

# Unified OPSEU Ministry Employee Relations Committee (UMERC) Minutes

Ministry of the Solicitor General

February 2, 2022  
via Microsoft Teams

## Attendees

### For the Union

- Ram Selvarajah (Co-chair)
- Jim Sloots (Vice Co-chair)
- Sandra Harper, UMERC member

### For the Ministry

- Troy Fernandes (Co-chair)
- Bart Nowak (in place of Kevin Sawicki), Director, Strategic Business Unit
- Loral Rueffer (in place of Bart Nowak), Manager, Strategic Business Unit
- John McBeth, Director, Certification, Training and Public Education

## Regrets

- Faye Wu, Strategic Business Advisor, HR Strategic Business Unit

## Minutes

- Paige Shannon, Human Resources Intern, Corporate Services Division

## Previous Items

### 1. COVID-19

#### GROW Updates

A joint all staff memo was issued in December regarding workplace protocol reminders. An additional memo was sent on January 4th regarding updated health and safety guidance and direction to work remotely where possible. A minimum of two-weeks' notice to return to the workplace will be given to remote working staff.

## **Testing Requirement Updates**

The Provincial Antigen Screening Program (PASP) has been extended until March 18, 2022. Only employees who are required to attend an OPS physical workplace may pick up rapid antigen tests at this time.

The OPS now requires anyone attending a congregated living setting to complete regular rapid antigen testing regardless of vaccination status.

Action: Updates to be provided as available.

## **2. AWS BMERC**

The parties provided an update on the ERC implementation plan. The Employer has provided the Union with a listing of all staff within AWS including contact information. The parties will work to finalize the logistics of the vote which is tentatively slated for February 15th.

Action: The parties will provide an update.

## **3. Mobile Live Fire Training Unit**

The Employer provided an overview of the new Mobile Fire Training Units. Mobile Live Fire Training Units help support fire services' firefighter training needs. The new Mobile Training Units are a part of the province's plan to expand and modernize access to firefighting training. They will bring additional high-quality, hands-on training directly to fire services in all regions of the province. These new mobile units provide additional training opportunities for departments, which are already supported through courses available online, at local fire departments, through 28 Regional Training Centres, and other partnerships.

## **Standing Items**

### **1. Employment Stability List**

No active employees on the list at this time.

Action: No further action is required at this time.

## **2. Conversion List/Unclassified Employees**

Action: Most recent list shared with the union on January 27, 2022. Further updates to be provided as available.

## **3. Recent Disclosures**

Action: Action: Most recent list shared with the union on January 27, 2022. Further updates to be provided as available.

## **4. New/Revised Job Descriptions for SOLGEN**

Action: Most recent list shared with the union on January 27, 2022. Further updates to be provided as available.

## **5. Transition Exit Initiative (TEI)**

66 TEI applications have been approved and 30 pending within OPSEU SOLGEN Unified since the introduction of TEI in the collective agreement.

Action: Further updates to be provided as available.

## **6. OFMEM Workplace Improvements**

The Employer provided an update on the workplace improvement initiative. The Employer will be setting up a meeting to review the status of the initiative which includes accomplishments, work underway, and outstanding items that need to be addressed.

Action: Both parties will report back at the next UMERC meeting.

## **Next Meeting**

- May 25, 2022
- October 5, 2022
- December 7, 2022

## **Signatures**

### **For the Union:**

Original signed by: Ram Selvarajah

### **For the Ministry:**

Original signed by: Troy Fernandes