



PSAC Ontario Council Meeting Minutes July 27, 2011 Marriott Hotel

The meeting convened at 9:05 a.m. on Wednesday July 27, 2011 with the REVP-Ontario, Sharon DeSousa in the chair and the following members in attendance:

Sharon DeSousa, Regional Executive Vice-President, Ontario
Brad Feraday, Alternate to REVP, Ontario
Ryan Bystrom, Region 1 (Northwestern)
Réjean Amyotte, Region 2 (Northeastern)
Laura St.Jean, Region 2 (Northeastern)
Christal **Côté**, Region 3 (Eastern)
Ralf Bucherer, Region 3 (Eastern)
Melanee Jessup, Region 4 (Southwestern)
Mike Fummerton, Region 4 (Southwestern)
Mary Jeyanthan, Region 5 (GTA)
Bruce Flannigan, Region 5 (GTA)
Bob Black, Region 6 (Hamilton/Niagara)
Judy Phillips, Racially Visible Members
Souad (Sue) Soubra, Members with Disabilities
Colleen Wice, Regional Women's Committees
Debbie Willett, Area Councils
Kingsley Onyeacha, Regionally Based Separate Employer Locals
Vicki Pine, Directly Chartered Locals
MaryAnn Laurico, Directly Chartered Locals Academic Workers
Christo Aivalis, Young Workers

Staff: Colette Mann Sudbury Regional Office Administrative Assistant

Absent: Karen Church, Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered Members Representative.

Observers: Ken Boone, Cleo Reid, Travis Lahnalampi

AGENDA:

1. Adoption of Agenda
2. Adoption of previous meeting minutes (May 17, 2011)
3. Business arising from previous meeting
4. REVP Report
5. Regional Office Updates(Christopher Wilson)
6. PSAC National FightBack Plan/Mobilization
 - Community Events
 - Labour Day
 - Provincial Election
 - Other
7. Timelines
8. New Business

The REVP congratulated the new PSAC Ontario Council members on their appointment to the PSAC Ontario Council. The Chair advised the Council members Karen Church is not able to attend as she is in BC at the Out Games.

The hours of sitting will be Wednesday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., lunch from 12:00 p.m.– 1:00 p.m., Breaks 10:30 a.m. and 2:45 p.m.

Motion that the hours of sitting be adopted.

m/s/c Réjean Amyotte and Melanee Jessup

Item 1. Adoption of Agenda

Sister Souad Soubra requested the following agenda items be added

8. United Way/GCWCC
9. Recognition of previous REVP
10. New business

Motion~ the agenda be adopted with the noted additions

m/s/c Bob Black and Ryan Bystrom

Item 2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (May 17, 2011)

Motion~ the May 17, 2011 minutes be adopted as presented.

m/s/c Melanie Jessup and Debbie Willett

Item 3. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

There is no business arising from the previous minutes however there are some housekeeping items.

PSAC email addresses

All council members requested a PSAC email address.

Action: The REVP will communicate with PSAC IT to have these set up.

Business cards

Council members were asked to provide the information that they would like included on their business cards.

Discussion ensued on whether or not to include post-nominal information on the business card.

Motion that it would be the discretion of each council member if they wish to put their post-nominal information on their business card.

m/s/c Rejean Amyotte and Ryan Bystrom

All in favour -18

All Against -2

Portfolio dollars and Expense Claims

Marcia Maliwat (Administrative Assistant, PSAC Toronto Office) will assist the Finance Committee in the processing of all expense claims.

The REVP reminded Council members they could not use their portfolio dollars for more than 50% unless permission granted by the REVP. The

Portfolio form has been provided electronically with a list of acceptable expenditures. If there are any questions Council members can contact the REVP's office.

Brother Boone, previous chair of Finance, has volunteered to assist the finance committee.

Please note \$20.00 per month is allocation for Internet cost at home. Council Members must have internet at home to access this money. This does not come out of your portfolio budget.

Council members had a discussion on the purchasing of a Laptop for Brother Kingsley Onyeocha as he resides in the North. Access to his members throughout Ontario will only be done via Skype or email. Brother Kingsley expressed he does not have a computer/ laptop that will enable him to do his work.

Debbie Willet requested that put forward a motion.

Motion that PSAC Ontario Council purchase a laptop for Kingsley Onyeocha to a maximum of \$500.00.

After discussion among Council members it was decided that more Council Members may be affected. Also the \$500.00 dollar is too confining and be amended to a maximum of \$1000.00.

Motion that the PSAC Ontario Council purchase a laptop for any PSAC Ontario Council Members who demonstrate a need to complete the work required by the PSAC Ontario Council to a maximum of \$1000.00 to be returned upon their term/departure from Council

m/s/c Debbie Willet and Colleen Wice

All in favour -15

All Against -5

Individuals that may have hiccups with technology please contact the REVP's office.

Action

The REVP will contact PSAC I.T. to see what laptop systems are compatible to the software PSAC uses. Brother Ryan Bystrom, Brad Feraday and Mary Jeyanathan will assist in costing laptops.

Item 4. REVP Report

The previous REVP Gerry Halabecki's report covering the period of May 15, 2011 to May 31, 2011 to the National Board of Directors was handed out along with the current REVP's report.

Currently the REVP's office is undergoing two staffing actions for a Political Communications Officer and an Executive Assistant. The staffing actions should be completed shortly.

The Directly Chartered Locals (DCL) Stewart school was a great success bringing together all stewards across the Ontario region. The training was specifically geared to taking on provincial employers and skills building.

Across Ontario region PSAC had a strong presence at all Pride events. It was imperative we have a strong presence in the communities and build those relationships.

PSAC Ontario Council Training was prepared from scratch. Special thanks to Shirley Riva (Regional Education Officer), Angela Fairweather (PSAC Staff Representative), Linda Cross (PSAC Staff Representative) and Joan-Ann Gravesande (PSAC Staff Representative).

The REVP has met with Brother Sid Ryan, President of the Ontario Federation of Labour. They discussed at length the need for solidarity and the support PSAC requires with all the cuts to public services. The need to take a pro-active role in building alliances with District Labour Councils, community organizations (coalitions) and other Unions will lead to the success of defeating this Harper government's plan to cut public services.

The REVP will look into getting Media training for the Council members and speaking notes on various issues.

Correction to written report: Page 3 – Under Human Rights –

The PSAC Equal Opportunities Committee, which is an advisory committee to the Alliance Executive Committee, has gone through a review. The new PSAC Human Rights Committee will consist of 17 components and each PSAC Regional Council's Equity or Human Rights representative. Each Regional Council does not have the same. For PSAC Ontario Council the 5 Equity Representatives will sit on this committee and be actively reporting back to the Ontario region.

Motion to adopt the REVP's Report.

m/s/c Ryan Bystrom and Colleen Wice

Item 5. Regional Office – Updates (Christopher Wilson)

PSAC Ontario 5th Triennial Convention

Chris reported that he was very pleased that staff were able to conduct 48 votes while maintaining the integrity of the voting process. We will need to discuss implementing electronic voting for the next convention.

Fight Back Campaign – developed an online Fight Back Survey
Please review and provide any amendments the Council would like to see by end of day today prior to release. Roll up of the survey to be provided to Council members.

Chris walked the Council through the report. Report is available for your information but will not be included in the minutes.

Colleen Wice expressed kudos to the staff for their key role in delivering the two day PSAC Ontario Council training.

The REVP noted that Council members are required to provide a report 2 weeks prior to the Council meeting – Expenses will not be paid until reports are provided.

Item 6. PSAC Ontario Fight back Plan/Mobilization

PSAC Ontario not only to fight back against a Harper Conservative Agenda but also engage communities and affiliates in our cause.

Labour Day

This year it will be bigger and better T-Shirts have been ordered with slogans of what we do as a union (i.e. Protecting Public Services). The REVP's office received proposals from Area Councils for funding for Labour Day Activities. In the future the REVP would like to see more structure in the proposals. A template to capture the full intent of the Labour Day activities will be created for next year.

Community

Discussion was held among the Ontario Council on how to work with Community.

During the summer and fall PSAC Ontario really needed to have a huge presence. Some of the community partnerships and events that have worked in the past: such as Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, Local 901 – Anti-Poverty Conference and Good Jobs for All Coalition. We have also engaged with various community events such as the Fix our World Festival in Hamilton and the Kingston Blues Festival. PSAC Ontario needs to continue building relationships with Coalitions. These relationships are a challenge however the long term benefits are an asset to us as a union.

We also need to reach out to the town/community newspapers – writing letters to the editor.

Action ~The REVP will be sending a request to Brother Gordon to find out how letters to the editor can be signed

We need to actively engage working with the District Labour Councils and Solidarity Networks. PSAC Ontario needs to be aware of other affiliates events in the different geographic areas. We need to have a visible presence – shirts/flags etc. have a solid presence and stand in solidarity. The second last week of November 21st- 25th, 2011 is the Ontario Federation of Labour Convention. The REVP recommends all locals who are affiliated should send delegates.

Provincial Election

Discussion was held among the Ontario Council members on what to do around the upcoming Provincial Election.

The REVP announced that Nicole Turmel was accepted as the interim NDP Leader.

PSAC members need to know who their candidates are and we all need to develop a working relationship with them. This election is just as important as the federal election and we need to explain this to our members and community. We know candidates will be attending community events and Labour Day celebrations. We need to ensure we have visibility.

Course of Action:

1. Put a link on the PSAC Ontario Website
2. Develop a Candidates questionnaire with 3 to 5 questions and feed back as to what the responses were.
3. Need to explain the importance of this election
4. As a region we will launch this on Labour Day.

Other

Tony Clement Petition

The REVP read out the petition to the Council members and is available on their Memory Sticks. The goal is to attain over 150 000 ink signatures to be presented to Tony Clement. Please ensure the locals and members are engaged in signing the petition. The completed petitions are to be returned to the Regional Offices to collect the data and they will send it on to Chris Wilson in the Toronto RO. which will be forwarded to the PSAC National office.

Video Campaign

A discussion of Ontario Council around a grassroots campaign re: "Shit Harper did". The video campaign focuses on the personalities and their problems. PSAC could focus the actions Harper is doing against the public service union and other unions. PSAC Ontario does have equipment to develop a video like this.

Action

Mary Jayanathan, Ralf Bucherer, Brad Feraday, Rejean Amyotte and Christo Aivalis are interested in putting together a video. Ideas are to be sent to the REVP and c.c. Chris Wilson. We would have to pass it on to the Communication department. If individuals have ideas, please submit a brief description and send it on.

Each Ontario Council group to provide a summary of yesterday strategic plans presented in training.

How are we engaging young workers in these actions to build the Union for the next generation?

Show the benefits of Union involvement and shed the light on the struggles of young workers and youth. We need to engage young workers in each of the Locals. Find out the component or DCL structure and how does the young worker fit in. PSAC needs to encourage them to attend meeting and get involved. We need to find out what their concerns are and try to engage them into making solutions.

We need to educate youth on what Unions do will help shape them on knowing the positive aspects of the labour movement. We need to target youth by get into the Job Fairs conducted in High School. Also the use of technology in social cafés is cost effective and will engage youth educating youth.

Build union capacity to react effectively to cuts to services and jobs

PSAC Ontario need to get the members involved to report on the effects of public services. An idea is to use YouTube which will use powerful images to pull on the heart strings. Need to bring a level of reality of how the cuts to jobs affect public services. i.e. Veteran suffering or a Mother struggling to care for her children

Mobilize members to take action to confront cuts to services and jobs

Members and Local executives to plant gate each of the worksites to educate co-workers and public. Look to develop town hall meetings where presentations can be made. Also need to gain media attention to bring attention to the cuts

Shape public opinion in favor of quality public services

We need to communicate with the public in a creative and straight forward manner. An example would be “How does water safety affect you?” then individual would collapse. The tag line would be “Protect your food, protect your service”. Provided different examples of the Harper cuts and reactions.

Item 7. Timelines

A calendar to be developed in order for PSAC Ontario region and Council to be proactive in the work we need to do .

Item 8. United Way/GCWCC

Souad Soubra attended the United Way Annual General Meeting. Thank you awards received as PSAC members donated over 1M to the GCWCC/ United Way to be posted in the REVP’s office. The REVP thanked Brother Ken Boone for the work he has done as the PSAC representative, he has done our Union proud! There are many opportunities to get involved in the United Way - Labour needs to be there - United Way Sudbury has three Labour seats. Brother Ken Boone was recognized and he stated that PSAC also won the Spirit Award which is the first time ever.

Item 9. Recognition of previous REVPs

Souad Soubra presented a proposal that was moved by Souad Soubra and seconded by Bruce Flannigan to recognize the work of the past REVP’s. They are looking for the Council’s support to have pictures of the past REVPs hung in the REVP’s office.

A Discussion was held that this would apply to two previous REVP’s Sister Susan Jeanne-Petre and Brother Gerry Halabecki. It is important to document the regions history and the leaders that shaped it.

Motion that an 8 X 10 framed photo of all previous REVP’s be done at an approximate cost of \$100. if further discussion be done than it be brought forward to Ontario Council.

m/s/c Souad Soubra, seconded by Bruce Flannigan

Item 10. New Business

Laura St-Jean shared the information circulated regarding Sister Brenda Walsh who was recently diagnosed with Secondary Progressive MS requiring funds to be raised to assist in the treatment required. This will cost in the neighborhood of \$10,000 to \$15,000.00

Motion that the Council donates \$500.00 to be deposited in the Scotia Bank account referred to on the handout to assist Sister Brenda Walsh

m/s Bob Black and Laura St-Jean

Discussion from Council and a friendly amendment done to double the contribution to \$1000.00.

Motion that the Council donates \$1000.00 to be deposited in the Scotia Bank account referred to on the handout to assist Sister Brenda Walsh.

m/s/c Ralph Bucherer and seconded by Bruce Flannigan

New Regional Women's Committee

The REVP announced PSAC Ontario has a new Women's Committee. The Durham Regional Women's Committee has been established.

Next Council meeting

First week of November – November 3-5th, 2011 location to be determined

The REVP thanked the PSAC Ontario Region for their support. She thanked the PSAC Ontario administration team and Regional Coordinator, Chris Wilson support in her transition. The REVP was impressed with the kindness, gentleness and support from this great team! Thank you.

Elder- JoAnn Kakekayash provided an Aboriginal Closing