will participate in assigned activities during the day. Our goal at the end of the day is to have produced a video tape of some of the days' activity.

Saturday begins with the Divisional Council meetings for those sectors who belong to these councils, followed by workshop/seminars. Those sectors not belonging to divisional councils will attend workshop/seminars Saturday morning.

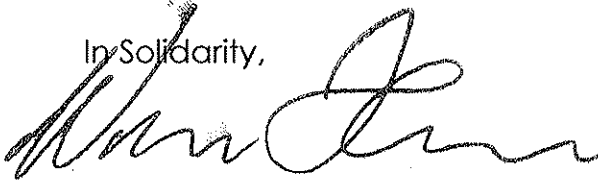
Individual Sector meetings will take place on Sunday. The Sector meetings are an important part of this conference. At the meetings you will determine the short and long-term goals of your Sector and elect the leadership who will lead you in implementing them for the next two years.

The delegate entitlement rules for your sector are explained in the meeting call documents – **please read them carefully.**

I hope you will take the opportunity to join us and meet with other members in your Sector and other participants at the conference. It is a great time to learn new skills and objectives around workplace issues and develop new expertise in dealing with those issues. It is my sincerest hope that you will leave the conference with a feeling of solidarity with all members of the OPSEU's Broader Public Service Units.

I encourage you and your members to fully utilize your delegate entitlement and participate in this year's conference.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Warren Thomas', written in a cursive style.

Warren (Smokey) Thomas
President