

BUDGET BULLETIN

100 Area 5 local leaders protest at the office of Cornwall MPP Jim Brownell in an effort to get \$3 million dollar budget shortfall of Cornwall Community Hospital covered. Public meetings, a postcard campaign, info picketing at the hospital have resulted in the province finding \$5 million of the \$8 million deficit



Government moves for wage freezes Unclear how scheme applies to unionized workers

March 25's Ontario budget announced that wages will be frozen for all non-unionized employees working in the public sector immediately and for a 2 year period.

Transfer partners (hospitals, universities, schools, colleges, social service agencies etc.) will not be funded for any increases in net compensation for their employees.

Workers with signed collective agreements will enjoy whatever wage increases have been negotiated, but

when those agreements expire the government expects their transfer partners to negotiate two year agreements with 0% and 0% wage increases.

A Public Sector Restraint Compensation Board will be established.

Locals covered by the OCHU central bargaining process will receive 2% increases in 2010, 2011 and 2012. Locals with outstanding contracts will go forward to arbitration. It is unclear how arbitrators will respond to the wage freeze program.

The municipal sector is excluded from the legislation. In that sector police and firefighters have access to arbitration, while municipal workers represented by CUPE may have to strike to try to win compensation increases when their agreements expire.

The province has created a public expectation of wage freezes, which will make strikes to gain compensation tougher.

This is a preliminary analysis based on the little information available in the budget.



Left: National rep Jacquie Lancaster and Local 2628 President Peggy Smith at March 15 rally at Northumberland Hills Hospital calling for the province to cover the hospital's deficit. Below: poster for April 7 demonstration targeting the Minister of Health over privatization and cutbacks



1.5% increase for hospitals' operations Pace of cutbacks and layoffs will accelerate but our locals are pushing back with results

Locals have organized community campaigns in Peterborough, Lindsay, Northumberland, Cornwall, Hamilton, Brockville and Sudbury to pry additional funding for their hospitals. And their results are tangible. In Sudbury a postcard campaign and red t-shirt campaign encouraged Liberal MPP and cabinet minister Rick Bartolucci to find \$10,500,000 to help cover Sudbury Regional Hospital's deficit.

A public meeting, postcard campaign, info picket at the hospital and a picket of his office spurred Liberal MPP Jim Brownell to find \$5,000,000 of Cornwall Community Hospitals \$8,000,000 deficit.

In Niagara, ongoing campaigning has resulted in Liberals Jim Bradley and Kim Craitor finding \$12,000,000 of the Niagara Health Systems \$14,000,000 deficit.

A provincial election is slated for the fall of 2011 and Liberal MPPs are likely to be increasingly responsive.

The budget announcement of 1.5% funding for hospitals, will mean bed and service cuts and layoffs.

Locals are encouraged to be proactive and to fight for the province to cover their hospital's deficit.

We can help with everything you need to get a campaign off the ground.