Acknowledgments

This book would not have been possible without the assistance and encouragement of many people both inside and outside the labour movement. I took a leave of absence from work between October 1997 and March 1998 in order to research and write the book, and during that time I interviewed 165 people, most of whom were OPSEU activists and picketers. I wish I could have interviewed the rest of the 30,000 OPSEU picketers, but that was not possible. The research and writing of the first draft was a one-man band, so my resources were limited. I managed to get around Ontario thanks to the good will and kindness of many people, especially Ron Elliot of London, Norma Taylor in Gananoque, Gavin Anderson of Kingston, Bill Kuehnbaum of Sudbury, Will Presley of North Bay, Mike Oliver of Cornwall, Bev Toivonen of Peterborough, and Jim Turk and Dave Calvert of Ottawa. Bruce Kidd lent me his office at the University of Toronto for interviewing.

For newspaper clippings I wish to thank Marilyn Miller and Sandy Cifani from local 580 in Toronto and Paul Bilodeau from OPSEU. Katie FitzRandolph provided me with complete sets of *Picket Lines* and other OPSEU publications; Mary Diamond from my local provided me with videotapes of television news during the strike; and Rachel Rapaport tracked down many articles for my research. John O'Brien lent me his six huge binders of notes from his long experience as chair of the OPSEU bargaining team.

There are many people who read either the entire manuscript or part of it and made useful and critical comments. My biggest thanks in this regard go to Paul Michaud, an old and dear friend, who dutifully read each chapter as I wrote it. I also thank Bob Hebdon and André Bekerman for reading and commenting on the first five chapters, André Bekermen and Brian Mayes for his comments on the chapters on collective bargaining, Craig Heron for the chapter on labour history, Carolyn

Egan for the chapters on the Common Sense Revolution and the growth of the opposition, Mel Watkins for his advice on Canadian politics and political economy, and Diane Bull for her help on essential services. John Huot and Maureen Wall gave me some useful hints at the beginning of my research, and Pamela Lawrence gave me some helpful writing hints, while John MacLennan, Don Eady, Gary Shaul, and Paul Bilodeau read the entire manuscript, offering helpful comments. Heather Rapaport was of great assistance in reading the proofs.

My special thanks go to my union, the Ontario Public Service Employees Union, for pulling off this momentous event and for providing me with the illustrations. I particularly wish to thank Steve Daynes, Opseu's graphic designer extraordinaire, for the time he spent helping me acquire photos. I also wish to thank Agatha McPhee for all the financial information she supplied. Don Eady gave me copies of the legal briefs and awards he accumulated as coordinator of Opseu's legal battles during the strike, and I thank both him and Judith McCormack for their much-needed explanations of the law, always a mystery to the non-lawyer. Frank Rooney provided me with copies of the three polls and took the time to explain them, and Heather Gavin and Marcia Gillespie patiently explained pensions to me. For Richard Adam's play and Ian Henderson's satirical piece I am especially grateful. Many thanks also to Stephen Giles, who lent me documents pertaining to his beating by the Opp riot squad.

Stephen Handelman gave me the idea as well as the inspiration to embark on this venture in December 1996. I presented a preliminary version as a paper to the Society for Socialist Studies at the Learned Societies' conference in St John's, Newfoundland, in June 1997. The society received financial support from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and from the Humanities and Social Science Federation of Canada. I thank Jesse Vorst for the opportunity to present the paper. Howie Chodos published the article in the society's bulletin in early 1998. I wish to thank Bernice and Bill Schrank for their hospitality in St John's.

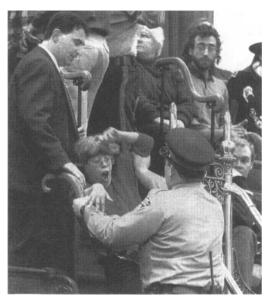
I want to say a very special thanks to Ester Reiter, who encouraged me and contributed in so many ways – connected me with the publisher, read over many of the chapters, and made numerous editorial and conceptual suggestions. The folks at McGill-Queen's University Press were more than wonderful, especially Philip Cercone, who had never known me or heard of me but encouraged me all along. My editor, Carlotta Lemieux, remarkably transformed my manuscript into what you see before you. Finally, my true appreciation goes to the thousands of OPSEU members who stood on their picket lines between 26 February and 31 March 1996. There would have been no book to write, no story to tell, and no facts to research without their bravery.



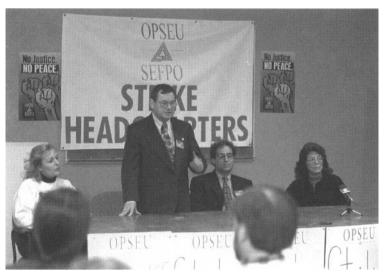
Santa Claus joins co-chairs Elaine Ellis from OPSEU and Rick Witherspoon from the CAW to celebrate the London Day of Action, 11 December 1995



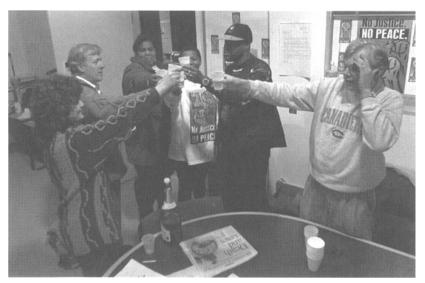
Will Presley, vice-president of OPSEU Region 6, being arrested and removed from the constituency office of Mike Harris, 26 January 1996. Courtesy of the North Bay Nugget; photo by Dennis DuBois



York University social science professor Ester Reiter being ejected from the galleries at Queen's Park on the night that Bill 26 was passed, 29 January 1996. Courtesy of the *Toronto Sun*; photo by Stan Behal



Opening of the Queen's Park strike headquarters, 29 January 1996; left to right: Marilou Martin, Jean-Claude Parrot, the author, and Linda Torney



Left to right: Pam Doig, Ed Brennan, Audrey Williams, Leslynne Jones, Derek Miller, and Paul Bilodeau toast the strike vote, 18 February 1996



Katie FitzRandolph, Walter Belyea, and Andy Todd with OPSEU fax reporting on the No vote, 18 February 1996



OPSEU president Leah Casselman addresses Hamilton Day of Action, 24 February 1996



OPSEU leads the International Women's Day march in Toronto, 9 March 1996



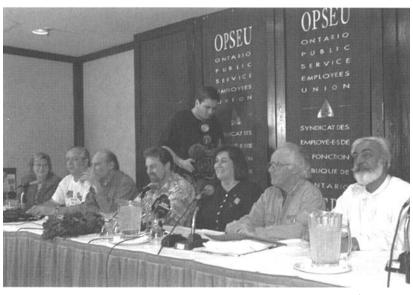
Pat Churchill looking after Stephen Giles after he was whacked by the OPP riot squad, 18 March 1996



Stephen Giles being placed in an ambulance



OPP riot squad outside the Frost Building on 18 March, about 1 PM



The OPSEU bargaining team announces acceptance of the deal, 29 March 1996; left to right: Elizabeth Huitema, Dennis Collom, André Bekerman, John O'Brien, Leah Casselman, Andy Todd, Manu Jajal