

## WINKLER SPEAKER SERIES IN INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

### “*THE STATE OF LABOUR RELATIONS TODAY*”

**Delivered by: Mr. Warren (Smokey) Thomas**  
President, Ontario Public Service Employees Union



Warren (Smokey) Thomas was elected president of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union on April 20, 2007, after serving three terms (six years) as 1st Vice-President/Treasurer.

A registered practical nurse, Thomas has been an OPSEU activist for over 30 years, first beginning his leadership career as president of Local 431 at the Ontario Psychiatric Hospital in Kingston, Ontario. Here he represented more than 1,000

members before being elected to OPSEU's Executive Board in 1993.

It was on a simple pledge that Thomas became OPSEU president in 2007: to put the interests of the union's members first. Since then, he has participated in countless campaigns on behalf of OPSEU members. He was an outspoken leader in Region 4 against the “social contract” imposed by Queen's Park in 1993, and later during the Ontario Public Service strikes of 1996 and 2002.

Thomas lists his late mother, Marie Thomas, and former Saskatchewan Premier Tommy C. Douglas, as the two greatest inspirations in his life.

Smokey is married to Val Thomas and is the father of five sons.

**Friday, October 20, 2017**

**12:00-1:00 pm**

138 Union Street, Robert Sutherland Hall  
Room 145

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