

# Local 329 Buzz

## KEEPING MEMBERS UNITED



News and Information for OPSEU Local 329

Issue 2



## Message to members

Well, it has taken a few weeks to get things together but we have finally done it! Last week we launched the Local 329 Buzz newsletter and held our first information booth of the summer at the Canada Day festivities in Little Lake Park in Midland. It was a very successful day. I would like to thank everyone who came out. It was incredible to see the support, not only from our members, but also from the community.

This week we begin a five-week radio and newspaper ad series and we have more events planned for the next couple of months. We want our management to know we have had enough and demand a safer workplace. **#staysafebesafe**

In solidarity,

Pete Sheehan,  
OPSEU Local 329 President



## Help save a life.

This week marks the official launch of our media campaign to improve health and safety at Waypoint. You may have heard our radio spots on Rock 95 or KICX 106, or seen our full-page spread in the Midland Mirror. You may have also seen our posters in the windows of businesses in the area.

The number of violent incidents at Waypoint is on the rise, yet management isn't doing what it should to address our concerns. If management is unwilling to listen, we want the government to step in and make them listen. We deal with a lot of unpredictable patients. Our work is always dangerous, but the risks can be minimized if some basic safety demands are met.

The construction of the Atrium building is making the workplace even more dangerous for staff. Maximum-security patients are staying in rooms made of drywall that can easily be breached. On several occasions, patients have been able to manipulate construction materials to create weapons.

There have also been instances where security equipment, such as locking mechanisms, have failed when they were needed.

Waypoint needs to take these issues seriously, before another worker is hurt on the job, or worse yet, someone is killed.

## Health and Safety matters

Waypoint management continues to make it difficult for the Joint Health and Safety Committee (JHSC) and the union to obtain information and collect data related to health and safety hazards and incidents. Right now, notification to the JHSC and the union is inconsistent, but it is crucial as we fight for a safer workplace.

Incident reporting and investigations play a critical role in preventing injuries and/or future incidents by identifying issues and hazards, long before they

result in injury. It is also a way to ensure compliance by the employer under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* (OHSA) and the *Workplace Safety and Insurance Act* (WSIA).

We are asking for your help. We need you to report all health and safety hazards, incidents and near-misses immediately to your JHSC members and/or to your local stewards in order to achieve our goal of making Waypoint a safer place to work.

### Your Health and Safety committee:

- Gary Fisch
- Steve Hoy
- Pete Sheehan
- Joan Wood
- Josh Holden
- Maribel Sanqui
- Dave Vajda

## Upcoming Events:

Our campaign team is continuing its push to spread the word about our safety concerns in our community.

Come and check us out at the booth on July 30, 2016 during the Urban Slide event in Penetanguishene. We will be set up in Rawson's Meat and Deli parking lot.

If you would like to help out at any of the events please contact Alyson Parent, Campaign Team Lead at [alyson.parent@yahoo.ca](mailto:alyson.parent@yahoo.ca) or let any member of the campaign team know.

We are counting on your support to help us make our work environment safer!



### Your Campaign Team:

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