

May 19, 2005

Dalton McGuinty  
Premier of Ontario  
Room 281, Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 1A1

Dear Premier:

I am writing to you concerning governance legislation that your government is currently preparing related to the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System (OMERS).

Over the last two years, I have raised my concerns about the OMERS pension plan with you personally, and with both Ministers Sorbara and Gerretsen. On several occasions, Minister Gerretsen verbally promised that your government would take no actions on the OMERS governance file without first informing CUPE. As recently as March 31, 2005, our key demands regarding an OMERS governance process was sent to Minister Gerretsen. These demands were as follows:

1. The governance process should be given a defined timeline;
2. The negotiating table should be steered by the representative employer, employee, and retiree organizations, with OMERS and your ministry acting as a resource;
3. Negotiating OMERS governance should be unfettered by a preferred model – all options and models must be on the table.

It is extremely perplexing to hear that your government has chosen to deny CUPE privileged information that has been passed to the board of OMERS related to legislation that is currently being drafted dealing with governance. Secret meetings with OMERS, where the government's proposed governance legislation is discussed, is totally unacceptable. We believe the only role for OMERS throughout the governance negotiations is to provide technical information to the representative employee, and employer groups.

I have written to you on several occasions regarding our loss of faith in the OMERS board and senior staff. As you know, OMERS is currently under investigation by the Financial Services Commission of Ontario (FSCO). Because FSCO is unable to recover all or part of the \$100 million that was lost due to the Borealis fiasco, CUPE has found it necessary to launch a \$60 million lawsuit naming the OMERS board and three senior managers - copy of the legal claim is attached.

We do not intend to allow the OMERS board and staff to drive the governance process. Therefore, we are requesting that your government immediately cease all secret meetings with OMERS' board and staff.

I am requesting a meeting with you, as soon as possible, since governance and the future of OMERS is becoming a major issue for the 210,000 members of CUPE Ontario. The contact person in our office is Judy Wilkings, who can be reached at 416-299-9739 ext. 262.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sid Ryan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Patrick (Sid) Ryan  
President

Cc: The Honourable Greg Sorbara, Minister of Finance  
The Honourable John Gerretsen, Minister of Municipal Affairs  
The Honourable Howard Hampton, Leader, Ontario New Democratic Party  
Basil (Buzz) Hargrove, National President, Canadian Auto Workers  
Leah Casselman, President, Ontario Public Service Employees Union  
Rhonda Kimberley-Young, President, Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation  
Linda Haslam-Stroud, President, Ontario Nurses' Association  
Don MacLeod, President, Municipal Retirees' Organization of Ontario

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