



SEIU-MOHLTC Meeting

SEIU Local 1 Canada President Sharleen Stewart met with David Caplan, the Minister of Health and Long Term Care in September. On the agenda was protecting public health care, the current poor state of home care in our province, and in particular the plight of our many home care members (SEIU is the largest home care union in the province). President Stewart said SEIU went with solutions, and the Minister responded by requesting another meeting.

High Cost of Low Wages

Toronto & York Region Labour Council President John Cartwright reported on the Good Jobs Declaration and the 38-member coalition's plan to raise living and working conditions in Canada. See www.labourcouncil.ca

Ongoing Agenda Items

- Red Cross Bargaining
- President's Vision Strategy
- Justice for All Planning
- RPN Division Strategic Plan
- Essex County Paramedics
- Member Resource Centre

NEXT MEETING: Nov 2008

PRESIDENT'S EXECUTIVE BOARD SUMMARY: 24 September 2008

New Campaign for Home Care Workers: RunningOnEmpty.ca

SEIU Canada launched a comprehensive national public relations and government advocacy campaign in September, starting with a Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) in northwestern Ontario. The rest of Ontario will follow.



The Executive Board learned that the national office's Running On Empty (www.RunningOnEmpty.ca) campaign has already led to a meeting between Local president Sharleen Stewart and the new Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, David Caplan, as well as meetings with senior representatives

at home care agencies that employ Local 1 Canada members.

The Running On Empty campaign emphasizes the challenges that Personal Support Workers, and all home care workers, face when doing their jobs, which includes how the rising cost of gas and uncompensated time spent travelling from client to client is reducing their real incomes to the poverty level.

The Running On Empty campaign's goals are to ensure that through bargaining home care workers are provided the tools they need to do their jobs, that employers compensate them appropriately for the essential health care function they provide, and to lobby the government, in cooperation with home care agencies, to provide the necessary funding to make the system work to the benefits of all Ontarians.

Organizing: "build from within"

The Executive Board supported an Organizing initiative to 'build from within our union' to strengthen Organizing momentum in our sectors.

Organizing's Dave Mott and Linda Elliott explained that our Local is finding and developing leaders within our workplaces, the broader

membership, and even volunteers outside our union.

2008 has been a tough year for unorganized workers trying to form unions in their workplaces. Employers have been aggressive and intimidating workers from exercising their right to form unions in their workplaces.