

# News At Six

News to Know about OPSEU's Region Six!

Autumn 2009

## A Hand Up in Tough Times

**Lorie St.Amand L. 614, Hardship Committee**

The Regional Hardship Committee is a newly established committee comprised of four elected members, each from a different local in the region. Your present committee is made up of Lorie St.Amand Local 614 - chair, Helene Scott Local 611 - vice chair, Tammy Lanktree Local 676 - secretary and Joanne Wilson Local 667 - treasurer.

The purpose of the Committee is to assist members in good standing throughout the region who may be experiencing unexpected and/or temporary financial hardship. It is not intended, nor equipt, to handle requests from members who are having ongoing and long term financial needs. The Fund provides emergency financial assistance to eligible OPSEU members based upon need, duration and available budget.

Members can access the application form for emergency funds online at OPSEU.org or through their Regional Office. Once the application is received the committee will contact the member for further information and will then meet to discuss each case based upon its eligibility and available budget.

All information contained in the application and discussed at Committee meetings is held in the strictest of confidence.

Given the vastness of our region, and the size of the Committee's budget, donations to the hardship fund are always welcomed!

## We're Back!

Region 6 Board Members, Sue Brown, Peter Wall, and Jen Giroux are so excited to announce the return of the Region 6 newsletter! We're even more excited that the next edition will be produced by new editors Heather Hoddinott L.629 and Ed Bielanski L.656. So, it's not just a newsletter – it's a newsletter for members, by members!

## Want to Know More?

Find yourself wanting to know more about what's happening in Region 6? Check out the NEW Region 6 website at: [www.opseuregion6.com](http://www.opseuregion6.com). The website was established by webmaster Rob Boulet (L.608). If you are interested in getting some information up on the site, send your submissions to EBM Jen Giroux at: [jen\\_giroux@hotmail.com](mailto:jen_giroux@hotmail.com).

## Provincial Human Rights

**Laurie Miller L.682, PHRC Rep for Region 6**

My name is Laurie Miller from Local 682 from the LBED division. As the newly elected Provincial Human Rights Committee representative from Region 6, I hope to become more visible in the Region and extend the network of activists.

Under the umbrella of the Provincial Human Rights Committee are the following; Disability Rights Caucus, Workers of Colour Caucus, Rainbow Caucus which provides representation and support to our lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual and transgendered and queer (LGBTQ) members and the Aboriginal Caucus which represents Métis, non- Status and Status Indians.

If you self identify with any of the mentioned Equity seeking caucuses and would like to get involved or just find out more information, check it out at - [www.opseu.org/memberequity](http://www.opseu.org/memberequity) , or email me at [lauriem3@sympatico.ca](mailto:lauriem3@sympatico.ca) or call 705-349-0306.



## Building a Community

Heather Hoddinott L.629,  
PWC Rep for Region 6

Greetings from the Region 6 Provincial Women's Committee Representative! A goal of the PWC is to encourage involvement, break-down barriers, and promote equality. Given the size of our region, it can be difficult for one committee member to get out and about! So, I am currently working on setting up contacts throughout the region to promote local activities, networking, and activism. Once the network has been established, I will be sending out contact names and information. So, stay tuned!

Speaking of 'staying tuned', the first regional PWC event was held on August 20<sup>th</sup> in Sudbury. The Car Survival Workshop was hosted by local mechanic Kristy Pugilese and organized by myself.

Members from many different locals came out to learn how to change a tire, check for tire pressure, learn about the many fluids in the front end of clunkers, and received some information on shopping for a vehicle.

The event was a great success and represented a fantastic way to assist in building a community within our union and between our sisters and brothers alike. If you would like to see a similar workshop, or have other ideas that you would like to see in action, feel free to contact me. I can be reached at: [heatherhoddinott@hotmail.com](mailto:heatherhoddinott@hotmail.com)

## Facebook, Twitter, MSN, Oh MY!

Jen Giroux L.668, EBM

So many of us are fans of social networks like Facebook, MySpace, and Twitter. With busy schedules and not a lot of time to keep in touch with friends, they represent one way of keeping tabs on what's going on with people we care about.

**But...** these programs allow for other people to keep tabs on us too! Social networking sites and blogs are creating a new problem for the workers of today. Just as we are able to check on friends and family, employers are also able to check on us. So, if you are going to use networking sites or blogs, please be aware of what type of information you are putting out there! One worker disciplined or fired for what s/he put out onto a networking site or blog is one worker too many.

### Point of Interest!

If you would like to receive a hard copy of the Region 6 newsletter, please contact RVP Sue Brown. Sue can be reached at:

[brownsue@sympatico.ca](mailto:brownsue@sympatico.ca)

Remember, the newsletter can be accessed through the Region 6 website – Mother Nature will thank you for that!

### Want to be a Region 6 Reporter?

Articles and opinion pieces are a welcome addition to the newsletter.

Submissions can be sent to Jen Giroux, Heather Hoddinott, or Ed Bielanski!

## Many Goals for Region 6

David Lalonde L. 676, PYC  
and Rainbow Alliance Rep  
for Region 6

In November of 2008, I went to my first educational where I took the Steward's One course. This was only two weeks after my probation ended. I have always been an advocate for human rights so OPSEU is a natural choice for me! I now am a rep for the PYC and the Rainbow Alliance.

A major goal of mine for the PYC of region six is to do more education about young workers' rights. Everyday young workers are entering the work field and most of them are unsure of their rights. This can lead to many preventable workplace accidents or deaths. In my mind knowledge is power, and the more you share with people the more empowered they are to stand up for their rights and the rights of others.

Another goal that I have been working on is collaboration between the equity groups in our region. Heather Hoddinott (PWC), Laurie Miller (PHRC) and I have been working with a couple of ideas. One of these ideas is holding an equity retreat. We think that it could really benefit the members. We have also been working on getting contacts in each area to attend their local area council and labour council meetings, so we can have more of a network throughout the region. I honestly think that these goals are attainable and will make our region stronger and more united in our efforts!

