



**Public Service Alliance of Canada
Regional Executive Vice-President, Ontario
Report
January 7, 2014 to May 16, 2014**

Sisters and Brothers,

This report is a listing of activities that have occurred in the PSAC Ontario region for the period following our last PSAC National Board of Directors Meeting.

Collective Bargaining

Highlights of Ongoing Negotiations

- DCL 410, Treaty Three officers bargaining team met with the employer Mar. 4, 5 and 6, 2014. Future meeting dates will be scheduled to continue bargaining.
- DCL 802, Commissionaires at Pearson airport will be moving towards conciliation after the Employer refused to meet for negotiations.

Renewal Agreements

- On January 13, 2014, Teaching and Research Assistants at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT - DCL 555) - ratified their renewal collective agreement.
- On February 7, 2014, UNDE local 639 - GDI Cleaners, Garrison Petawawa ratified their new collective agreement.
- On May 14, 2014, CCOHS (UNE 00394) members ratified their new collective agreement.

Organizing

Graduate-Student Research Assistants at Queen's University

PSAC filed a certification application on April 23rd, 2014 to represent 1600 Graduate-Student Research Assistants at Queen's University. The vote was conducted on April 30, 2014, however, the results are sealed due to the employer contesting certain ballots cast. The process will now be brought to the Labour Board to begin proceedings on the employer's claims.

Universities have consistently challenged the employee status of GRAs but PSAC's resolve to organize has never wavered. This certification application reflects PSAC's continued

commitment to the University Sector in Ontario which has now grown to over 4,000 members at Western, UOIT and Queen's Universities.

Operational Managers at Ontario Corrections

PSAC Ontario has launched a campaign to organize 600 Operational Managers employed by Ontario's Correctional Services. Ontario's Correctional Service establishes, maintains, operates and monitors correctional institutions and probation and parole offices. The Union of Solicitor General Employees (USGE), a Component of the PSAC, has expressed their support for this organizing campaign. PSAC filed a certification application to request a Union vote and the Ontario Labour Relations Board (OLRB) ordered a vote for the week of April 16th till April 19th, 2013. All ballots have been segregated and the count postponed until the Employer challenge with respect to managerial exclusion is dealt with. The first hearing date took place on October 9, 2013, with hearing dates to be scheduled in 2014.

Postdoctoral Fellows at Western

PSAC is certified to represent 40 Postdoctoral Associates at the University of Western Ontario. PSAC has filed a grievance taking the position that the employer has misclassified over 200 Postdoctoral Fellows as non-bargaining unit independent contractors instead of bargaining unit Postdoctoral Associates. Hearing dates have been scheduled for June 6th and June 25th, 2014.

Provincial

Pre-Budget Submission

PSAC Ontario sent the Minister of Finance, Charles Sousa our 2014 Pre-budget submission based on five priorities. The priorities were: raising the minimum wage, lowering tuition fees for post-secondary students, raising corporate taxes, increasing funding for First Nations policing and stable funding for horse racing in Ontario. On February 3, 2014, Sharon DeSousa, REVP Ontario presented PSAC Ontario's pre-budget submission to the Minister of Finance in Toronto.

By-Elections

On February 13, 2014, two provincial by-elections were held in the ridings of Niagara Falls and Thornhill. Sharon DeSousa, REVP Ontario sent members in those ridings a letter stating the threat that the Progressive Conservatives (PC) will have for workers in this province. The by-elections serve as a litmus test for each Party given that many analysts anticipated a spring election.

The PCs retained their Thornhill seat and the NDP were successful in Niagara Falls. PC Gila Martow and New Democrat Wayne Gates were the successful candidates and are the newest MPPs at Queen's Park.

Mobilization

Treasury Board Mobilization Meetings

There are 17 meetings scheduled across Ontario, with 2 sessions for each meeting beginning on April 28, 2014 and continuing into June. These meetings will help members understand how bargaining has changed under Bill C-4, the bargaining process and how to mobilize to

support their bargaining teams. Sick leave, benefits and pensions are all key issues that members have prioritized and are interested in how we plan to fight to protect these benefits. These meetings allow members to ask questions directly with a bargaining team member and have their concerns addressed.

We Are All Affected Campaign

Veterans Affairs Canada Campaign

Despite strong opposition, the Conservative government went ahead and closed down the 9 district Veterans Affairs Canada offices on January 31, 2014, including the ones in Windsor and Thunder Bay. Before this occurred, PSAC in consultation with local veterans held actions to draw further public attention to this injustice by holding simultaneous rallies in both these cities on January 31, 2014. Both rallies were well attended and garnered a tremendous amount of regional media. There was also broad political support, and was attended by Ron Jones, Windsor City Council, MP Brian Masse (Windsor-West), MP Joe Comartin (Windsor-Tecumseh), MPP Percy Hatfield (Windsor-Tecumseh), Mayor Keith Hobbs, MP Bruce Hyer (Thunder Bay - Superior North), and MPP Michael Gravelle (Thunder Bay – Superior North).

One-on-One Campaign

Our region continues to deliver campaigner training for members to be able to have one on one conversations on the importance of being a PSAC union member. These conversations are meant to highlight our wins and the threats to those achievements, along with the attack on our union rights.

Telephone Town-hall

On April 8, 2014 we held a telephone town-hall on bargaining and sick leave for Treasury Board members in light of the passing of Bill C-4. The call highlighted the potential impact on sick leave and pensions and the need for political action. The call featured Robyn Benson, National President, Sharon DeSousa, REVP, and Shawn Vincent, PSAC Research Officer in answering members' questions about bargaining.

Toronto Star Ad

On March 20, 2014 PSAC Ontario placed an ad in the Toronto Star advocating for a National Childcare program. This was in addition to the editorial provided by Sharon DeSousa, PSAC REVP-Ontario on the importance of unions and their positive impact on the economy.

Education

PSAC Ontario Spring School

The 2014 PSAC Ontario Spring School was held on April 9-13, 2014 at the Ivey Spencer Leadership Centre in London. Members were offered two advanced training opportunities: Alliance Facilitator Training Program and Political and Social Activism. With 80 participants gaining specialized knowledge and skills, our Region continues to build our member capacity in the fight to protect our rights.

Labour Movement/ Solidarity

Defend the Postal Service - Defeat the Attack on the Public Sector - Feb. 21 at 7pm

On February 21, 2014, a defend the postal service strategy meeting took place to bring together unions and activists on this vital issue. Participants gathered at the Ontario Institute For Studies In Education (OISE) - University of Toronto to listen to the keynote speaker, Denis Lemelin, National President of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers. Guest speakers also included: Marie Clarke Walker, CLC Executive Vice-President, Sid Ryan, President of the Ontario Federation of Labour, Sharon DeSousa, Regional Executive Vice-President - PSAC Ontario, Myles Magner, Vice-President of OPSEU, and John Clarke, provincial organizer for the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty.

OFL Regional Meetings – Defending Workers’ Rights

The Ontario Federation of Labour (OFL) has scheduled regional meetings across Ontario that focus on the Progressive Conservative attack on union rights, based on Tim Hudak’s white paper. These meetings train members on the issues to go out and be able to speak with others about the threat. The messaging is focused on the Right-to-Work threat that challenge the Rand formula, automatic dues check-off, a union’s political rights, and the scope of bargaining. We have been actively promoting these meetings to our members as part of our provincial election strategy to avoid a PC government.

CLC Regional Meetings – Together Fairness Works campaign

The Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) Together Fairness Works campaign is designed to promote the importance of unions and dispel the myths and negative propaganda that the mainstream has been disseminating. We have promoted these meetings to our members to demonstrate how unions have benefited society as a whole and link union membership with social justice.

Austerity Rally in Sudbury

PSAC Ontario was asked to speak at a solidarity against austerity rally in Sudbury on March 25, 2014. Treana Campbell, chair of the PSAC Sudbury Area Council spoke at the event, bringing a message of solidarity to community members and the importance of fighting for public services.

Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) Convention

The Canadian Labour Congress convention elected Hasssan Yussuff as the new CLC president during the Convention held in Montreal from May 4-8, 2014. Barb Byers was elected to the Secretary-Treasurer position, while Marie Clarke-Walker and CUPW’s Donald Lafleur were elected to the two Executive Vice-President positions. Brother Yussuff, who is the first racialized worker to hold the President position at the CLC, ran on a program of more grass-roots engagement and a bolder labour movement confronting politicians and CEO’s who are attacking workers’ rights.

Peoples’ Social Forum

The People’s Social Forum will be the first cross-Canada gathering of progressive organizations and activists in Canada, modeled after the World Social Forums that have occurred for over a decade. The Peoples Social Forum will take place on August 21-24 in

Ottawa (<http://www.peoplesocialforum.org/>). PSAC Ontario will be arranging bus transportation for members to attend the Social Forum.

Equity and Human Rights

Chinese New Year

On January 23, 2014, the PSAC Toronto Racially Visible Committee held a celebration for Chinese New Year in the PSAC Toronto Regional Office. The event had 20 participants, with the keynote speaker: Jane Pang, Principal and Founder of Clearview School of Arts and Culture.

Black History Month

PSAC Toronto Racially Visible Committee held a Black History Month celebration on February 27, 2014 in the Toronto office. A special exhibition of Black Historical Posters highlighting Black Inventors was displayed, while members heard from guest speaker, Senator Anne Claire Cools, the first black female senator in North America.

International Womens Day 2014

Over 3,000 people took to the streets of Toronto to celebrate International Women's Day. This year's theme was Women Taking Power, and thousands of activists came together in one of the largest demonstration's in years. The Ontario region as a lead up to International Women's Day, held a series of Women at Work workshops throughout the province.

In conclusion,

I have included the details of my activities since the last National Board of Directors meeting for your review.

Respectfully submitted for your approval,



Sharon DeSousa
Regional Executive Vice-President
Public Service Alliance of Canada, Ontario

REVP Schedule for the period January 7, 2014 to May 16, 2014

Jan. 13-15, 2014 – Alliance Executive Committee Meeting
Jan. 22, 2014 – Ontario Federation of Labour Meeting
Jan. 26, 2014 – PSAC Racially Visible Committee meeting
Jan. 27, 2014 – Agriculture Union Local 17 AGM in London
Jan. 29, 2014 – AGR 15 AGM in Grimsby
Jan. 30, 2014 – Ontario Council Education Sub-Committee meeting
Jan. 30, 2014 – USGE Information meeting in Kingston
Jan. 31, 2014 – Academic Sector meeting in Oshawa
Feb. 3, 2014 – Presentation to Minister of Finance on Ontario Pre-Budget Submission for PSAC Ontario
Feb. 6, 2014 - Ontario Council Education Sub-Committee meeting
Feb. 10-11, 2014 – Alliance Executive Committee Meeting
Feb. 13-16, 2014 – PSAC National Bargaining Conference in Ottawa
Feb. 18, 2014 – OFL Heads of Unions meeting
Feb. 21, 2014 – Defend Postal Services Toronto Rally
Feb. 24, 2014 – Alliance Executive Committee meeting
Feb. 25-27, 2014 – National Board of Directors meeting
Feb. 27, 2014 – CEIU 648 AGM
Mar. 8, 2014 – International Women’s Day Rally in Toronto
Mar. 9, 2014 – International Women’s Day breakfast in Oshawa
Mar. 13, 2014 – PSAC National Education meeting
Mar. 17-18, 2014 – Alliance Executive Committee meeting
Mar. 22, 2014 – AGR Ontario Regional Seminar in London
Mar. 26, 2014 – UTE town-hall
Mar. 27, 2014 – Ontario Council Committees meetings
Mar. 28-29, 2014 – PSAC Ontario Council meeting
Mar 31 – Apr. 3, 2014 – Treasury Board Bargaining meeting in Ottawa
Apr. 8, 2014 – PSAC Ontario-wide telephone town-hall on sick leave and bargaining
Apr. 9-13, 2014 – PSAC Ontario Spring School in London
Apr. 14-15, 2014 – Alliance Executive Committee meeting
Apr. 28, 2014 – Day of Mourning event in Sudbury
Apr. 28, 2014 – Treasury Board bargaining information meeting in Sudbury
Apr. 29, 2014 - Treasury Board bargaining information meeting in Sault Ste Marie
Apr. 30, 2014 - Treasury Board bargaining information meeting in Timmins
May 1, 2014 - Treasury Board bargaining information meeting in Thunder Bay
May 5-8, 2014 – CLC Convention in Montreal
May 9-11, 2014 – PSAC NCR Convention in Gatineau
May 12, 2014 - Treasury Board bargaining information meeting in Windsor
May 13, 2014 - Treasury Board bargaining information meeting in Chatham
May 14, 2014 - Treasury Board bargaining information meeting in London
May 15, 2014 – USGE Political Action town-hall meeting in Kingston