

Convention 2008 Report

“It’s a New Day” blared the banner above the head table at the 2008 OPSEU Convention which opened with *Faith Corral’s* rendition of *A New Day Has Come*. (Without exaggeration the *Faith Corral* gave Celine Dion a run for her money!)

In many ways, this is a "new day" for the union. We have a new President and a new Vice-President/Treasurer presiding over this Convention. At the next Convention, we expect thousands of new part time and sessional members from the colleges will also be represented.

Pressure on Part Time Issue

On Thursday the Ontario Labour Relations Board (OLRB) ordered the Ministry of Labour to work with the colleges and the union to develop an efficient voting process. Paddy Musson attended these hearings and got more than her daily exercise quota by walking back and forth to Convention.

OPSEU is not letting up the political pressure. Convention delegates continue to call on the government to immediately recognize OPSEU as the bargaining agent for part timers. Meetings are being setup with Liberal MPPs and a [petition](#) is also being circulated to demand immediate legislation. You can help by [printing](#) a copy of the petition and asking your friends and fellow citizens to sign it and returning it to room D2018. Or you could simply see your steward or drop by D2018 to sign it.

“The Perfect Storm”

OPSEU is debt free and owns its own building. OPSEU will be ready to take on the government as nearly all of the sectors will be

entering into collective bargaining in what has been dubbed "The Perfect Storm."



Local 110’s delegates to Convention (left to right): Gary Dickey, Darryl Bedford (incoming Chief Steward), Kathryn Tamasi (1st Vice President), and Gary Fordyce (retiring Chief Steward). Not pictured is Paddy Musson (President Local 110 and OPSEU Constitution Committee) but her coffee cup is in the foreground.

Local Submissions Supported

Local 110 had two resolutions that received unanimous support at Convention.

Resolution L1 calling on OPSEU to work with the Ontario Federation of Labour to lobby the provincial government to reopen child care centres at the colleges was particularly well received.



Resolution L5 concerned the federal government’s funding cuts to the First Nations Technical Institute (FNTI). OPSEU President Warren "Smokey" Thomas stepped down from the platform to take the floor and support this resolution calling for OPSEU to lobby the federal government to live up to its treaty obligations.

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Local 110 also brought forward a housekeeping constitutional amendment that passed giving authority to the Divisional Executive to act on matters between Divisional meetings held every two years.

Coke Products Banned

A presentation was made to convention concerning the internal conflicts, human rights abuses, and labour practices in Columbia. This was followed by a successful resolution banning all Coca-Cola products from OPSEU events as a result of their activities Columbia.

Stanley H. Knowles Humanitarian Award

One of the highlights of the Convention was Stephen Lewis, himself a former award winner, introducing this year's winner of the Stanley H. Knowles Humanitarian Award, Dr. Philip Berger.



Dr. Berger is a driving force behind a clinic in South Africa treating people dealing with HIV/AIDS. He was also recognized for his work with OPSEU's [Live and Let Live Fund](#). Berger said that the destruction HIV/AIDS inflicts can continue to be slowly pushed back thanks to such remedies as the development of clinics made possible by what OPSEU is doing through donations and fund raising.

For more Convention news and photos, visit www.opseu.org

Health and Safety Zone Inspectors Needed

If interested, contact Rick Jolliffe or the union office D2018 ext. 4205.

Local 110 News



This was Gary Fordyce's 24th consecutive Convention. The Local honoured him with our thanks, good wishes, and an inscribed watch of his dreams. We wish Gary well in his retirement and we'll be sending out some information on a planned celebration.

At the last General Membership Meeting, the Local also congratulated Carol Toop for her 14 years of service as Treasurer and Rick Jolliffe and John VanderSteen for their work on Health and Safety.

Elections were held and your new executive officers are:

- President: Paddy Musson
- 1st V.P.: Kathryn Tamasi
- 2nd V.P.: Haytham Mahoud
- Chief Steward: Darryl Bedford
- Treasurer: Kathleen Dindoff
- Secretary: Catherine Hagerty-Mwangi



OPSEU Local 110
Fanshawe College (Room D2018)
P.O. Box 7005, 1001 Fanshawe College Blvd.
London, Ontario N5Y 5R6
Ph. (519) 452-4205
Fax (519) 453-5345

E-mail: union@opseu110.ca
Website: <http://www.opseu110.ca>

Approved for distribution:

Paddy Musson, President OPSEU 110