

**For Immediate Release
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Picketing in front of people's homes is morally wrong

Community Living Ontario calls on OPSEU to stop strike action outside of homes

Toronto, ON – Every Ontarian deserves respect, dignity and equality and Community Living Ontario is calling on the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) to stop picketing the homes of people supported by Community Living Campbellford/Brighton. As of Wednesday, March 22, representatives of OPSEU Local 316 have been picketing outside the administrative office of Community Living Campbellford/Brighton and four homes where people who have an intellectual disability live.

“Community Living Ontario and its member organizations respect the right of organized labour to express its grievances through strike actions that include legitimate, responsible picketing. However, yelling, demonstrating and setting up portable restrooms outside people's homes are hurtful and disrespectful,” said Hélène Morin-Chain, President of Community Living Ontario.

“It is extremely disappointing to see members of OPSEU, employees that were assisting people to pursue meaningful lives in the community, resorting to strike tactics that are creating fear and anxiety for the people they were supporting only hours earlier.

James Taylor, Chair of the Council of Community Living Ontario, believes picketing where people live is a violation of their rights.

“I know I wouldn't feel comfortable with support workers outside of my home all the time.”

Community Living Ontario and its membership ask that OPSEU and its representatives be more dignified and respectful and immediately cease all strike actions in front of people's homes.

(Continued on next page)

Community Living Ontario is a family-based association assisting people who have an intellectual disability and their families to lead the way in advancing inclusion in their own lives and in their communities. We are a progressive leader in the Developmental Services sector representing more than 12,000 individuals, families, over 100 member organizations and community partners.

For additional information, please contact:

Ron Laroche
Director, Communications, Marketing and Fund Development
Community Living Ontario
Phone: 416-447-4348, ext. 223
Cell: 416-707-4907
Email: rlaroche@communitylivingontario.ca