

Website launch

We are excited to finally announce the launch of the [Local 527 website!](http://www.opseulocal527.org) On it, you will find the latest local news, links to our social media pages, information about your Local Executive Committee, access to resources such as collective agreements and the latest salary schedules, and a contact page to get you in touch with a steward. Make sure to add www.opseulocal527.org to your favourites, and follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/opseulocal527), [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/opseulocal527), [Threads](https://www.threads.net/@opseulocal527), and [Twitter!](https://twitter.com/opseulocal527)

Interested in helping make Local 527 stronger? Get involved!

There are many ways for you to be involved with Local 527. Whether it's referring your colleagues to the appropriate resources as an information steward, helping to plan local events and activities, or sitting on local employee relations and health and safety committees, every contribution makes a difference.

Please contact your Local Executive Committee at info@opseulocal527.org and we will help find a role that's right for you.

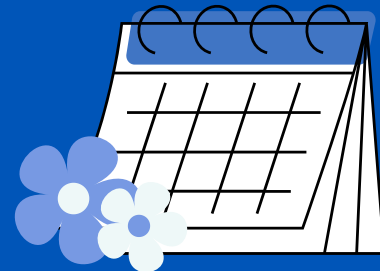
Our union is as strong as it's membership - you ARE the union!

In solidarity, *Local 527
Executive Committee*

Summer Social Event

After the huge success of the Local's 2023 holiday party, we are looking forward to having a summer social event.

Please stay tuned for more details!



Updates from the Convention Floor: Convention 2024

Convention is the union's highest ranking authority, where delegates debate and vote on policy and constitutional motions. The 2024 Convention was attended by around 2000 members (photo at left) and took place April 25-27, 2024 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. This year's theme was **Workers Fight Back.**

For more information about the Local 527's delegation to Convention, [check out the post on our website!](#)



Local 527 Updates

Ontario Public Service

Bill 124 Wage Reopener Provisions Update

By now, members should have received an updated timeline on when they can expect wage increases and retroactive pay from the Bill 124 arbitration award. OPSEU/SEFPO has been putting continuous pressure on the employer to speed up the process, but the rollout continues to be slow. Review the wage grid for all Unified classifications (except nurses) [here](#).

At this time, members can expect new wage rates in early to mid-summer 2024. Once the new rate of pay is implemented, the following payroll will include retroactive payments for most active OPS Unified employees. The following several pay runs will be used by the Employer for any corrections. Once active employees receive their new rate of pay and their retroactive payments, retroactive payments will be issued for inactive employees. The employer will notify WSIB, LTIP and pension of the changes.

New OPS Unified Bargaining Team

The newly elected OPS Unified Bargaining Team met on April 10-12, 2024 to get to know each other and prepare for bargaining. You can read the OPS Unified team's bios [here](#).

The OPS Unified Bargaining Team has activated Regional Area Coordinating Groups (ACGs) as a vital component of their bargaining strategy. Regional meetings are underway, providing a platform for members to provide input and support during the bargaining process to help ensure that the new collective agreement is reflective of the needs of the entire OPS Unified membership.

Local 527 members in the OPS are urged to get involved with the Region 5 ACG and to actively participate in the upcoming Demand Set Surveys which will be rolled out in two phases. The first phase aims to collect crucial information that will influence the content of the upcoming Demand Set Survey.

Region 5 ACG contact info: Dalia Campbell at daliacampbell@hotmail.ca or 647-720-8990.

Workplace Safety and Insurance Appeals Tribunal

Bill 124 Wage Reopener Provisions Update

While our OPS Unified members continue to await payment of their stolen wages, we are pleased to announce that on May 9, 2024, current WSIAT members received their first pay increase as a result of the Bill 124 wage reopener award. The increases include a 1% increase retroactive to January 1, 2021, a 3% increase from January 1, 2022, and a 3.5% increase from January 1, 2023. Retroactive pay for these increases was paid on May 23, 2024.

Bill 124 hit WSIAT members particularly hard, resulting in missed increases going back to January 1, 2021. By January 1, 2024, WSIAT members were a full 3% behind the OPS' already reduced Bill 124 wages.

As the prior WSIAT collective agreement expired on June 30, 2023, the January 1, 2024 3% increase will not be paid until a new collective agreement is ratified. Until then, WSIAT members continue to be 3% behind the current OPS Unified wage grid.

Bargaining Update

Now that Bill 124 is no longer an obstacle to bargaining, negotiations for WSIAT's new collective agreement are tentatively scheduled to resume in July 2024, pending the employer receiving their mandate to resume bargaining from the Treasury Board Secretariat (TBS). Despite having previously ratified an agreement which would have covered this period, the WSIAT Bargaining Team is now back at the table, due to this agreement being rejected by the Conservative government because of Bill 124. The Bargaining Team is looking forward to negotiating an agreement that meets the needs of their members; it will cover the period from July 1, 2023 to December 31, 2024. Stay tuned for further updates!

Canadian Mental Health Association, Ontario Division

Bill 124 Wage Reopener Provisions Update

In Spring 2023, CMHA ON ratified a new collective agreement that covered the period from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2024. This agreement included wage increases for all regular staff: 4% from April 1, 2022, 3% from April 1, 2023, and 3% from April 1, 2024. The 4% retroactive wage increase was paid in early summer, 2023. Unfortunately, a large proportion of CMHA ON staff (at least 45%) are considered 'special funded', which means that although they are included in the bargaining unit, their wages are not subject to the same wage grid or increases as regular staff. Despite this challenge, our workers strongly advocated for wage increase parity for special funded staff, and were able to secure the same 3% increase from April 1, 2023. As of this update, there has been no further discussion from the employer regarding continued parity of wage increases for special funded employees.

Bargaining Update

Despite having just ratified a new collective agreement last year, CMHA ON members will be heading back to the bargaining table in Fall 2024 as the current agreement ends December 31, 2024.

Discussions are underway regarding the election of the bargaining team and scheduling demand set meetings to ensure that members are able to provide input and support to the bargaining team. Stay tuned for further updates!

Make your voice heard and join the Labour Movement!

Injured Workers' Bill of Rights

Everyday in Ontario, workers are injured or made ill on the job. All too often, these workers must battle within a workers' compensation system that was built to support them, but fails to meet their needs. For injured workers who are simply seeking the compensation and benefits they are owed, this unjust process is unacceptable.

To address these challenges, the Injured Workers' Bill of Rights delineates essential rights endorsed by the [Ontario Network of Injured Workers Groups \(ONIWG\)](#) and the [Ontario Federation of Labour \(OFL\)](#), to outline the minimum rights that the provincial government must guarantee to ensure just, fair, and non-discriminatory treatment for injured workers, including:

- Universal workers' compensation coverage across all sectors, ensuring access for every worker.
- Unimpeded access to healthcare, coupled with full coverage for related travel expenses.
- A workers' compensation system that adequately recognizes mental health workplace injuries.
- Enacting Bill 57, the [Respecting Injured Workers Act](#), to ensure accurate calculation of benefits for injured workers.
- Recognizing treating healthcare teams as the primary source of medical information.
- Preventing benefit cuts due to pre-existing conditions.
- Removing age-based limits on Loss of Earnings benefits, protecting older workers.

Visit <https://ofl.ca/action/injured-workers-bill-of-rights/> to add your voice to secure justice for injured workers in Ontario, and join the Injured Workers' Day rally at Queen's Park on June 1 to celebrate the gains made through united action, raise current concerns, and remind governments we cannot be ignored!. To RSVP and find more information, [click here](#).

Healthcare For All

In Ontario, many, including those without permanent resident status, lack access to healthcare, causing unnecessary suffering and straining the system. A stop-gap program during the pandemic was abruptly cut in March 2023, leaving many without vital care. Immediate restoration of this program is crucial, but true universal healthcare is urgently needed, ensuring equal access to OHIP for all.

Visit <https://www.decentworkandhealth.org/healthcare4all> to send a message to your MPP to restore the program!

Sofundme.ca

OPSEU/SEFPO is going on the offensive with an ad campaign that calls out the absurdity of Premier Ford's plan to privatize alcohol sales and hand billions of dollars in public revenue over to grocery chains and corporations. The union has launched [sofundme.ca](#) – a parody crowdfunding site that's "Helping Doug Ford help billionaires".

Check it out and add your voice to tell Ontario's government to keep their hands off the LCBO!