

local 148 newsletter



Community Living Chatham-Kent

Winter 2009

Chatham Integrated Children's Services

New year...first edition!

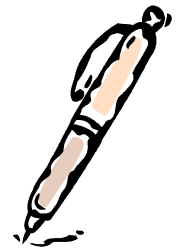
This is our first edition of the newsletter for OPSEU Local 148.

As we progress, we hope to be able to share work and union news. Of course, what we will need most of all is NEWS.

If you have something you would like to share, send it to us at opseu148@live.com. Whether it's

some news, a recipe, notice of an event or even a great picture, all contributions are welcome.

This is YOUR newsletter, and we hope you everyone will take a part and have some fun!



Young Canadians enter job market earlier

Atwork/IWH/CALM

Twelve to 14-year olds are working in greater numbers than previously thought, according to a new study from the Institute for Work and Health.

The new study, published in the Canadian Journal of Public Health, is the first in Canada to estimate employment patterns for 12- to 14-year-olds, despite consistent evidence for the presence of young adolescents in the labour market. The results come from school-based surveys. The research team added their questions about work experiences and work-related injuries to existing surveys about smoking and substance abuse that had already been planned for Ontario and B.C. schools. In all, they looked at responses from 1,318 students in 2003 and 2005.

Nearly 53 per cent of youth in Ontario and 42 per cent in B.C. reported working during the school year.

While the overall employment rate was slightly higher in Ontario, employment in formal work settings was similar in the two provinces. The number of hours worked per week ranged from an average of 3.3 hours among 12-year-olds in Ontario, to 11.7 hours among 14-year-olds in B.C.

The rate of work-related injuries in this age group is comparable to that of 15- to 24-year-olds, the study showed.

The nature and causes of work injuries for younger workers requires further investigation. However, a significant number of 12- to 14-year-olds in B.C.—nearly 23 per cent—reported having no supervision while working. This is despite new provincial regulations requiring the presence of an adult supervisor for workers of this age.

WARNING!!

This newsletter may contain material that management finds offensive. It is produced solely for the entertainment and information of the union members.

Hockey: Not made in Canada

UNITE HERE/CALM

UNITE HERE has announced a cross-country campaign to persuade Reebok to bring its production of hockey equipment and jerseys back to Canada.

Over the past six years, Reebok-CCM Hockey Inc., the official makers of NHL apparel, has shut down many of its Canadian plants and outsourced production of NHL jersey replicas and other hockey equipment to Asia.

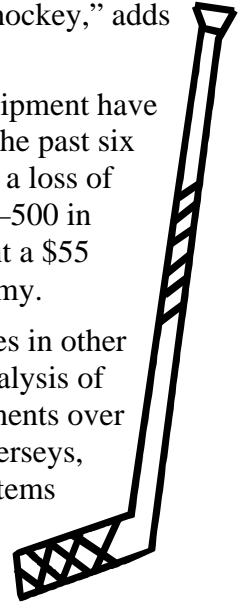
“Sporting associations in other countries have policies in place that restrict sporting apparel and equipment production from going offshore,” says Alex Dagg, UNITE HERE’s Canadian co-director.

“Hockey is a part of Canada’s identity and jerseys and equipment should be made by Canadians for Canadians. From coast to coast to coast, in small towns and big cities, we support

our national game and we demand that Reebok commit to producing jerseys and equipment once again in our country. It makes good economic sense—Canadian production creates jobs, which allows for even greater support for hockey,” adds Dagg.

Five plants producing hockey equipment have closed in Ontario and Quebec over the past six years. The plant closings resulted in a loss of 600 manufacturing jobs in Canada—500 in Quebec. The plant closings represent a \$55 million loss for the Canadian economy.

The work has been sent to factories in other countries, particularly China. An analysis of more than 500 Reebok import shipments over the last two years shows that NHL jerseys, hockey sticks, ice skates and other items come from as many as 12 countries, with nearly two thirds from factories in China.

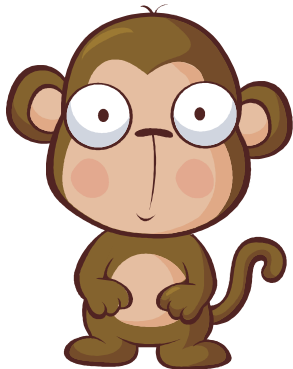


Supply and demand

Internet/CALM

Once upon a time, in a village, a man appeared and announced to the villagers that he would buy monkeys for \$10 each.

The villagers, seeing many monkeys around, went out to the forest and started catching them. The man bought thousands at \$10 and, as supply started to diminish, the villagers stopped their effort.



He further announced that he would now pay \$20 for a monkey. This renewed the efforts of the villagers and they started catching monkeys again. Soon the supply diminished even further and people started

going back to their farms. The offer increased to \$25 each, but the supply of monkeys became so small that it was an effort to even find a monkey, let alone catch it.

The man now announced he would buy monkeys at \$50. However, since he had to go to the city on some business, his assistant would now buy on his behalf.

In his absence, his assistant told the villagers, “Look at all these monkeys in the big cage that have been collected. I’ll sell them to you at \$35, and when the man returns from the city, you can sell them to him for \$50 each.”

The villagers rounded up all their savings and bought all the monkeys.

They never saw the man nor his assistant again, only monkeys everywhere.

Child care still a women's issue

by Margaret McPhail/Education Forum/
OSSTF/CALM

What if there were an agreement that the federal government would split the costs of day care 50–50 with participating provinces, that well-staffed centres would have mandated levels of trained personnel to work with the children and additional staff to maintain facilities, that day care would be subsidized by affordable fees...that provincial standards and regulations were in place?

These were the key features of the nationally funded day nursery care provided through the Dominion Provincial Wartime Agreement from 1942 to 1946.

This day care wasn't universal, but aimed at mothers employed in essential wartime industries. Nor would the program for children, or training of staff, meet the expectations we have for early learning and care today. And, yes, only a few provinces participated and centres were mostly in cities. But between 1942 and 1946, the federal government did decide to invest in accessible and affordable child care as a priority.

The landscape of Canadian women working outside the home has changed dramatically since the end of World War II. As men came home, women were expected to leave the workforce.

But by the mid-1970s, more than half of women ages 15 to 64 were back in the paid labour force or actively seeking work. By 2006, this rate had reached 73.5 per cent. For women in the 25 to 54 age bracket, it was at 86.2 per cent.

By 2005, an estimated 75 per cent of women with children between three and five years of age, and two thirds of those with children under three, worked outside the home.

Child care in Canada remains a fragmented patchwork of services. According to a 2004 report on early childhood education issued by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and



Development (OECD), Canada's "system is seriously underfunded and failing to meet the needs of children and families."

Data compiled by the Childcare Resource and Research Unit (CCRU) tells us that across Canada in 2006, there were only enough regulated child care spaces to cover 17.2 per cent of children up to the age of 12, even though more than 60 per cent of children have mothers working outside the home. The other parents must turn to unregulated care or rely on whatever arrangements they can cobble together through extended family and friends, trading shifts with their partner, or limiting their work to part-time or casual jobs.

There are places where serious government commitments to child care have made a profound difference. While New Zealand and a number of Nordic countries are frequently cited as models, there is an example much closer.

In 1997, the Quebec government began a massive investment in comprehensive early childhood care and education, including full-day kindergarten for five-year-olds, school-age child care and centre-based services. By 2006, Quebec

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already had 45 per cent of the total supply of regulated child care in Canada, yet still accounted for 61 per cent of the total increase in child care supply across Canada for that year.

The overall availability of spaces for children up to the age of 12 in that province was 34.8 per cent, well above the Canadian rate of 17.2 per cent for the same year. At a current cost of just \$7 per day, it is no surprise that demand is high. A comprehensive and public system of early learning and care should be an priority for many reasons. It enhances child development and helps

level the playing field for all children, regardless of background. It has a proven role in effective poverty reduction strategies. It boosts economic growth.

We should never forget that the common factor that links all these benefits is that child care is also the foundation for women's economic and personal equality.

Then and now — still a women's issue.

• *Margaret McPhail is an executive assistant at OSSTF/FEESO's provincial office.*

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