



PSAC ONTARIO

REFLECTIONS Of 2013

Inside this issue:

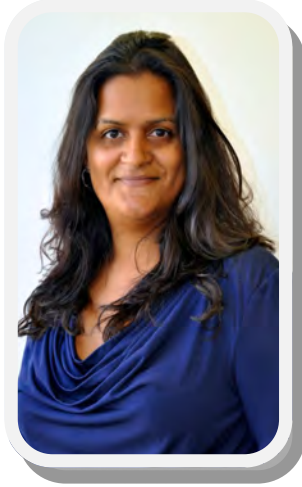
FB Day of Action	
OLG Woodbine	2
Veterans	
Campaign	3
Area Council	
Summit	4
OFL Convention	
Labour Day	
PSAC Open	5
House	
PSAC Ontario	
Convention	
PSAC Ontario	
Women's Con-	6
ference	
Bill C-4	

Staying Connected

[psac.com/
ontario](http://psac.com/ontario)



Education and Political Action



*Sharon DeSousa,
PSAC Ontario Re-
gional Executive Vice-
President (REVP)*

This has been another difficult year for our membership under the Harper Conservative government.

From attacks on our members' integrity to signals that our benefits and sick leave are under threat; this government continues to undermine our public sector.

In Ontario we have been focusing on a two-prong strategy of education and political action, to fight back against the Conservatives.

An educated and mobilized membership is the key to a politically active membership. And I am proud to say that in Ontario, members are using their knowledge to challenge this government everyday.

In 2015, Harper will learn his lesson when his government falls - you don't mess with PSAC!



For a complete listing of activities in the region, please review the REVP's reports online: ontario.psc.com/content-type/reports

Border Services (FB) Day of Action



On October 10, 2013 a National Day of Action was called to mobilize support for 7,000 of our members who belong to the Customs and Immigration Union (CIU) Component, and work for the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA).

After months of difficult negotiations, CBSA forced a vote on an offer that was not agreed to by the bargaining team. PSAC took CBSA to court over this and won, with the court agreeing that CBSA was not complying with federal labour law.

Actions were held all across the country to show CBSA that workers were ready to take action. A massive rally was held at Toronto's Pearson Airport, with members busing in from across southern Ontario.

Hundreds of members gathered and walked through Canada's busiest airport chanting and waving banners and flags. Within two weeks of this Day of Action a tentative agreement was reached, which was later ratified by the membership.

OLG Slots at Woodbine

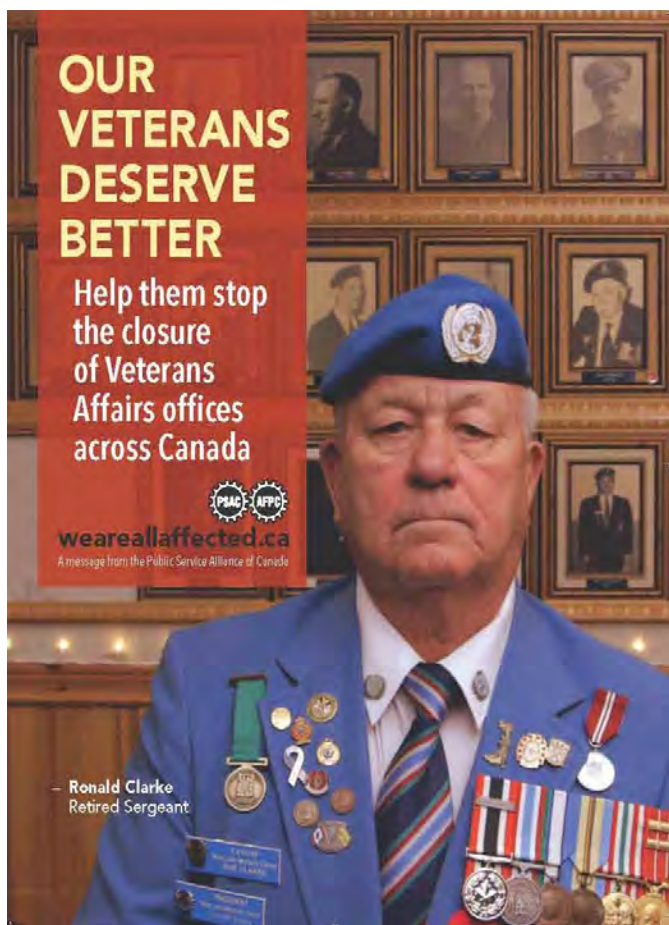


Our members who work for the Ontario Lottery and Gaming (OLG) Corporation Slots at Woodbine in Toronto (DCL 533) were struggling to achieve a fair second collective agreement with their employer.

After two tentative agreements were voted down, the 400 PSAC members would be in a strike/lock out situation on May 27, 2013.

Through mobilization and pressure tactics, including a strategic media campaign, a final tentative agreement was reached and ratified on May 28, 2013.

Protect Veterans Services Campaign



PSAC launched a National campaign to save the 9 district Veterans Affairs Canada offices slated to close on January 31, 2014. Working with local veterans and the Canadian Veterans Advocacy group, the campaign is part of our *We Are All Affected* campaign.

In Ontario we are losing 2 offices; in Windsor and in Thunder Bay. Now veterans will have to travel hours away to reach the next closest office.

PSAC Ontario held town-hall meetings at local Royal Canadian Legion's, press conferences, rallies and pickets, all to draw public attention to this terrible injustice.

Despite the tremendous amount of media coverage, along with public and political support, the Conservatives continue with their decision to take away services for our veterans.

Please write to the Minister of Veterans Affairs, Julian Fantino and demand that he reverse course on this decision (Julian.fantino@parl.gc.ca).

On November 4, 2013, Windsor City Council voted unanimously to adopt a motion to condemn the federal government's decision to close 9 Veterans Affairs Canada offices.

On November 18, 2013, the Thunder Bay City Council passed the same motion, urging Minister Fantino to keep the offices open.



Area Council Summit



Area Councils were designed to be the political bodies of our union, taking action on lobbying, rallies and campaigns. To ensure that our 11 active Area Councils work collaboratively, PSAC Ontario held an Area Council Summit on November 2, 2013, in Toronto.

With the anti-worker agenda of this Conservative government, the Summit connected Area Council representatives to continue to work on defeating Harper in the next election.

Ontario Federation of Labour (OFL) Convention

The Ontario Federation of Labour (OFL) held its 12th Biennial Convention in Toronto from November 25-29, 2013.

The Convention brought over 1,000 union members together to discuss, debate and vote on resolutions. PSAC's resolution on Bill C-4 was unanimously adopted; solidifying the labour movement's opposition to this piece of legislation.

The Thursday, Convention attendees rallied at Yonge and Dundas Square in Toronto to demand raising the minimum wage to \$14 in Ontario.



Labour Day



Members received t-shirts produced by PSAC Ontario Council that signaled the importance of unions with one of the following three slogans:

Workers Standing Together – That’s a Union!;
Fight Poverty – Protect Unions;
Unions: Fighting for Fairness!



This year’s Labour Day was a tremendous success, with members participating in events all across Ontario.

Chris Aylward, PSAC National Executive Vice-President joined Sharon DeSousa, PSAC Ontario REVP, for the Toronto Labour Day parade, which had over 20,000 participants.



PSAC Toronto Equity Committee’s & Area Council Open House

On October 21, 2013, all five PSAC Toronto Equity Committee’s and the Greater Toronto Area Council held a joint open house to celebrate our membership’s diversity and the common struggle against discrimination.

The event was well attended, with over 40 PSAC activists. Sharon DeSousa, PSAC Ontario REVP opened and closed the event, with John Cartwright, President of the Toronto and York Region Labour Council giving the keynote address.

Bill C-4—Budget Implementation Bill Telephone Town-hall



On November 14, 2013 PSAC Ontario held a province wide telephone town-hall with thousands of members to discuss the impacts of Bill C-4. With the passing of Bill C-4 in December, members are now aware of the implications this legislation will have on our working conditions, particularly the changes to collective bargaining.

PSAC will be taking the government to court to fight this legislation, along with every other federal public sector union, and filing a complaint with the International Labour Organization.

2013 PSAC Ontario Women's Conference



The 2013 PSAC Ontario Regional Women's Conference was held in Toronto on May 31 to June 2, 2013.

The Conference theme was **Reach, Mobilize, Get Involved**, and was opened by addresses from Sharon DeSousa, REVP Ontario and Robyn Benson, PSAC National President.

The conference focused on sharing our union's gains and successes and also addressed a number of issues that women continue to face in our society today.

PSAC Ontario 2014 Triennial Convention

Your Voice – Your Choice – Your Union

The 6th Triennial Convention of the PSAC Ontario Region will be held in Mississauga, Ontario, from **June 6th – 8th, 2014** (ontario.psc.com/psc-ontario-2014-triennial-convention).



The Convention will elect the Regional Executive Vice-President (REVP), representatives to Ontario Council, debate and vote on resolutions and establish the budget for the next three years.

Important Dates:

- Delegate Assistance Application Deadline – February 14, 2014
- Resolutions Deadline – February 14, 2014
- Registration Deadline – February 14, 2014
- Hotel Accommodations Booking Deadline – May 4th, 2014

