



PRESIDENT'S EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING SUMMARY: 18 March 2009

Member Resource Centre

Planning for the MRC helpline is progressing according to plan, the Executive Board learned. How the MRC will be staffed and the physical and technological requirements are now being prepared for at Local 1 Canada's head office in Concord. The MRC will be implemented in stages.

Horizontal Violence

The RPN Division is putting a spotlight on horizontal violence. RPNs in the Sarnia area are hosting Dianne Martin, RPN, RN, BScN, Executive Director of the RPNAO, to speak to members at Bluewater Health. The RPN Division is also cooperating with the RPNAO and Brock University in a related research study at the Niagara Health System.

Audit Report: Good Order

Bill Deneault CA, an independent financial auditor, delivered a detailed report of the Local's annual financial audit. The Local's books are in good standing.

Ongoing Agenda Items

- Home Care Funding
- Executive Board Vacancies

NEXT MEETING: May 2009

Member Activist Program

SEIU Canada draws new 'MAP' for Canada-wide political action

SEIU is pumping up its political muscle by founding a comprehensive national Member Activist Program, also known as MAP.

Modeled on the SEIU COPE program in the U.S., MAP will focus on mobilizing Canadian SEIU members to greater political action and affect in Canada.

The program in the US has been a huge success, raising funds for political

campaigns. For example, COPE assisted SEIU in being a powerful advocate and financial supporter of Barack Obama's bid for the U.S. presidency. So COPE

really works, and so will MAP in Canada, the Executive Board agrees.

MAP will be launched by SEIU Canada this summer, when education programs and voluntary MAP donations programs will be presented to

Red Cross: Home Care Funding Crisis

The Executive Board was reminded that our sisters and brothers who provide home care services in Ontario are often surviving on wages that leave them below the poverty line. The consequence is SEIU's Red Cross members are facing strike action.

While the government set a "minimum wage" of \$12.50 an hour, home care workers are paid only for the hours they spend providing the valuable service they perform for so many clients, young and old. On average, up to a third of their day is spent travelling to and from clients with no compensation for that time



Home Care members with Union Rep David Cheslock

spent in the process of doing their job.

The Red Cross members' plight is best expressed by a home care client that contacted SEIU: "I think it's a real shame that they don't get paid for their travel time. Even if they are taking the bus, they should have a bus pass paid, as well as their time. They shouldn't just get paid kilometers, they should get the time they spend. To me, that is unfair. They have to go quite a distance. They don't just go around the corner."