



Local 329 Buzz

KEEPING MEMBERS UNITED

News and Information for OPSEU Local 329

Issue 4



Metal detectors just make sense at Waypoint

Our local and our union continue to put pressure on Waypoint management and the government to make our workplace safer.

The number of violent incidents at Waypoint could be significantly reduced if we had more walk-through metal detectors. The metal detectors we have now are not adequate to keep us safe. We need walk-through metal detectors on all the wards, units and program areas.

A metal detector would likely have prevented last April's attack, in which one of our members was stabbed in the back with a screwdriver obtained from vocational services.

This is not an outrageous demand, given that part of Waypoint is a maximum security facility. Making sure we have the safety provisions we need in the forensic division makes us all safer at work.

Metal detectors just make sense at Waypoint.

Staff at Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care work with some patients who may be too ill to understand the severity of their crimes. Patients have access to ordinary items that can be used as weapons.

Waypoint needs metal detectors on all wards. Before someone gets killed.

Send a message you care:
 @WaypointCtr
 @Kathleen_Wynne (Premier of Ontario)
 @MPPKevinFlynn (Minister of Labour)
 @DrEricHoskins (Minister of Health)

Join the conversation:
#stay safe be safe

Local 329
 OPSEU SEFPO

We support a safe environment for workers at Waypoint

For more information visit www.opseu.org/staysafe

July 20 meeting: The Minister of Health now knows our concerns



On Wednesday July 20, I, along with OPSEU President Warren (Smokey) Thomas, Region 3 Board Member Sara Labelle, and OPSEU staff rep Greg McVeigh met with the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, Dr. Eric

Hoskins, to discuss the health and safety challenges at Waypoint.

The minister has committed to working with the union, the Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee, and Waypoint management in order to implement a third-party risk assessment and to take a look at staffing numbers.

I left the meeting very impressed with the way our concerns were heard and am grateful to know that the Ministers of Health and Labour will be working together to support us in addressing the health and safety issues at Waypoint.

In solidarity,
Pete Sheehan, President Local 329

Ministry of Labour letter promises risk assessment and staff training

After our meeting on May 30, 2016 with representatives from OPSEU, the Ministry of Labour (MOL) and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC), the ministries engaged in further discussion with Waypoint. According to a letter sent to your local president from the MOL on July 15, the parties have agreed to implement the following:

Risk Assessment: The hospital will work with a third-party consultant and the JHSC (Joint Health and Safety Committee) to conduct an internal risk assessment. In the

meantime, Waypoint will consult with the JHSC to implement security procedures. Security and other measures may change as a result of the third party assessment.

Staff Training: The hospital will provide specialized training for any and all workers, managers and supervisors in the facility to meet the specific needs of workers. This training will take into account the environment, the patient-specific risks and the violent client population.

JHSC: Pursuant to the Occupational Health and Safety Act, the hospital will consult with the JHSC to ensure that all workplace violence policies, procedures, measures and training are reviewed and updated. The JHSC will be consulted on any recommendations and responses to the

Ministry of Labour before they are submitted by management.

Your local, the JHSC and OPSEU will continue the fight for metal detectors and security staff on the wards, a trained extraction team, and structural renovations to make the Atrium a safer place to work.

Safety for one is safety for all

We understand that some of you might be feeling like this campaign is all about the forensic division and doesn't apply to you because you work in other areas of the hospital. Rest assured, we are concerned about the safety of every single worker at Waypoint.

If we are granted the safety demands we have laid out before management, the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Health

and Long-Term Care, everyone benefits. Once we have the necessary safety provisions in the forensic division, we will be in a better position to secure improved safety measures in other areas as well.

Your local would like to thank you for your continued support as we try to make all of our workplaces safer.



Have you changed your contact info?

Your local needs to have your updated contact information on file in order to relay important messages that affect you.

Please let us know if you have changed your name, address or email address. This allows us to communicate with you quickly and effectively, especially when we are dealing with grievances and other union-related matters.



Save the date!

We are hosting solidarity BBQs for members and their immediate families at Rotary Park in Penetanguishene, under the pavilions near the splash pad. Don't forget to mark the following dates in your calendars:

Saturday, August 6, 2016

Saturday, August 27, 2016.

Stay tuned for more details!

Your Campaign Team:

- Pete Sheehan
- Alyson Parent
- Kevin Rawson
- Brandon Ramjitsingh
- Kathy Teeter
- Dave Vajda



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OPSEU Local 329



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