

OPSEU elections give strong start to bargaining process at OPTrust

A big member turnout for the OPSEU bargaining team elections Friday marked a strong start for our upcoming contract talks with OPTrust management.

With more than two thirds of OPSEU members attending, it's clear you are already taking an active interest in bargaining – and looking for real improvements in our collective agreement.

To make sure that as many members as possible could have their say, voting took place over both meetings.

Your new bargaining team

With a total of seven members nominated, you had a strong field to pick from.

The following three members were elected to your bargaining team: **Myles Magner, Cheri Hearty and Brian Hawrysh.**

Three alternates were also elected. They are: 1st alternate – **Joseph Rampersad**; 2nd alternate – **Shirley Pazhaidam**; 3rd alternate – **Dino Teixeira.**

... continued on page 2

Members say “No thanks” to interest based bargaining

As well as electing our bargaining team, Friday's OPSEU meetings were an opportunity to brush up on how collective bargaining works – and why YOUR active participation is the key to achieving a strong contract.

Members also discussed the employer's proposal to use an alternative approach to bargaining for this round of negotiations. This approach is known as “interest based bargaining” (IBB).

At the meetings, members had a chance to hear more about IBB and how it compares to traditional bargaining, and to discuss the pros and cons of both approaches. (For more information on IBB, see Bargaining Update #2).

Bargaining affects all of us. So the question of whether to use IBB was also put to a vote.

In the end, a strong majority voted to say “no thanks” to IBB, and to stick to traditional collective bargaining for the upcoming contract talks.

Demand Setting Meeting

It's your contract. Have your say. Help make sure our goals for our next collective agreement reflect your priorities.

Mark your calendar. Plan to attend.

Thursday, June 19

5 to 7 p.m.

1 Adelaide St. East,

P-2 meeting room



**FORWARD
TOGETHER**

Bargaining team elections ... continued

Alternates will be called on, in order, to join the bargaining team if one or more elected team members is unable to continue. Alternates may also be asked by the bargaining team to take on other roles during bargaining.

Bargaining survey

Now that we've chosen our negotiating team, the next step is for members to set our objectives and priorities for our next collective agreement.

This will happen in two stages. First, members will be asked to complete a bargaining survey. The survey will be an important opportunity for you to identify the monetary and non-monetary issues you think need to be dealt with in bargaining and to indicate your priorities. Surveys will be distributed in late May.

Demand setting meeting

Second, you will be asked to come to a demand setting meeting. At this meeting you will hear the results of the survey. You will have a chance to discuss the issues that matter most to you, and hear the views of your coworkers. Then you will have a vote on the key contract demands you want our team to take to the table.

The demand setting meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, June 19, from 5 to 7 p.m.

The meeting has been booked after work for two reasons.

- First, it is important that you have a chance to hear the survey results and discuss and debate priorities before you vote on our various demands. It would not be possible to do all this in a 45-minute lunchtime meeting.
- Second, phone coverage and other scheduling issues mean that it isn't possible for every member to attend the same meeting at lunch. So starting the meeting at 5 p.m. is the only way for everyone to have an opportunity to take part in demand setting.

Your participation in the demand-setting meeting matters. That is why we have given you five weeks' advance notice. We hope this is enough lead time for you to make arrangements to attend.

See you there!

Stay tuned for more bargaining news

As a group, OPSEU members at OPTrust have a lot of experience with collective bargaining.

And if there is one thing we have learned from past contract talks, it's this: **informed members are powerful members!**

That's why it's important that you stay tuned for future bargaining updates – and for ways you can help your team negotiate a strong collective agreement.

Coming soon... More information on the OPSEU bargaining survey and the June 19 demand setting meeting.

