



Developmental Services rally in Ottawa Sept. 23

Two weeks before the Ontario elections, OPSEU Developmental Services workers are taking their message to the doorstep of Madeleine Meilleur, Minister of Community and Social Services.

What: Developmental Services information picket
When: Friday, Sept. 23, 2011, 10:00 a.m.
Where: Minister Meilleur's campaign office, 355 Montreal Road, Ottawa

Region 4 EBM Chris Cormier has coordinated a bus for Region 4 members, please email chrisopseu@hotmail.com to arrange a pick-up.

The Ontario Developmental Services employer groups have refused to negotiate key terms of agreement in a mediated discussion with OPSEU.

Three hundred workers in Thunder Bay could be on strike as soon as Saturday, September 24. To date, 41 OPSEU units have filed for conciliation, and five more have taken strike votes.

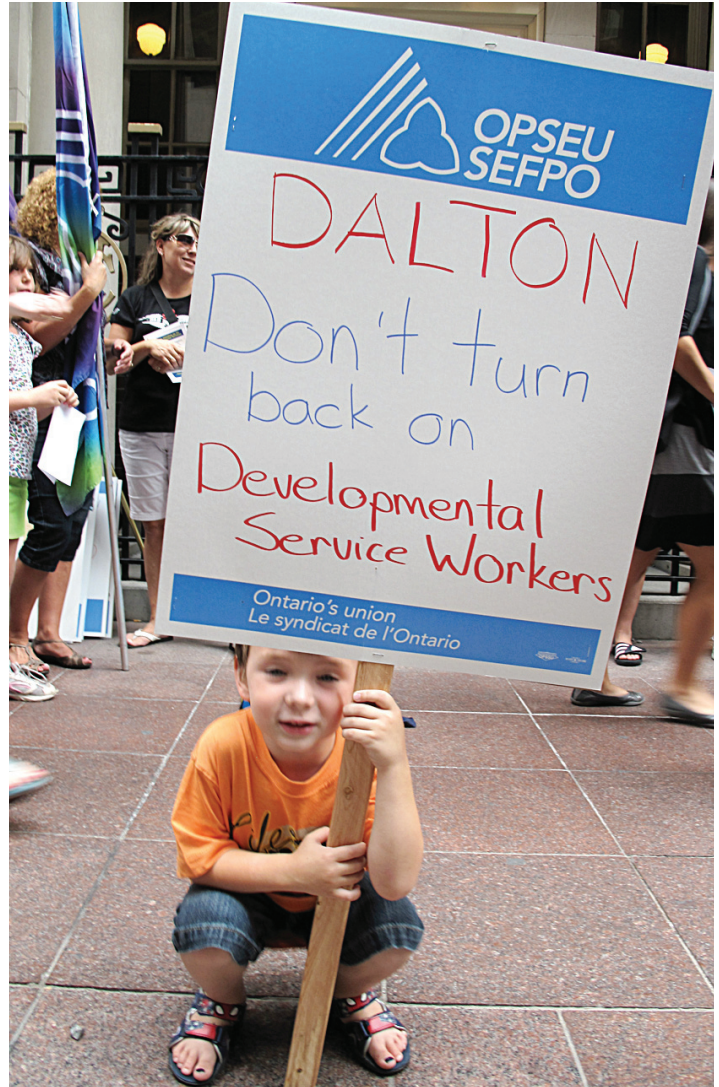
"The potential for widespread labour unrest in this sector is very real. It is also regrettable considering employers have had ample opportunity to achieve settlements," said OPSEU President Warren (Smokey) Thomas.

Adequate funding, province-wide standardized care and access to quality developmental services have been key issues in discussions with the Ministry and employers.

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Strong strike mandate delivered by Developmental Service workers

Workers from Community Living Thunder Bay (Local 740) and Avenue II Community Program Services (Local 738) voted 96 and 94 percent, respectively,



Noah Bartholomew, age four (son of Kaylan Bartholomew, OPSEU Provincial Youth Committee rep for Region 1), urges the government to adequately fund Developmental Services. Noah took his message to Premier McGuinty at a Developmental Services rally in Toronto on August 18, 2011.

in favour of strike action if the employer refuses to offer a fair contract at the bargaining table.

Developmental Services workers want a contract that values the work that they do, improvements for part-time workers, and a decent wage for everyone.

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Developmental Services rally (continued from page 1)

OPSEU met September 15 with a mediator and representatives of employer groups in an effort to get back to Developmental Services Provincial Discussion Tables (DSPDTs). The employer groups cancelled the DSPDTs at the last minute without any explanation or warning.

“We believe a settlement could have been reached if a union-specific settlement was negotiated,” said Thomas. “It now looks like the only choice will be to go to conciliation with the Ministry.”

Employer groups are mandated to conduct

negotiations that include both non-union and union employees. By linking unionized employees to the terms of Bill 16, applicable only to non-union workers, all workers would have become subject to an unacceptable two-year wage-freeze.

“We entered negotiations in good faith, and are deeply disappointed in this employer,” said Thomas.

Developmental Services are drastically under funded, with waitlists prohibiting access to core services for thousands of our most vulnerable citizens.

Strong strike mandate (continued from page 1)

Failing a settlement, over 400 Developmental Services workers will be in a legal strike position on September 24 at midnight.

Watch for new information as events happen, check out www.developmentalservices.org.

September DivEx meeting in Ottawa

Developmental Services Divisional Executive (DivEx) members will hold their regular meeting in Ottawa this week. They will be there for the Developmental Services rally on Friday, September 23, 2011 at Madeleine Meilleur’s campaign office.



OPSEU
SEFPO

Ontario Public Service
Employees Union

Syndicat des employés de la
fonction publique de l'Ontario

DS DIVISIONAL EXECUTIVE:

CHAIR Sue Walker
SECRETARY/TREASURER Scott Collins
VICE-CHAIR (2A) Erin Rice

VICE-CHAIR (2B) Silvana Cacciatore-Roy
VICE-CHAIR (2C) Beth Collier

COMMUNICATION REP. Cheryl Wing
HEALTH & SAFETY REP. Karen McKinnon