

Lunch & Learn – State of the Union

OSSTF D 35
Brock University
Support Staff

Overview of presentation

- **State of the Union – Brock Local**
- **The Provincial Landscape**
- **Brock Alliance of Labour Leaders**
- **Community Partnerships**
- **Future activities**
- **Q & A**

The State of the Union – Brock local

- We are up to 14 formal grievances as of March 31st, our Federation year runs from July 1st to June 30th
- A number were resolved with the recent departure of a Director, a number are headed to Arbitration and a couple others have been resolved with Memorandums of Agreement (MOA)
- We are trying to keep a close eye on how the University uses students, and others, in relation to our members' work and our TES members access to work
- Our monthly Staff Relations agendas have been shorter but, they still contain a variety of issues which are not always covered by our Collective Agreement

The State of the Union – Brock local

- We have a lot of members, (5% +), off on short and long term disability for a variety of issues and keeping in contact with those members can be difficult
- We continue to push forward with Job Evaluations with virtually no back log currently and hopefully a more standardized review cycle coming in the not too distant future
- We are working closely with the other Unions on campus to address issues of mutual concern
- Our Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 9th and we are in need of members who may be interested in taking on the role of Bargaining Unit rep.

The Provincial Landscape

- The Protecting Public Services Act with its wage freezes is still a real possibility in our province
- We have a new Premier but it may not be for long
- The current Minister of Training Colleges and Universities seems to have a similar vision as his predecessor but, may not be in office long enough to act
- We have another Provincial election on the horizon if the Provincial budget gets turned down at Queens Park
- D 35, our University sector of OSSTF, has become more vocal provincially and we ourselves have stepped up our efforts with respect to trying to get the ear of MPP's

Community Partnerships

- We continue to have a presence at the Niagara Regional Labour Council where we strive to advance issues of common concern for all workers
- We have put support behind Fair Vote Canada in assisting with the start up of a local Niagara chapter
- We continue to work regularly with Pen Financial to offer education, information and service to our members
- We continue to support, as a Union and sometimes as individuals, important social justice causes such as Gillian's Place, Women's Shelter of South Niagara, Women's Addiction Recovery Mediation, Free the Children, United Way

Brock Alliance of Labour Leaders (BALLS)

- **BUFA, CUPE and OSSTF Presidents met two weeks ago to discuss how we can assist each other with upcoming rounds of negotiations**
- **Union representatives meeting next week to discuss issues regarding health and safety and how we can join forces to ensure concerns are addressed**
- **All Unions have been advertising and supporting the first Annual General Meeting of Fair Vote Canada, Niagara Chapter, to be held at Brock this Saturday**
- **Unions have all signed on to a BUFA led campaign to increase the transparency of the Board of Trustees at Brock** <http://www.change.org/petitions/brock-university-board-of-trustees-open-committee-meetings-to-the-university-community-and-wider-public-2>

Future Activities

- **Fair Vote Canada, Niagara Chapter, AGM on Saturday, April 6th 2013 @ 10am in the Sankey Chambers**
<http://www.fairvote.ca/>
- **We are Silent, Thursday, April 18th, 2013**
<http://www.freethechildren.com/get-involved/campaigns/we-are-silent/>
- **OSSTF D 35 Brock University Support Staff Annual General Meeting and Elections on Thursday, May 9th, 2013 @ 4:45pm in TH 325 (www.d35-brock.osstf.ca)**
- **Gillian's Place Walk for Women on Saturday, May 11th, 2013** <http://www.gilliansplace.com/>
- **Annual Wellness Day at Brock on Wednesday, June 19, 2013**

Questions?