



DECEMBER 2025

OPSEU Frontlines

OPSEU Local 101's monthly newsletter

Season's Greetings to all of our OPSEU members

SUSAN BOHNERT HAMELIN, LOCAL 101 PRESIDENT

The year has flown by and has been filled with many events and challenges. Through it all, you have shown fortitude and resilience, as Health Care is not getting any easier to navigate. As Frontline workers, you are often tasked with the impossible, yet you show up and give your all, regardless.

That approach is what keeps everyone going.

In the coming year, there will be more work ahead. Local 101 will be moving forward with it's new LEC Executive Team. As OPSEU has completed their Elections, the following list are the individuals that will make up the LEC for the next 3 years, starting January 2026:

ELECTION RESULTS- Nov 25 & 26th, 2025

President (elected) – Susan Bohnert Hamelin (WRH)

1st Vice President (elected)- Ema Sisic (HDGH)

Second VP- (elected)- Nichole Strong (WRH)

Third VP- (elected) – Anna Rowles (WRH)

Secretary (elected) – Richard Baillargeon (WRH)

Treasurer (acclaimed)- Anna Rowles (WRH)

Communications Officer (acclaimed) – Jennifer Burton Liang (WRH)

Shannon Duncan (1st VP) and Lauren Merritt (2nd VP) will continue in their roles until the end of the year, and then the new members will be oriented to the positions.

In addition to the new LEC, we have started our Bargaining with the WRH Employer. Two Bargaining Days were held on Dec 10th and 11th. The day was full,
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and several House Keeping items were already solidified. The Team has their mandate from the members, and we will continue to hold fast, to ensure that a favourable outcome is achieved. Bargaining is one of the only ways the membership can have a voice, so we intend to make your voices heard. Future Bargaining dates have been set in the New Year for both WRH & HDGH. The Union is waiting on the ESHC Employer to confirm it's schedule.

Once again, as the year draws to a close, I would like to express my gratitude for being able to serve in the role to which I have been elected. The work that our members do, in the Public Service Sector, is not for everyone. You must give every day, more than expected, because there is a patient at the end of your task. You have to dig deep for additional energy and compassion and it does not go unnoticed. This Holiday Season, however you celebrate, celebrate your own personal accomplishments and know that your work is appreciated. If you have brought comfort, laughter or peace of mind to even one person, you have succeeded.

Peace, good health and solidarity,
Susan



Photos (left to right):

- Anna Rowles and her husband wrapping gifts for Project Christmas
- Jen Burton Liang and Anna Rowles at Project Christmas Wrapping Event
- Nicole Harris and Jen Burton Liang drop off \$1000 worth of gifts for teens at Hiatus House

The Donations Committee would like to share some photos of our recent holiday donations to Project Christmas and Hiatus House. \$5000 from our COVID rebate money was used to sponsor 4 local families in need and purchase needed items for teens at Hiatus House. We hope our Local members have a safe, relaxing and enjoyable holiday season!

PROJECT CHRISTMAS IS HOSTING A FREE SKATE EVENT AT LANSPEARY PARK ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27TH FROM 3-4PM. OPSEU LOCAL 101 WAS SELECTED AS THE TITLE SPONSOR. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

New email server

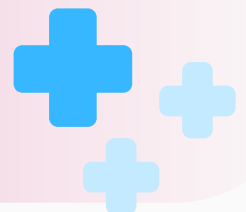
Our local recently purchased an email server package to better reach members. Previously our gmail method would mean that multiple batches of emails would need to be sent separately. With this upgraded package we can email 1000 members all at once making it a more streamlined process. We need your help! Here's how you can help ensure we are reaching you:



- Please provide your personal email address to our LEC secretary at secretary@opseu101.org We need to be able to reach members on their personal emails even in the event of another hospital cyber attack and work emails may be down.
- Check your junk and spam folders for emails from both the local and head office. If you find our emails in the junk/spam folders ensure they are tagged as safe to receive going forward.
- If you're not receiving head office emails you can sign up at <https://hub03.opseu.org/Forms/emaweb>
- If you hear a coworker mention they are not receiving our emails take a moment and pass along these tips. Staying connected is so important for our union.

**REMEMBER TO USE ANY REMAINING BLUE CROSS
HEALTHCARE SPENDING ACCOUNT FUNDS BEFORE
THE END OF 2025!**

**ANY FUNDS IN YOUR 2025 HEALTHCARE SPENDING ACCOUNT
WILL NOT CARRY OVER TO 2026 SO BE SURE TO USE THEM ON
THE THINGS THAT MATTER TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY:
PRESCRIPTION EYE GLASSES OR CONTACT LENSES, MASSAGE
THERAPY OR PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES JUST
TO NAME A FEW!**





Meet a member

KELLY MASSENDER

Hello to my fellow OPSEU members! My name is Kelly Massender, and I am just weeks away from my 7-year mark with HDGH. I am a social worker at the Regional Children's Centre and presently one of five members of the Assertive Community Treatment Team for Children. A team that I am deeply proud of. The ACT-C team was created on the foundation of needing a service that was more flexible, creative and accessible to families where various barriers stood in the way of their success. We are a mobile team (servicing children 6-12) providing mental health, and behavioural support, as well as other resources that might be needed to remove barriers for our families. We are an interdisciplinary team (both Social Workers and Child and Youth Workers), but we treat one another with respect and as equals. Like any new program, there are always kinks to work out, processes to

develop, and constant evaluating that occurs. They've taken all of that in stride while keeping the families at the forefront of what we do. We acknowledge each other's strengths, skill sets, and utilize all of those to best serve the families in the program.

I've had the privilege of being in other roles at RCC as well including outpatient therapy and Coordinated Service Planning (or CSP) as it too started as a new program. In every role I've been in I can say that I've seen some of the hardest working and dedicated people. We all have experienced an ever changing and complex world and working in the healthcare field we've seen how it has impacted the mental health of many, including our littlest clients and patients. It is a true privilege to work with so many caring people who give their all to their jobs every day despite how tough this line of work can be.

Being an OPSEU member to me means using your voice where it matters. I attend meetings, follow the latest news and communications, and recognize the importance of having the support of a union in the workplace. I am a strong advocate for using your own voice and speaking up about the things that matter. I have worked on a few teams at this point in my career and I truly believe that we are stronger together. I hope that we can continue to advocate for and utilize our collective voices to build a workplace where everyone feels seen, heard, respected and valued in the roles they hold.

When I am not at work you can find me reading, dreaming up another DIY project, spending time with my husband and loved ones, and chasing around my toddler. I love all things iced coffee, camping, cheesy reality tv, and I think fall/Halloween is one of the best times of the year. I hope to meet more of you in the future!!