

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2026

# OPSEU Frontlines

OPSEU Local 101's monthly newsletter

## New Year and getting down to business...

On January 13<sup>th</sup> we held a General Membership Meeting at the local office to swear in new LEC members and Stewards, and hold elections for Trustees, Scholarship and Donations Committees. Voting took place to elect Delegates and Alternates to attend the upcoming Regional and General Conventions. Welcome to all new stewards, LEC members, trustees and committee members! Thank you to all who attended!

Trustees: Katie Deschamps, Denise Pace, Theresa St. Denis

Scholarship Committee: Burcu Bayraktar, Becky Ball, Joanne Calamita

Donations Committee: Joanne Calamita, Shannon Duncan, Burcu Bayraktar, Joanne Gamble

Regional Convention Delegates (5), Alternates (5)

Delegates: Susan Bohnert Hamelin (automatic), Burcu Bayraktar, Sonia Ricci Debono, Jasmine Taylor, Anna Rowles

Alternates: Ema Sisic, Lauren Lo Medico, Shannon Duncan

General Convention: Delegates (5), Alternates (5)

Delegates: Susan Bohnert Hamelin (automatic), Ema Sisic, Richard Baillargeon, Anna Rowles, Burcu Bayraktar

Alternates: Shannon Duncan, jen Burton Liang, Lauren Lo Medico, Katie Deschamps, Nichole Strong

Possible Observers: Jasmine Taylor, Denise Pace

## Upcoming Events and Notices:

OPSEU  
REGION 1  
CONVENTION

MARCH 21<sup>ST</sup> 2026  
IN WINDSOR

OPSEU  
GENERAL  
CONVENTION

APRIL 8<sup>TH</sup>-11<sup>TH</sup>  
2026  
IN TORONTO

# Local 101 members running for Equity Positions in the Upcoming Region 1 Convention!

I am proud to announce that I am running for Region One's Provincial Women's Committee Representative with Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU).

As an Addiction Specialist with the Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Team at Hôtel-Dieu Grace Healthcare, I work every day alongside individuals facing complex mental health and addiction challenges. This work has strengthened my commitment to equity, advocacy, and meeting people where they are; these are values I've brought to my union as a steward for the past two years.

I have also had the privilege of coordinating the Windsor Shoebox Project, supporting marginalized women in our community with dignity and compassion. Through this work, I have seen firsthand the power of collective action and solidarity.

Our Women's Committee must continue to be a strong, unified voice for women across OPSEU. I am committed to amplifying diverse voices, strengthening regional connections, and ensuring our work reflects the real challenges women face in our workplaces and communities.

If elected for Region One's Provincial Women's Committee Representative, I am committed to:

- Amplifying diverse women's voices across all regions
- Strengthening engagement and communication within the committee
- Building meaningful connections between the union and the communities we serve
- Advancing equity, inclusion, and solidarity in all aspects of our work

I believe that every woman's experience matters and that real change happens when we stand together in solidarity.

Every voice matters. Every action counts. Together, we can continue building a union that empowers, protects, and uplifts women.

I would be honoured to have your support.

In solidarity,  
Burcu Bayraktar



# Local 101 members running for Equity Positions in the Upcoming Region 1 Convention!

Building a Stronger Union: Why the PYC Matters

By Anna Rowles, 3rd VP/Treasurer

In a union as expansive as OPSEU/SEFPO, our future depends on how we engage our newest members today. As a candidate for the Provincial Young Workers Committee (PYC), I believe this committee is the vital heartbeat for members aged 35 and under, ensuring they aren't just names on a list, but empowered leaders.

How the PYC Strengthens Our Union:

- **Bridging the Gap:** The PYC welcomes, mentors, and educates. By providing a roadmap of our union's structure, we build a growing core of members ready to lead at Local, Regional, and Provincial levels.
- **Driving a Provincial Agenda:** From precarious work to housing instability, young workers face unique hurdles. The PYC ensures these issues remain at the forefront of our provincial strategy and bargaining efforts.
- **Intersectionality & Equity:** A young worker's experience is shaped by their race, gender, and background. By collaborating with groups like the Coalition of Racialized Workers and the Indigenous Circle, we ensure youth issues are integrated into our broader equity agenda.
- **A Culture of Participation:** Through focused educationals and youth caucuses, we create entry points for activism. When young workers are engaged, our collective bargaining power and social energy increase.

While seeking to represent Region 1, my goal is to serve every young worker in Ontario. I am running to champion professional development through mentorship with Executive Board Members and access to high-level union education.

Our union is at its best when it is intergenerational. By strengthening the PYC, we aren't just helping young workers—we are ensuring OPSEU/SEFPO remains a powerful, fighting union for decades to come.



# Donations Committee

## News from 2025 and looking forward to 2026!

Anna Rowles and Jen Burton Liang were your Donation Committee members 2024-2025. In our December 2025 newsletter we shared photos and information about the holiday donations to Hiatus House and Project Christmas. On December 27<sup>th</sup> 2025, OPSEU Local 101 was honoured by Project Christmas as their title sponsor for their Community Free Skate at Lanspeary Park. Below is a photo of Jen Burton Liang with Project Christmas Coordinator Christina Delmedico at the event.

Looking forward to 2026 we have a new Donations Committee! Joanne Calamita, Shannon Duncan, Burcu Bayraktar, and Joanne Gamble!

A reminder to all members that you can encourage your favourite local non-profit organizations to apply for OPSEU local 101 donation funds.

The criteria, process and forms are fully outlined on our website: [www.opseu101.org/donations](http://www.opseu101.org/donations). Deadline for consideration for the 2026 Donations is March 31, 2026. Donations will be presented in the spring of 2026.



# Scholarships available for children and grandchildren of OPSEU local 101 members!

If you have a child or grandchild who will be attending post secondary education in the Fall of 2026, be sure to have them apply for our OPSEU Local 101 scholarships! There are 15 x \$1000 scholarships available. All information and forms are available on our website [www.opseu101.org/scholarship](http://www.opseu101.org/scholarship). Deadline is June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Your new Scholarship Committee members are: Burcu Bayraktar, Becky Ball, and Joanne Calamita.



In addition to our Local 101 scholarships, there may be additional scholarships your child can apply for from the main OPSEU website [www.opseu.org/scholarships](http://www.opseu.org/scholarships). Currently there is information posted about last year's scholarships, however, they should be updating it very soon with this year's scholarships. Keep an eye open!

# Education Opportunity!

Region 1 Weeklong Educational  
June 7 - 12, 2026  
Unifor Family Education Centre  
115 Shipley Drive, Port Elgin, Ontario

Interested members are invited to submit their Expression of Interest by completing an Application Form. **Deadline to forward your Expression of Interest/Application is April 17, 2026, at 4:30 pm.** Space is limited.

Applicants must be able to commit to the full week of training.

There will be a Plenary Session at 7:00 pm Sunday, June 7th, with the training to begin at 9:00 am Monday, June 8th, and end at noon on Friday, June 12th.

Applications will be reviewed by the Education Committee and selection decisions will be based on the application criteria.

All applicants will be notified by April 24, 2026, on their selection or not.

Further details, including transportation, will be provided to the selected participants at that time.

On-site childcare is available for this event. Expenses for childcare, family/dependent care will be paid in accordance with OPSEU/SEFPO Policy. Wages will be covered for selected participants as per OPSEU/SEFPO Policy.

Selected members will be entitled to accommodation at the Unifor Family Education Centre (further details to be provided to selected participants). All meals are included.

## **Courses being offered:**

**Stewards 1, Stewards 2, and Stewards 3**

**Basic Grievance Handling, Advanced Grievance Handling, and Interpreting your Collective Agreement**

**Arbitration - The Arbitration Process**

**Indigenous Journey - Walking Together - Parts 1, 2 and 3**

**Workers Health & Safety Centre - Health & Safety Certification**

For more specifics on how to submit an Expression of Interest and Course descriptions, please contact a member of the LEC and we will email this to you.





Did You Hear  
What's Coming  
Your Way?!

# HEALTH & SAFETY ONE-DAY WORKSHOP

Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup>

9:00am –5:00pm

WINDSOR REGIONAL OFFICE

130-3005 MARENTETTE AVENUE

**\*\* NEW DATE \*\***

One of our very own Health and Safety Officers from OPSEU/SEFPO Head Office will be facilitating this One-Day Workshop with a focus on:

- Worker Rights
- Joint Health & Safety Committee (JHSC)
- Rights & Responsibilities
- Employer Obligations under the *Occupational Health & Safety Act (OHSA)* and so much more!

This Workshop can also be of assistance to members and locals who are seeking a more detailed opportunity to speak directly with a Health & Safety Officer about Health & Safety concerns in their workplaces.

To Register, please email - [WindsorSupportStaff@opseu.org](mailto:WindsorSupportStaff@opseu.org)

**\*Locals are approved to use 80/20 fund to cover wages**

**\*No expenses will be covered\***

**Please submit LTO requests by April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**PLEASE NOTE:** This workshop is NOT on par with OPSEU/SEFPO Educationals H&S 1, 2 or 3 and NOT H & S Certification. It's designed to assist newly formed locals, new LECs, and new JHSC members/H&S Reps and locals/sectors struggling to resolve health and safety concerns in their workplace a long with some 'tips & tricks' for dealing with terrible employers.