

Says director

CAS expects financial woes

A contract ratification solved one problem by putting Halton's social workers back to work, but it could create other headaches for the Children's Aid Society.

"We'll have to go into a constraint mode," said CAS executive director Ron Coupland after estimating the cost of the new two-year agreement at about \$80,000.

This could mean the CAS will face a

small deficit at the end of the year, he said.

However, Mr. Coupland said the money might be found elsewhere or included in the 1987 budget allocation from the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

Mr. Coupland said he's adamant in his stance that "the money (for this settlement) was not there." He says he may need to do with less staff to

cut the costs of the agreement.

Surplus funds from the society's 1985 budget, a major bone of contention, during the contract dispute, are not being used to fund any part of the settlement, he said.

The 45 social and clerical workers, members of Canadian Union of Public Employees local 2501, have argued CAS management should use the surplus funds for their salary raises this year.

However, Mr. Coupland said ministry staff have consistently told him he is not permitted to do this.

CUPE officials, however, said the minister, John Sweeney, recently told them in Hamilton that surplus funds could be used as the society wished.

When this was disputed by Sam Bornstein, Mr. Sweeney's special assistant, local 2501 president Ian Thompson produced a taped newscast which he said proved what the minister actually told the workers.

On the taped newscast, Mr. Sweeney admitted there's "no doubt the total number of dollars they (the societies) have available are somewhat controlled by us. We provide 80 per cent of the funds and the municipality 20 per cent."

"But at the same time, we don't tell them how to break it (the funds) down."

Despite the strained relations caus-

ed by the contract dispute and the two recent walkouts held by CAS workers, Mr. Coupland said he's relieved a settlement was ratified with 97 per cent in favour of the settlement.

The new contract gives the social workers a raise of \$1,120 this year. The raise for the eight clerical workers is \$725 each. Both are retroactive to Jan. 1. Another 1 per cent hike takes effect on July 1.

In the second year of the contract, the workers will get a 4.5 per cent increase effect Jan. 1, 1987.

"I'm very pleased the whole problem of getting a settlement is now solved," said Mr. Coupland. "We can now deal with the problems children have, which is what our job is."

Although the society could face a small deficit at the end of this year, he said he is most concerned about 1987.

Mr. Coupland attributes the ratification vote to management's offer of a two-year contract to meet some of the union's demands.

Mr. Thompson, immediately after the membership ratified the agreement, said workers believe it is a fair settlement. He predicted the contract dispute will make relations with CAS management better.

"Now they know we'll stand together and they'll take us seriously," he said.



Art at Chudleigh's

More than 30 artists were represented at Chudleigh's Art Festival on the weekend. Visitors had an opportunity to buy some art, meet several of the artists and even catch them at work. Rick Manners, a wildlife artist from Weston, is shown here putting the finishing touches on a work in progress.

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