School workers reach first deal

By DENNIS SMITH

Special to The Champion

Public school clerical and technical workers are a giant step closer to their first contract in nearly two years.

Negotiators for the 320 employees reached a tentative agreement last week with the Halton District School Board.

Both sides are refusing to release contract details until ratification votes had been held.

The board's executive officer of human resources, Dawn Beckett-Morton, said she was pleased with the agreement.

"Hopefully it will be ratified and we'll have another contract in place," she said.

She said the board probably won't ratify the settlement until its September 19 meeting.

At press time, a local union representative said no ratification vote had been taken.

The two sides had been working with a conciliator and prior to summer holidays, the workers voted 80 per cent in favour of strike action.

However, no deadline had been set.

The employees have been without a contract since December, 1999, but a major factor in the delay was a change in unions.

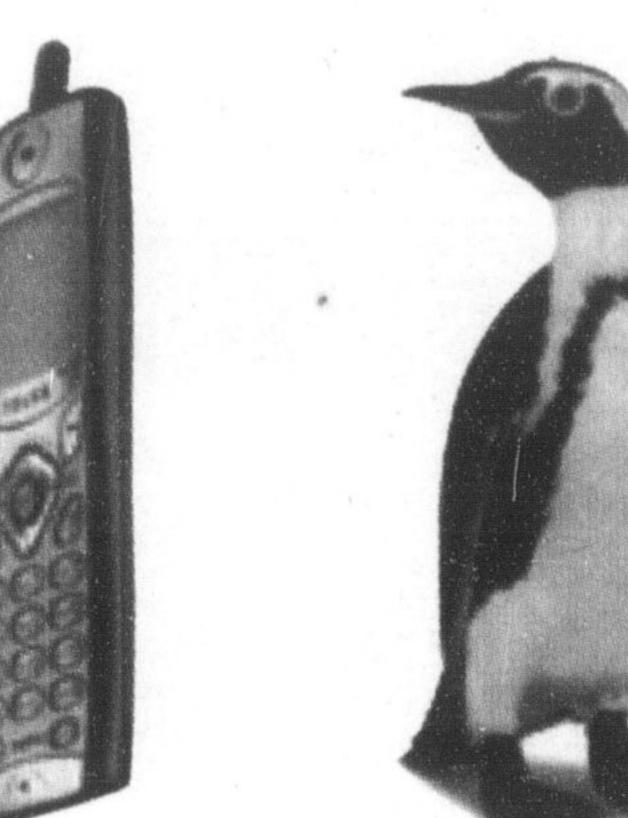
The workers involved were certified last February as the Office, Clerical and Technical Unit of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation District 20 (Halton).

Previously, they were members of the Office Professionals Association.

The new union includes secretaries at secondary and elementary schools, library and media technicians, board office workers and some purchasing department staff.



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