

MARCH/APRIL 2026

OPSEU Frontlines

OPSEU Local 101's monthly newsletter

2026 Convention - April 9-11, 2026

Your elected Local 101 delegates and alternates who recently attended the 2026 Convention had a great experience! Biggest news was the re-election of both JP Hornick as President and Laurie Nancekivell as First VP/Treasurer. Guest speaker, Linda McQuaig, gave an engaging presentation on closing the wealth gap. We had many opportunities to network and meet OPSEU members from other locals and sectors. Below is a photo of our group.



Reminder:

DEADLINE FOR LOCAL 101 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS IS JUNE 5!

IF YOUR CHILD OR GRANDCHILD IS ATTENDING A CANADIAN POST SECONDARY INSTITUTION IN THE FALL, THEY CAN APPLY!

FOR CRITERIA AND APPLICATION PROCESS, GO TO THE OPSEU 101 WEBSITE: WWW.OPSEU101.ORG/SCHOLARSHIP

15 X $1000 SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE!



Regional Elections 2026

This was an exciting year for our local! Both Anna Rowles and Burcu Bayraktar won the Equity Positions they were running for and now represent our Region 1!

Anna is now a Committee member on the Provincial Young Workers Committee and Burcu is now a Committee member for the Provincial Women's Committee!

Congrats to them both!



photo: Anna Rowles (left) and Burcu Bayraktar (right)

Update from Provincial Young Workers Committee

BY ANNA ROWLES, REGION 1, PROVINCIAL YOUNG WORKERS COMMITTEE

At our OPSEU Regional Convention on March 21st, 2026, I was elected as the Region 1 Provincial Young Workers Committee (PYC) Member. There are 7 regions within OPSEU across the province and each region elects members to various equity committees. As the region 1 PYC member, my role is to promote young workers involvement in the Union and to advocate and educate around young worker issues. The committee as a whole works together to host conferences and events to help connect our young workers. Our goal is to engage, educate, mobilize and empower young workers whenever and wherever possible. My main focus during the 3 year term will be to host regional events for young workers to network, connect and learn from one another and from experienced leaders in our Union. Each year the PYC also runs a Mentorship program where we pair young workers with experienced leaders such as local presidents, executive board members, sector and divisional chairs or equity representatives so they may gain a better understanding of our union and develop paths to leadership themselves. Keep an eye on the newsletter for more PYC info! I'm hoping to engage and connect young workers across our region. We are stronger together!

In Solidarity,
Anna Rowles
R1 PYC



The rising costs of health privatization – HPD Caucus reminded that fewer get care when care is sold off

BY WENDY LEE, LOCAL 575, INSOLIDARITY COMMITTEE
REPRINTED FROM WWW.OPSEU.ORG APRIL 11, 2026

In a stark reminder of the damage done by privatization, Doug Ford's recent privatization of cataract surgeries was put under the microscope during the OPSEU/SEFPO Hospital Professionals Divisional Convention Caucus meeting on Apr 9, 2026.

Ontario Health Coalition Chair Natalie Mehra explained that since Ford privatized cataract surgeries five years ago, thousands of Ontarians no longer have easy access to the procedure.

"Roughly 14,000 cataract surgeries were performed in private care in the first year of privatization," says Mehra. "The same amount of money could have been stretched to serve 17,000 patients in public funded facilities."

Cataract surgeries – including the eye drops, the lenses, the measurements, and the surgery – are all fully covered by OHIP. But the procedure takes just 10 minutes and private clinics are misleading the public, making roughly $500 per procedure. "They are exploiting vulnerable patients for 5 to 10 times the actual cost," she said, pointing the blame squarely back at Ford and the provincial government.
"Ford downright lied," said Mehra. "Two months before the provincial elections, he denied privatization was going to happen, and then, two months after elections, clinics started privatizing en masse."

Want to help push back on privatization?

Join the May 28 Ontario Health Coalition rally at Queen's Park. For further information, please visit the OHC website www.ontariohealthcoalition.ca

No cost for the train ticket!

VIA train leaves Windsor at 5:35am, arrives in Toronto 10:10am. Rally is at noon. Return train leaves Toronto at 5:22pm and arrives in Windsor at 9:50pm.

Deadline to reserve a train ticket is May 20th.

