

## Minutes of Feb 18/09 Special Gen. Membership Meeting

Florry Lang in the Chair

1. Connie Collins read the OPSEU Harassment and Discrimination Policy.

Florry thanked the members for attending and introduced Region 1 Executive Board Member, Ron Elliot.

2. Moved by Connie Collins, Seconded by Melanie Urquhart

Accept the Agenda.

CARRIED.

3. Election of one Trustee. Ming Tran is already a Trustee but Lisa Stott has had to give up her position as she will be taking a Maternity Leave.

Lyn Medler nominates Nancy Teves (Declines)

Bob Braidford nominates Kristen Adams (Stands)

Maxine Wilder nominates Nadine Burke (Declines)

Conrad McCulligh nominates Steve Desmarais (Declines)

Kristen Adams is acclaimed and one ballot is cast for her.

4. Call for Submission of Resolutions to 2009 Convention

a. Moved by Connie Collins, Seconded by Dan Sooley

Whereas Harper has cut Federal Child Care funding from \$905M to \$600M (a 30% cut); and

Whereas a lack of appropriate Child Care Centres creates a major barrier for maintaining employment or entering the workforce; and

Whereas Harper failed to address the increasing demand for affordable high quality child care; and

Whereas 77% of working parents have a concern about affordable child care, in a climate where spaces are limited, waiting lists are long and quality care is necessary for the education and socialization for our children.

Therefore, be it resolved that OPSEU lobby for increases to the Canada Child Tax Benefits, the Universal Child Care Benefits, the GST credit and Employment Insurance; and

Be it further resolved that OPSEU lobby for an affordable National Child Care Program, and

Be it further resolved that OPSEU lobby to stop the closure of daycare centres at the Community Colleges.

CARRIED

b. Moved by Barry June, Seconded by Shawn Krolicki

Whereas healthy Unions are built on solidarity and democratic decision making; and

Whereas Minority Reports are valuable tools to encourage full discussion with the union; and

Whereas there have been instances where Minority Reports have been distributed to the employer resulting in undermining solidarity.

Therefore be it resolved that Board Minority Reports may only be distributed internally within the Union and to Union members.

CARRIED

c. Moved by Nancy Teves, Seconded by Lyn Medler

Whereas OPSEU Bargaining Units are mandated by legislation and the legislation restricts when strike votes can take place; and

Whereas these restrictions do not allow for a strike vote well in advance of an optimal strike action; and

Whereas it is imperative to put as much pressure on the employer before strike action is necessary through campaigns and strike preparations; and

Whereas the cost of a strike may far exceed any campaign or strike preparations undertaken.

Therefore be it resolved that OPSEU amend Article (25.2-7) which states "After the membership has voted to strike and before a strike starts, each Local shall...." to "within 60 days of the expiration of a Collective Agreement and before a strike starts, each Local shall..."

CARRIED

d. Moved by Maxine Wilder, Seconded by Barry June

Whereas Attendance Review programs are becoming an increasing issue for OPSEU member workplaces; and

Whereas Local Stewards need more information and tools to represent their fellow members.

Therefore be it resolved that OPSEU develop materials, tools and educational courses to empower OPSEU Stewards; and

Be it further resolved that this be done in conjunction with the DisAbility Rights Caucas.

CARRIED

e. Moved by Connie Collins, Seconded by Maxine Wilder

Whereas OPSEU provides education for members on “Duty to Accommodate”, to ensure their rights in their workplaces are upheld; and

Whereas gender identity is not a specified ground of the Ontario Human Rights Code; and

Whereas gender identity is key to the overall well-being of an individual in their workplace.

Therefore be it resolved that OPSEU actively influence the public policy change to include gender identity in the Ontario Human Rights Code to further the protected rights of all citizens of Ontario

CARRIED

5. Call for submissions of Constitutional Amendments to the 2009 Convention.

None submitted.

6. Stability

Moved by Ross Langill, Seconded by Shawn Krolicki

To move in-camera

The meeting moved out of “in-camera” when decision about Stability ended.

Meeting ended as no other business was to be discussed.