

# Halton Women's Place staff stage information picket in Burlington

*Counsellors and support staff have been without a contract since December 31*

Unionized staff unhappy with their wages picketed a Burlington women's shelter Friday.

Front-line counsellors and support staff held an information picket at Halton Women's Place from 2:30 to 5 p.m.

The women's shelter employees, members of Service Employees International Union Local 1.0n, have been working without a contract since December 31, 2003.

"To date, even though the union has had

several negotiating meetings, Halton Women's Place management has offered the 33 employees absolutely nothing," said union representative Pansy Donaldson.

Annual pay for crisis intervention, community outreach and child and youth counsellors range from \$37,410 to \$42,247.

Ms Donaldson noted the wages are extremely low, considering the workers need university degrees in order to qualify for employment.

Housekeepers at the women's shelter are

earning \$13.28 per hour.

"We want the community to be aware that the services these workers provide are vital. The work they do must be valued," said Ms Donaldson.

"They handle over 2,000 crisis calls per year and staff a 30-bed shelter in Burlington and a 20-bed shelter in Milton."

SEIU Local 1.0n is a 40,000 member, province-wide union affiliated with one of the largest unions in North America, the 1.6-million member Service Employees International Union.

Business manager Sandra Pemberton declined to comment on the labour situation at Halton Women's Place.



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**March Break**

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