

## *OCTOBER MIR SPEAKER SERIES*



**Delivered by: Mr. Warren (Smokey) Thomas**

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.

The 62-year old registered practical nurse 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.

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.

To this day Thomas remains active in his hometown of Kingston, where he sits on the board of directors of several community and sporting organizations. He is also a periodic lecturer at the School of Industrial Relations at Queen's University where he shares his knowledge and expertise in collective bargaining. Thomas chooses to donate all fees he receives from the university to the Partners in Mission Food Bank

Thomas is married to wife Val and is a father of five sons.

**Friday, October 24, 2014**

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

**138 Union Street, Robert Sutherland Hall, Room 202**

Come Here. Go Anywhere.