

OPS Local Presidents, MERC Chairs and MERC Members – October 17th, 2011

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Well, the provincial election is over, and I just want to say thank you to everyone who encouraged members to vote, volunteered in local campaigns, or ran as a candidate. Going into this election, we knew the importance of electing a progressive government that values good jobs and quality public services. Unfortunately, we didn't get that government. Premier Dalton McGuinty is clear that as far as he's concerned, not much has changed. Despite only winning a minority, he intends to govern as if he has a strong mandate from the people of Ontario. Premier McGuinty quickly re-appointed Dwight Duncan as Finance Minister. As Duncan prepares the fall Economic Update, the signals are clear: ***This government will move to make the cuts and changes it outlined in its Budget last spring, and our members will bear the brunt of those cuts.***

Well, sisters and brothers, we are prepared.

We have a plan approved by our Executive Board that we are ready to put into action. We are putting the final touches on a mobilization that will get underway in November. Our message will be *positive* about the value of public services. It will pull no punches about the effect of cuts and privatization on our jobs and on services. We will reach out to our sisters and brothers in the labour movement and the broader public for their support in protecting the work we do on their behalf. All of this will happen in a context that has changed a lot. In just a few short weeks, the occupation of Wall Street in New York has given birth to a global movement. It's a movement of people that are, among other things, fed up with governments that offer only job losses and service cuts to regular people but tax cuts and bonuses to corporate CEOs. We know which side we're on.

In the weeks ahead, we will need your help to implement specific actions relating to our campaign. I look forward to sharing them with you.

In the meantime, remember: **Alone, there's not much we can do; together, there is not much we can't do.**

In Solidarity,

Roxanne Barnes

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