

October 2015

Memo to Presidents of Municipal Social Service Workers' locals

Subject: SAMS in Ontario Works offices – one year later

**From: Carrie Lynn Poole-Cotnam, Chair, SSWCC
Andrew Hunter, Coordinator, SSWCC**

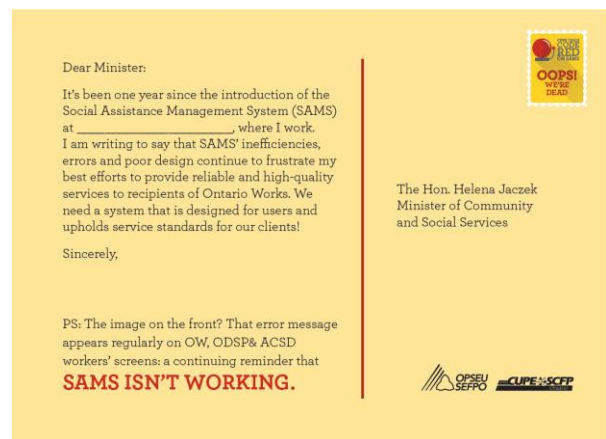
November 2015 will mark one full year since the introduction of the Social Assistance Management System (SAMS) in Ontario Works offices.

Although the turmoil of the initial months has abated to some extent, problems and frustrations continue as daily reminders that SAMS prevents workers from delivering the high-quality services that vulnerable Ontarians need and deserve.

It's time once again to make our voices heard.

On November 12, we will launch a second **CODE RED for SAMS** and celebrate the day in all its social media glory – see page 2 for details.

Send a message to government by joining a province-wide joint action with OPSEU: we will print and distribute postcards for members to sign and return, so we can deliver the message that **SAMS STILL ISN'T WORKING**.



Postcards: “One year later, it’s still **CODE RED** for SAMS”

We’ve written letters, we’ve met, we’ve commented, we’ve surveyed, we’ve done media, we’ve contributed to the SAMS working group. On this one-year anniversary, it’s time to remind the Minister responsible for SAMS that the system is still Code Red.

We’ve designed a postcard (see page 1) to deliver the message and we are asking locals to order enough cards for all members to take part in the action. E-mail SAMS@cupe.on.ca to request the postcards (they’re free) and include your local number, a contact name and delivery address and telephone number. Locals that send in their order by October 28 will have their postcards immediately after CUPE’s national convention (week beginning November 9).

Locals will be asked to return the completed postcards to CUPE Ontario, 80 Commerce Valley Drive East, Suite 1, Markham ON L3T 0B2 (instructions will also be included with your order). The return should take place as early as possible following CODE RED day on November 12.

It’s “Wear your **red** to work day” on November 12

November 12, SAMS first anniversary, is planned as a day of action for CUPE and OPSEU members in the offices that deliver Ontario Works, the Ontario Disability Support Program, and Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities.

We are asking members to wear red at work as a way of sending a message to the province that SAMS is still not working. Code Red is also a reminder to employers of the problems the system has created with service delivery.

Show us how you turned your office red on November 12 by taking pictures of your Code Red outfits and e-mailing (SAMS@cupe.on.ca), tweeting (#CUPEON) and posting (Facebook.com/CUPEOntario) pictures of you and your colleagues in your workplace.

Code Red for SAMS, March 2015

