

Local 329 Buzz

KEEPING MEMBERS UNITED

News and Information for OPSEU Local 329

Issue 6

Message to Members

Our snow cone and information booth at The Urban Slide event in Penetanguishene was a great success. We had the opportunity to speak with several hundred people, most of whom were aware of the poor health and safety conditions in our workplace. We are truly grateful to all those who stopped by, expressed their concern and showed their support for our cause.

The Campaign Team would also like to extend a huge thank you to Mr. Rawson for letting us set up in the parking lot at Rawson's Meat and Deli.

Finally, we want to thank you – our members – and your families for your continued strength and support during this challenging time. We can't make the positive changes we need to make in our workplace without you!

To show our appreciation for all you do, we are holding two barbecues this month for members and their immediate families. They will be held on Saturday August 6th and Saturday August 27th at Rotary Park in Penetanguishene, under the pavilion near the splash pad. We hope to see you all there!

In Solidarity,
Pete Sheehan, OPSEU Local 329 President



Self-defence training could save a life at Waypoint

Making sure caregivers like you have the right tools to protect themselves from violence, is a big part of staying safe and being safe on the job.

Given the nature of our workplace, it is irresponsible for management to assume we know how to defend ourselves from an attack.

We are trained as caregivers. Self-defence was not part of that training. Our employer needs to be reminded of that.

We are demanding immediate training in self-defence techniques that take into account our work environment and our patients. Our training must include specialized defence from sharp-edged weapons.

We need management to understand that self-defence training isn't a luxury – it's a necessity – and it could actually save someone's life.

Know your health and safety rights!

It is important to know your rights under the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA). Here are some questions and answers regarding your right to refuse unsafe work.

Q Do I have the right to refuse unsafe work, as a worker in a mental health facility?

A *Workers - including health care workers - have a right to refuse unsafe work if they have a reasonable belief that something in the work will endanger them. Health care workers can refuse unsafe work as long as it is not inherent in their job or does not directly endanger the life, health or safety of another person.*

Q What if the employer does not agree, can I be disciplined?

A *It is illegal for employers to intimidate, threaten to discipline, discipline, or take any reprisals against workers for asserting their health and safety rights. A section of the Occupational Health and Safety Act protects workers' rights – including the right to refuse unsafe work.*

If you are unsure of your rights and whether you have the right to refuse unsafe work, contact your local union office or your Joint Health and Safety Committee member immediately.

Your Health and Safety committee:

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

See you at the barbecue!

Don't forget to bring the family out and join us at our solidarity BBQs at Rotary Park in Penetanguishene. You will find us under the pavilion near the splash pad.

- Saturday, August 6, 2016
- Saturday, August 27, 2016.

Your Campaign Team:

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

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OPSEU Local 329



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