

May 12, 2005

MEMORANDUM TO: Deputy Ministers

SUBJECT: OPSEU Bargaining Update

I am writing to update you on the current bargaining situation with the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU).

The Employer tabled a settlement offer today for OPSEU to take to its members for a strike vote on May 25, 26 and 27.

The Employer's latest offer is similar to agreements reached recently with other public sector unions. It includes, among other things:

- An across-the-board wage increase of two per cent in each year of a three-year contract
- Special wage increases to improve our ability to recruit and retain professionals in certain job classes, such as:
 - Social Worker, Social Work Supervisor and Social Work Assistant
 - Air engineer
 - Pharmacist
 - Ambulance Communication Officer
 - Forester and Biologist
- An extension of Surplus Factor 80 to March 31, 2006 to be applied retroactively to all persons declared surplus since January 1, 2005
- Improvements to the scope of redeployment to broaden the range of opportunities for displaced employees.

Union officials have indicated they expect to announce the results of the strike vote on May 28.

There will be a break in bargaining while OPSEU's bargaining team prepares for the vote. We expect bargaining will resume at the end of the month.

I want to thank each of you, and your ministry staff, for your continued support during this period.

Further updates will be provided as this situation evolves.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gayle Fisher', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Gayle Fisher
Assistant Deputy Minister
Employee Relations
Centre for Leadership/Human Resource Management

c: Chief Administrative Officers
Human Resource Directors
CFL/HRM Senior Management Committee