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## **PRESIDENTS REPORT** - Executive Board Meeting September 14, 2010

### **Grievances, Niagara Region**

#### **Admin & Technical Services**

RN-AT- (05)(06)(08)(09)-2010  
RN-AT- 06-2009

#### **Community Services**

RN-CS- (09)-2009  
RN-CS-(6)(4)(3)-2010

#### **St.Catharines Museum**

#### **Group Grievances**

RN-GP-01-2010

#### **Niagara Institute**

NI-02-2010

#### **CMHA**

CMHA-(01)(02)(10)-2010

#### **Transportation Services**

RN-TS-13-2005  
RN-TS-(02)(04)(14)-2009  
RN-TS-(03)(04)(05)-2010

#### **Environmental Services**

RN-ES-06-2009  
RN-ES-(01)(1)(10)(XX)2010

#### **Policy**

CMHA-POL-01-2010

#### **Lincoln**

L-02-2010

#### **West Lincoln**

WL-01-2010

Traditionally the summer brings a slower season around the Office but not this year; it has been unusually busy. We have seen a steady stream of Grievances and issues over the course of the typical vacation season.

### **General**

✓ Canadian Benefits Consulting is still waiting for information from all Employers; I have spoken to the Director of Human Resources at the Niagara Region and was assured they are able to provide it now. Some delay was caused by the carrier not keeping individual information on usage until last year. They are now able to sort it and will provide what they have.

We will be sending out a follow-up letter to all other Employers to ask once again that they provide the information requested.

✓ CUPE Ontario initiated a meeting last month in Toronto. The meeting was the groundwork for talks with the Province in early September around the 0% wage freeze and how it should be implemented. A Motion was introduced to the floor that stated CUPE would not support a wage freeze but would assist the Province in finding ways to cut the provincial deficit in other ways.

After a great deal of debate the motion was passed with some minor additions around protecting Pay Equity.

Local 1287 is still finding a great resistance in getting information regarding our Benefits coverage to our consultant Canadian Benefits. We do know that we will eventually get the information as other locals have

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achieved it. Any agreements that are expiring will have the request attached, this will obligate the Employer to hand it over or face a Labour Board complaint.

Local 1287 does has a few Agreements that expire during this time:

<b><u>St. Catharines Museum</u></b>	<b><u>December 31, 2010</u></b>
Niagara Institute	May 31, 2011
CMHA	March 31, 2012
Welland Humane	June 30, 2011
West Lincoln	March 31, 2012
Town of Lincoln	March 31, 2012
<b><u>Lincoln Humane</u></b>	<b><u>December 31, 2010</u></b>
John Howard	June 30, 2011
CARSA	March 31, 2011
Niagara Region	December 31, 2011

The issue with both agreements expiring in 2010 will be that they are both municipally funded. If the Municipalities force their other Bargaining Units to Zero percent it will certainly trickle down to these units.

✓ We have had inquiries from Members interested in setting up an equality committee within Local 1287. Currently our by-laws do not have a standing equality committee; I have asked that they send a letter to the office so we can discuss this important issue at our next Executive meeting. The next step would be to include the committee as part of our by-laws. The details would need to be worked out at our by-law meeting.

✓ CUPE National is asking for any candidates interested in running in the upcoming Municipal Elections in October to have their Local or the Niagara CUPE Council endorse them and send the information to the Nationals Office. Any candidate who is a member of CUPE can be eligible for up to \$750 in contributions from CUPE.

**OMERS UPDATE** - I have left this update in my report as it is still relative over the next few months. The performance and state of our pension plan. As was expected our pension plan performed poorly during the last year, a deficit of \$1.9 Billion is what we currently have, a planned rate increase with a phased in 3 year plan will see our contributions rise approximately 3%. The deficit within OMERS could rise to 8 billion for 2011 if not addressed. I have attached a graph which I printed from the OMERS website at [www.omers.com](http://www.omers.com) I have highlighted the graph that clearly shows a downward trend beginning in late 2007 and continues into 2010. It shows a current deficit of 1.9 Billion and growing. While rate increases are not the preferable way of stabilizing the deficit it will help protect our pension and its members until the markets improve. OMERS also has to follow Provincial legislation regarding any surplus in the future, this means that once the markets improve and the pension begins to stabilize OMERS would have to give back any surplus through a contribution holiday. I will continue to monitor this through OMERS and CUPE over the next while and see what the final outcome is regarding the proposed increases and when they are going to be scheduled to take effect.

### **Correspondence**

A letter was sent to the Ontario Division questioning the use of funds they are soliciting from all Locals for the Fight Back Fund. Their response is attached to my report.

In Solidarity,



Shawn Wilson, President

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