

**MEMORANDUM**

**To: Developmental Services Local Presidents, Unit Chairs and assigned National Representatives**

**From: Jim Beattie, Chair, Developmental Service Sector Coordinating Committee (DSSCC)  
Sarah Declerck, Social Services Coordinator**

**Re: Developmental Service Worker Appreciation Day 2014**

**Date: December 11, 2013**

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

On Wednesday, **January 29, 2014**, CUPE Developmental Services locals will be celebrating Developmental Service Worker Appreciation (DSW) day.

At the September 28, 2013 Coordinated Bargaining Leadership meeting delegates decided that locals would celebrate DSW day by inviting Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs) to work in order to learn about what our members in developmental services do on a day to day basis, the services and supports members provide, and the impact of underfunding of the sector on services.

If any MPPs agree to come to work, locals will contact their employer to notify the employer of the good news and to mutually select a date in January for the visit. This is a perfect time to make the connection with the MPP - the Legislature does not resume until February 18<sup>th</sup> so MPPs should be in their ridings.

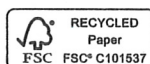
**There are 5 easy steps to inviting your MPP to work:**

1. **Find out who the MPPs are** for the service area for your agency by visiting the list of MPPs on the Legislature website. Many of the agencies provide services that cover multiple MPP districts. Follow the link to find out information about each MPP:  
[http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/members/members\\_current.do?locale=en](http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/members/members_current.do?locale=en)  
Click on the MPP's name to find out their constituency address and phone number at the constituency office.

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**PAUL MOIST** – National President / Président national **CHARLES FLEURY** – National Secretary-Treasurer / Secrétaire-trésorier national

**TOM GRAHAM** – **FRED HAHN** – **DANIEL LÉGÈRE** – **LUCIE LEVASSEUR** – **BARRY O'NEILL** – General Vice-Presidents / Vice-présidents généraux



2. **Send the attached template letter** to each MPP (e.g. if there are 3 MPPs that cover the service area, send a letter to each MPP). Send the letter by mail or fax to your MPPs constituency office address by **January 13, 2014**.
3. **Follow up with a phone call** a few days later to the MPP's constituency office to confirm that the office received the letter and would the MPP be agreeable to celebrate DSW day by coming to work to learn more about what developmental services workers do?
4. If your MPP agrees to visit your workplace, **notify your National Representative and the Social Services Coordinator** Sarah Declerck at [sdeclerck@cupe.ca](mailto:sdeclerck@cupe.ca) or 905-739-3999 ext. 221. **Notify your employer** of the good news and pick a mutually agreeable date for the visit in January. If it is possible to schedule the visit on DSW day January 29<sup>th</sup>, that would be ideal so that we are coordinating visits on the same day, but if that is not possible, another date in January is fine.
5. It is important to **notify your rep and the Coordinator** of the MPPs plan to visit the workplace ASAP because we will provide communications support to notify local media.

If you need help with any of these steps please contact:

Jim Beattie, Chair, DSSCC at [jimbeattie1000000@hotmail.com](mailto:jimbeattie1000000@hotmail.com) or 905-928-0030

Joanne Smithers, Rep, DSSCC at [local4392@yahoo.ca](mailto:local4392@yahoo.ca) or 519-820-5945

Sarah Declerck, Social Services Coordinator at [sdeclerck@cupe.ca](mailto:sdeclerck@cupe.ca) or 905-739-3999

CUPE members deserve recognition for the important services that our members provide in the community. Too often your work is undervalued. By inviting MPPs to work, we are inviting MPPs to deepen their understanding of the valuable services and supports that CUPE members provide. We are also developing relationships with MPPs that will carry into the future.

In solidarity,

Sarah Declerck  
Social Services Coordinator

cc: Fred Hahn, CUPE Ontario President  
Carrie Lynn Poole-Cotnam, SSWCC Chair  
Jim Beattie, Chair DSSCC  
Joanne Smithers, DSSCC Representative  
Srila Perine, SSWCC Representative for the DS sector  
Sandra Forsythe, SSWCC Representative for the DS sector  
Jo-Ann Breton, Assistant Regional Director  
Joe Courtney, Researcher  
Mary Unan, Communications Representative

**[Insert return address for the Local]**

**[Insert date – Note letters should be mailed by January 13, 2014 at the latest, preferably priority post to arrive ASAP]**

Dear MPP **[insert last name]**,

I am writing on behalf of the support workers at **[insert name of the agency]**. We provide services and supports to adults with developmental disabilities in your riding. Many of the support workers in our workplace are your constituents.

Each year we celebrate Developmental Service Worker (DSW) Appreciation Day with support workers across Ontario. This year we are celebrating DSW Day on January 29, 2014. This year we would like to celebrate DSW day by inviting our MPPs to visit our workplace in January to learn more about the services and supports that we provide in the community.

We are very passionate about the services we provide. Our sector is facing many challenges as I am sure you are well aware. We were very pleased to see the formation of the all party Select Committee to review developmental services, but we also know that the committee's schedule will not permit the time to visit each and every community.

It would mean a lot to us if you would consider visiting our workplace. If you are open to the idea, please contact **[insert contact information for local president including phone number and email address]** to schedule a date/time for a visit.

Thank you in advance,

**[insert name of Local President and contact information including phone number and email address]**