



**Public Service Alliance of Canada
Regional Executive Vice-President, Ontario
Report
August 29, 2012 to January 4, 2013**

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

- On Oct. 25, 2012 PSAC filed a bargaining bad faith complaint with the Ontario Labour Relations Board for the Commissionaires who work at Lester B. Pearson airport in Toronto (DCL 802). Hearing dates have been set for later this year.

Tentative Agreements

- PSAC members of Parks Canada reached a tentative agreement. Multiple ratification votes have been scheduled for the month of January 2013.

Renewal Agreements

- On September 10, 2012, members at the Non-Public Fund – Kingston – Operational Category (UNDE Local 00681) ratified their new collective agreement.
- On September 17, 2012, members who are shift workers with OMNI Facility Services at CFB Petawawa (UNDE Local 00639) ratified their new collective agreement.
- On October 20, 2012 Anishnabek Police Services (APS) (Civilian unit) ratified their new collective agreement.
- On December 7, 2012 Graduate Teaching Assistants (DCL 00610) at the University of Western Ontario ratified their new collective agreement.
- On November 21, 2012 municipal employees who work for the Town of Moosonee (DCL 285) voted against the tentative agreement. Conciliation dates have been scheduled for early 2013.
- On December 3, 2012 Treaty Three Police Officers (DCL 410) were awarded, through interest arbitration, a renewal collective agreement.
- On December 4, 2012, PSAC members who work at SNC Lavalin (UNE 358), ratified their next collective agreement.

Organizing

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. Should the grievance not be successful PSAC will conduct an organizing campaign to organize any unrepresented Postdoctoral Fellows.

Research Assistants at Queen's University

PSAC is organizing seven hundred (700) research assistants at Queen's University. PSAC already represents 1,300 Graduate Teaching Assistants and 200 Postdoctoral Fellows at Queen's University in a single composite Directly Chartered Local 901, which fully supports the organizing campaign.

By-elections

Provincial

On Sept. 6, 2012 PSAC members helped to ensure that the provincial Liberals were not handed a majority. The Liberal candidate Steven Del Duca won in Vaughan, however, in Kitchener-Waterloo NDP candidate Catherine Fife delivered a surprise win, beating PC Tracey Weiler, who placed second and Liberal candidate Eric Davis who finished third. The results mean McGuinty's Liberals have 53 seats, one shy of the 54 needed for a majority and the same total they held before the byelections were called.

The Progressive Conservatives hold steady at 36 seats, while the New Democrats climb to 18.

Federal

A federal by-election was called for Durham to replace Bev Oda, who had stepped down on July 31. A letter from the REVP was sent to all members informing them of the importance of this by-election. Sister Amanda Chum one of the UNE 210 local Stewards to help make calls to our members in the Durham Riding. Unfortunately the riding remained Conservative, with the results as follows: Erin O'Toole, Conservative (50.7 per cent); Larry O'Connor, NDP (26.3 per cent); Grant Humes, Liberal (17.3 per cent); Virginia Ervin, Green (4.1 per cent). Voter turnout was at 35.8 per cent.

Mobilization

UPCE

On Saturday, November 3, 2012, PSAC Ontario Council members decided to sign messages of support on a large PSAC Ontario flag and send it to our UPCE Brothers and Sisters who are currently in negotiations. This round of bargaining is exceptionally difficult for our members and Council wanted to let our UPCE members know that they are not alone in their struggle

FB Bargaining

A day of action was held on Friday, November 23, 2012, "Black Friday" to mobilize PSAC members who work at the border and inform the public what was happening to this vital

service. Information flyers were handed out and members spoke out about being without a contract for over a year and a half.

SSO Bargaining

On November 30th, 2012 to mark the one year anniversary of the expiration of the collective agreement, PSAC members working for Statistics Canada participated in an information picket at the regional office of Statistics Canada in Sturgeon Falls. There was a high rate of participation with well over 100 members participating throughout the day. Four media outlets attended including; CBC Radio Sudbury, Radio Canada Sudbury 2, North Bay Nugget and Nipissing Reader.

Directly Chartered Local (DCL) Conference

The second Ontario Region DCL Conference held at the Marriott Hotel in Toronto on September 27th to September 30th, 2012 was a terrific success. There were thirty participants representing sixteen of the eighteen DCLs across the Region.

The agenda focused upon the broad theme of "Diverse Connected Leaders" and integrated strategies/tools for Local development within each workshop across each sector (i.e. Security and Law Enforcement, Academic Sector, Gaming and Others).

On Saturday, participants attended a student rally against Bill 115 which was reported in the Toronto Star: <http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/politics/article/1264395--students-protest-in-support-of-ontario-teachers>. Integrating a political action rally into the conference reinforced the theme "We Are All Affected."

Academic Sector Meeting

PSAC Ontario held the first sectoral meeting among Academic Sector Directly Chartered Locals (DCL) on November 23-25, 2012 in London. The central objectives of the sectoral meeting were to bring together workplace leaders/activists to create a space for shared learning and to lay the foundation for building solidarity/networks among DCLs in the same sector.

PSAC Ontario now represents over 4,000 workers within the Academic Sector with an ongoing campaign to organize Research Assistants at Queen's University.

Labour Day

On August 30, 2012, the PSAC London Area Council arranged to deliver "We Are All Affected" cakes to all the locals in the London area to mobilize members to come out for Labour Day. Robyn Benson, PSAC National President, along with Sharon DeSousa, PSAC REVP for Ontario, joined the Area Council members in delivering each cake to all the locals in the morning. At noon, all attended a Labour Day BBQ held at a centralized location in London where many of our members work.

Hamilton Labour Day - Robyn Benson, PSAC National President, along with Sharon DeSousa, PSAC REVP for Ontario, joined the PSAC Hamilton Area Council and Human Rights committees in the Labour Day march through Hamilton. With over 150 PSAC activists in attendance, PSAC was well represented.

Windsor Labour Day – PSAC activists mobilized members to take part in the Windsor Labour Day, to revive one of Canada's largest Labour Day events. Chris Aylward, PSAC National Executive Vice-President spoke at the rally, demonstrating PSAC's commitment to raising public education on the importance of Labour Day for all workers.

Toronto's Labour Day – The PSAC Greater Toronto Area Council worked tirelessly to mobilize and prepare for this year's Labour Day. The PSAC turnout was very strong and due to our energetic members and beautifully decorated float, PSAC won the "Most Spirited Participation" award from the Toronto and York Region Labour Council.

Our members participated in Labour Day activities across the province, including Scarborough's first Labour Day parade. Major Labour Day events attended by PSAC members occurred in: Sudbury, North Bay, Timmins, Kirkland Lake, Chatham-Kent, Waterloo, Sault Ste Marie, London, Barrie, Peterborough, Kingston, and Thunder Bay. This year, PSAC Ontario Council decided on 3 slogans for PSAC Labour Day T-shirts. The three slogans were: "Unions: Prosperity for All, not Profits for Few," "Public Services are Your Services," and "Workers: the Real Job Creators". These PSAC Labour Day T-shirts were distributed to PSAC Ontario Area Council's across the Region to ensure our members were prominently visible and that our messages reached the public.

PSAC Ontario was extremely proud to have the newly elected PSAC National President, Robyn Benson and PSAC National Executive Vice-President, Chris Aylward participating in events in our region.

We Are All Affected Campaign

Sept 15, 2012 – PSAC National Day of Action

To maximize member participation, six main events were scheduled across the Ontario region for our National Day of Action of September 15th. Members and Locals who were not able to attend these events were encouraged to create their own event, or undertake an action of solidarity to oppose the cuts to public services.

Toronto – "The People's Court" demonstration at 1pm in front of the Toronto Court House at 361 University Avenue (at Armoury St). The event was a mock trial that was staged, which included puppets of Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Tim Hudack (Provincial Conservative Leader), Premier Dalton McGuinty and Toronto Mayor Rob Ford, all on trial for cut backs on public spending. About 200 people attended the event. Conservative MPs in the Greater Toronto Area were served with a PSAC summons, while at the same time receiving their affected letters. MPs targeted in this action included; Julian Fantino, Jim Flaherty, Tony Clement, Patrick Brown, Lisa Raitt, and Peter Kent.

The Peoples Court garnered endorsements from the Community Alliance for Social Justice, Gabriela Ontario, Toronto Stop the Cuts, Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, Ontario Coalition Against Poverty, Asian Canadian Labour Alliance, Migrante Ontario, Mayworks, Rabble.ca, Justicia for Migrant Workers, Common Front, Greater Toronto Worker Workers' Assembly, Workers United, Canadian Union of Public Employees, Canadian Federation of Students, Canadian Union of Postal Workers, Independent Women Workers, Latin American Trade

Union Coalition, Latin American and Caribbean Solidarity Network, Toronto and York Region District Labour Council, and the Ontario Federation of Labour.

This event sparked a lot of media coverage, demonstrated in videos by The Globe and Mail, and various other news articles, including:

1. <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/news-video/video-union-leaders-try-harper-effigy-in-mock-trial/article4547862/>
2. <http://www.theprovince.com/business/Protests+held+against+federal+cuts+include+peoples+court+trying/7248944/story.html>
3. <http://www.newstalk1010.com/News/localnews/blogentry.aspx?BlogEntryID=10438802>
4. <http://rabble.ca/blogs/bloggers/johnbon/2012/09/psac-people%E2%80%99s-court-convicts-politicians-crimes-against-ordinary-cana>
5. <http://thechronicleherald.ca/canada/136422-protesters-hold-mock-trials-over-public-service-cuts>
6. <http://news.ca.msn.com/ontario/kitchener/protests-held-against-federal-cuts-include-%E2%80%98people%E2%80%99s-court%E2%80%99-trying-harper-effigy>

Thunder Bay – Demonstration and rally at the Lakehead Labour Centre (929 Fort William Rd, Thunder Bay) at noon. Around 150 people participated in the demonstration including members from UTE, UNE, UNDE, UCTE, AGR, and DCLs. In addition, labour and community support came from OSSTF, ETFO, Catholic Secondary School Teachers Federation, CUPE, COPE, OPSEU, CAW, Musicians Union and the Port Arthur Branch 5 Legion.

Speakers included local MP John Rafferty, representative for local MP Bruce Hyer, two city councilors and union members Andrew Foulds (OSSTF) and Paul Pugh (CAW), president from OSSTF and ETFO, CAW Coast Guard local, a veteran of the Second World War, Roy Lamore, from Branch 5 spoke, as well as Pietro Masdea, PSAC Local President.

There was media coverage from CBC News, Chronicle Journal and online videos from Thunder Bay News.

1. <http://www.chroniclejournal.com/content/news/local/2012/09/16/public-service-workers-unite-against-cuts>
2. <http://www.tbnewswatch.com/Video/25489/PSAC-Rally>
3. <http://m.tbnewswatch.com/View.aspx?cid=235727>
4. <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/story/2012/09/14/tby-fed-job-cuts.html>
5. <http://www.tbnewswatch.com/news/235587/Dozens-of-area-public-sector-jobs-axed>
6. <http://www.tbnewswatch.com/video/25483/Job-Cuts>

Kingston – “Bon Voyage to Harper and his Austerity Measures!” Demonstration at Confederation Park (2-24 Clarence St, Kingston) at noon. This demonstration joined PSAC members, allied unions and community groups in an interactive awareness raising event within the Kingston community about the impact of Harper’s austerity measures. The event had a “Harper Hates Me” ball toss, a “Resist Austerity and Oppression” can toss, a treasure box with goodies for kids, a large “We Are All Affected” board for the community to post their messages to Harper and in support of quality public services and healthy communities, buttons and pins, petitions, information pamphlets, balloons, “We Are All Affected” popcorn and cotton candy, watermelon, and coffee and snacks.

In addition to the PSAC members who came out from USGE, UNDE, UTE, CEIU, DCL 901, and DCL 818, we had union and community participation from the following: Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU), The Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada (PIPSC), The Kingston and District Labour Council (KDLC), Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), Sheet Metal Workers International Association (SMWIA), Queen’s University Faculty Association (QUFA), The Society of Professional and Graduate Students at Queen’s University (SGPS), the New Democrat Party (NDP), The Living Wage Campaign, Kingston Coalition Against Poverty (KCAP), and the Kingston Health Coalition. Media coverage included CKWS (local CBC), the Kingston Whig Standard, Fly FM, The Drive, and CFRC:

1. <http://www.thewhig.com/2012/09/16/rally-aims-to-educate-the-public>
2. <http://www.ckwstv.com/news/kingston/story.aspx?ID=1775097>
3. <http://www.983flyfm.com/theflyfm/layoff-notices-issued-to-14-government-employees-in-kingston/>
4. <http://cfrc.ca/blog/programming/archives>

Kitchener – Rally at Victoria Park in Kitchener (near the David St. entrance) at 1pm. About 30 people attended the rally. Guest speakers included, Marie Clarke Walker from the Canadian Labour Congress and Natalie Mehra from the Ontario Health Coalition and Catherine Fife, NDP MPP, who spoke on the issues of public service cuts and strategies for job creation. This event was covered in several media outlets including, CTV news.

1. <http://kitchener.ctvnews.ca/national-day-of-action-rally-in-kitchener-1.957502>
2. <http://www.therecord.com/news/local/article/800680--rally-takes-aim-at-austerity-measures>
3. <http://metronews.ca/news/kitchener/372833/rally-takes-aim-at-austerity-measures/>

Sudbury – Community BBQ in the Market Square (Corner of Elm and Elgin St.) at 1pm. Speakers from the PSAC, Labour Council, and other labour and social groups attended the Saturday rally. The event focused on the Conservative government's austerity measures and how they will affect everyday people. This event included a family friendly BBQ, a bean bag game, and information hand outs.

Media coverage occurred at two local radio stations and in the Sudbury Star.

1. <http://www.thesudburystar.com/2012/09/16/federal-workers-rally-against-cuts>

Trenton – Community BBQ and Open Mic/Music Entertainment at the Centennial Park in Trenton from 11am - 3pm. Members from UTE, UCTE, UNDE, UFCW, CEP, OPSEU, USW, USGE and PWU came together for the National Day of Action in Trenton. Betty Bannon, retired UTE National President spoke at the event, urging sisters and brothers to take the messages they heard of fighting against austerity to members of their respective locals who weren't able to attend. Roughly 40 people attended.

London Western Fair

As part of the Ontario Region summer "We Are Affected Campaign" the London Regional Office sponsored an information table at the Western Fair on September 7-16, 2012, to raise awareness on the impact of cuts upon public services.

Volunteers from the PSAC London Area Council were instrumental in informing and educating the public on cuts to the public service and how it will affect Canadians.

Save Our Historic Canals

PSAC Ontario in partnership with UCTE held a press conference in Ottawa on October 18, 2012 at the Ottawa Lock Station along the Rideau Canal. Members had collected over 8,000 signatures from community members over the summer to reverse the cuts to the Canals and to Parks Canada. Communities along with canal systems are anxious as to how their communities will be affected by these cuts, as well as to the future of these historic Canadian landmarks.

Members who are canal workers along with UCTE National President, Christine Collins and PSAC Ontario Regional Executive Vice-President, Sharon DeSousa presented the signed petitions to protect our historic Canals to Members of Parliament, Megan Leslie, NDP Environment Critic and Anne Minh Thu Quach, NDP Deputy Environment Critic. The MPs accepted the petitions to present in the House of Commons on behalf of PSAC-UCTE and concerned citizens across Ontario and Quebec.

We Are Wisconsin Film Screening

PSAC Ontario helped fund a screening of the film "We Are Wisconsin", on November 18, 2012 in Kingston. This award-winning feature documentary film follows the unfolding of public outcry against Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker's controversial budget-repair bill attacking public sector workers and their collective bargaining rights.

The event was co-sponsored by the Kingston Coalition Against Poverty, OPSEU, CUPE, Kingston District Labour Council, the Kingston NDP, Public Services International, UNDE and UCTE. This screening works in very well with PSAC's campaign "We Are All Affected", and it also fits in with our mandate to work within the greater labour movement. It is an opportunity for Public Education that is sorely needed, coalition building and a great way of engaging community Allies and creating a network of activist in the region.

Education

Fall School

The 2012 Ontario Region Fall School successfully brought together eighty activists from across the Ontario Region for intensive in-residence Union training with courses on: Local Officers Training, Duty to Accommodate, Anti-Harassment, and Workers Health & Safety.

The Fall School also integrated a plenary session on the Duty to Accommodate with Michael Lynk (Professor Faculty of Law Western Ontario) who shared his leading paper in this important area of human rights.

Alliance Facilitator Clinic

The Alliance Facilitator (AF) Clinic brought together Alliance Facilitators from across the Ontario Region for a weekend of learning, networking and strategic planning with the central objective of revitalizing the Ontario Region AF network.

The AF Clinic took place on November 23-25, 2012 in Toronto. A Google Site was created that contains all materials and resources from the Clinic and can be found here:

<https://sites.google.com/site/psaontarioafclinic2012/>

Labour Movement/ Solidarity

Raise the Rates Campaign

As a form of Coalition Building and as a Community Unionism initiative PSAC Ontario had joined CUPE and the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty (OCAP) in the Raise the Rates Campaign. The purpose of the campaign is to raise the rates for social assistance in the province of Ontario. This campaign has a larger purpose of addressing the negative impacts of austerity on poor and working people.

Actions that have taken place with this campaign is a series of town-hall meetings across the province, protests at MPP's constituency offices, and rallies in several locations across the province. After a presentation by John Clarke, OCAP organizer, at our PSAC Ontario Council meeting, the Council has unanimously chosen to endorse this campaign.

On December 27th, 2012, the provincial Liberal government announced that about two-thirds (\$42 million) of the funding cut to the Community Start-up and Maintenance Benefit (CSUMB) will be restored in 2013. The money will go to municipalities under the new system.

This concession was forced by community actions and support from the Labour Movement, including PSAC Ontario. We will continue to pressure the government to restore full funding to this benefit and this message will be taken to the Liberal Convention, occurring on January 25 and 26, 2013, when thousands will gather to denounce the austerity measures this government has undertaken.

CBTU 16th Annual Awards Dinner and Fundraiser

On Saturday November 3, 2012, PSAC Ontario supported our Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU) community partners by attending this year's awards dinner and fundraiser. Keynotes speakers included Mark Brown and Jan Simpson from the Canadian Union of Postal Workers. PSAC Ontario has a long history of working with CBTU in raising awareness of equity in the workplace and within the labour movement itself.

We Are Ontario

PSAC Ontario, in conjunction with the Ontario Federation of Labour and all its affiliates, along with community groups from the Common Front, contributed and endorsed the “We Are Ontario” webpage (www.WeAreOntario.ca) launched by the Ontario Federation of Labour. The webpage highlights the cuts occurring in Ontario, provides information on events taking place to oppose these cuts and contains valuable information on the growing inequality in Ontario.

Government of Canada Workplace Charitable Campaign (GCWCC) Labour Luncheon

PSAC was previously recognized at the United Way Toronto’s Annual General meeting on June 21st with a ‘Thanks A Million Award’ for our participation in the Government of Canada Workplace Charitable Campaign (GCWCC) in 2011.

This award recognizes those organizations that raise \$1 million or more in one year, through their workplace campaign. Nationally, federal employees and retirees, contributed \$41.6 million through the GCWCC in 2011. In the GTA together we raised \$1.62 million; a strong achievement which will benefit hundreds of thousands of people throughout our communities.

PSAC held a Labour Luncheon in the Toronto Regional office on September 20th, 2012 at 10:00 am for GCWCC Campaign Chairs and Local Presidents to speak about this year’s campaign goals. With austerity measures being implemented at all levels, charities are in dire need to fulfill growing demand.

Peoples Social Forum

The first social forum was the World Social Forum held in January 2001 in Porto Alegre, Brazil. The Forum was a response to the growing onslaught of the Neo-liberal agenda of the ruling parties in many parts of the world. The Forum was open to progressive organizations, academics and activists under the slogan “Another World is Possible”.

The World Social Forum was intended as a regular meeting of activists to move experiences from the individual to the collective in battling right-wing ideology and policies. The forum was well received and became an annual event until 2007. The event was hosted in different cities across the globe, with an average participation of 100 000 people. From then onwards a World Social Forum is held every two years, with the next one in 2013 in Tunis.

In addition to this global event, there emerged national and regional social forums. For example “Quebec Social Forum”, “European Social Forum”, “Africa Social Forum”, and “India Social Forum”. Here in Canada, a movement has begun to reproduce a Social Forum in a grassroots approach to a Canada-Québec-Indigenous Peoples’ Social Forum. Expansion meetings of different unions, community groups and activists have taken place throughout 2012 in different cities across the country, including: Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa, Vancouver and St. John’s.

Through these meetings, enough momentum has been build to launch a general assembly meeting that will begin to plan for a Canada-wide Social Forum. The People's Social Forum General Assembly will take place on January 26-27, 2013 at the PSAC National Headquarters in Ottawa, with over 80 groups from across Canada attending.

The following organizations have endorsed the Social Forum movement: Alternatives; Canadian Union of Postal Workers; Centrale des syndicats du Québec (CSQ); Centre d'écologie urbaine de Montréal; Chantier de l'économie sociale; Coalition Against Israeli Apartheid(CAIA),Toronto; Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union; Common Frontiers; Confédération des syndicats nationaux (CSN); Conseil Central Montréal métropolitain (CCMM-CSN); Conseil québécois des gais et lesbiennes; Council of Canadians; Fédération des travailleurs et travailleuses du Québec (FTQ); Fédération interprofessionnelle de la santé du Québec (FIQ); Fédération nationale des enseignants et enseignantes du Québec (FNEEQ-CSN); Front d'action populaire en réaménagement urbain; Indigenous Environmental Network; Indigenous Peoples Solidarity Movement; Public Service Alliance of Canada; Quebec Native Women (FAQ-QNW); Latin American and Caribbean Solidarity Network; Occupy Toronto; Toronto Bolivia Solidarity; and Toronto Stop the Cuts.

Community Support - Food Bank Drives

PSAC members have seen first hand the devastating impacts that cuts to the public sector have on local economies. With austerity policies being implemented at every level of government, and the difficulty in finding good quality jobs, there has been a rise in food bank use all across our province.

On October 12, 2012, PSAC London Area Council presented the London Food Bank with food items collected from PSAC members to provide support for needy families in the community. Jane Roy, Co-Executive Director of the London Food Bank came to the Ivey Spencer Leadership Centre to accept the food items, along with a \$500 cheque from PSAC Ontario.

The PSAC Kingston Area Council held a food drive for over a month to collect items from members to donate to the local food bank. On Thursday December 13, 2012, members of the PSAC Kingston Area Council, along with Sharon DeSousa, REVP for Ontario presented the collected food to the Kingston Food Bank. Sandy Singer, Director of the Kingston Food bank, accepted the collection, along with a \$500 cheque from PSAC Ontario.

Area Councils, Human Rights Committees and members have been active in raising money and collecting food all year for food banks across the province. PSAC Ontario Council has made monetary donations to food banks in London, Kingston, Timmins and Sturgeon Falls in the amount of \$500 each. With more and more people turning to food banks, every donation is important.

Equity and Human Rights

At the past National Triennial Convention, delegates approved funding for Young Worker Committees. Following this announcement and PSAC Ontario's Young Workers Summit, I am

pleased to announce that the Kingston area has formed the first PSAC Young Workers Committee in our Region.

The PSAC Kingston Women's Committee participated in the "Take Back the Night" event on September 20th, 2012. Also, the Committee took part in the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women on September 6th, by participating in a local forum and vigil to remember the victims of gender-based violence.

The PSAC Thunder Bay Regional Women's Committee hosted a December 6th, National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women vigil at the Labour Centre in Thunder Bay, in conjunction with the Northwestern Ontario Francophone Women's Association. Also, the Committee supported "Dilico", a First Nations' children's aid organization, by collecting Christmas presents for children in need. The Committee also participated in the "Basketweavers Program", which works to collect household items for women leaving shelters. Furthermore, the Committee worked to promote and distribute a poster for "Talk for Healing", which is a toll free number for women seeking help to escape domestic violence.

In October, the first PSAC Thunder Bay Aboriginal Circle was formed. Also, the first PSAC Sioux Lookout Regional Women's Committee was formed in November.

The PSAC Sudbury Regional Women's Committee took part in a "Take Back the Night" event on September 27, 2012 held at the "Better Beginnings, Better Futures" building in Sudbury. This empowering community event highlights the issue of women's security and personal safety.

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 August 29, 2012 to January 4, 2013

August 30, 2012 – PSAC London Area Council Labour Day BBQ at noon
August 30, 2012 – Canadian Labour Congress Labour College Graduation Ceremony in Port Elgin at 6pm
August 31, 2012 – Tour of CIU locals in Niagara Falls at 1pm
September 3, 2012 – Labour Day Parade in Hamilton
September 10-12, 2012 – Alliance Executive Committee Meeting
September 14-15, 2012 – First Nations Talking Union Basics Training
September 15, 2012 – PSAC National Day of Action in Toronto
September 20, 2012 – GCWCC/United Way Luncheon in the Toronto office
September 27-30, 2012 – Directly Chartered Locals Conference in Toronto
October 1, 2012 – Alliance Executive Committee Meeting
October 2-4, 2012 – National Board of Directors Meeting
October 11-14, 2012 – PSAC Ontario Fall School
October 17, 2012 – Raise the Rates Rally at Toronto City Hall at noon
October 17, 2012 – Rally against Bill 115 at Queen’s Park at 5:30pm
October 22, 2012 – Alliance Executive Committee Meeting
October 23-25, 2012 – National Board of Directors Meeting
October 30, 2012 – PSAC Ontario Council Political Action Committee Conference Call at 6pm
November 1-3, 2012 – PSAC Ontario Council Meeting
November 3, 2012 – Coalition of Black Trade Unionists Dinner and Fundraiser at 6pm
November 5-9, 2012 – Alliance Executive Committee Strategy Meeting
November 11, 2012 – Remembrance Day Wreath Laying Ceremony at Toronto Old City Hall at 10am
November 13, 2012 – PSAC Toronto Racially Visible Committee Meeting at 6pm
November 15, 2012 – PSAC Ontario Council Political Action Committee Conference Call at 6pm
November 20, 2012 – PSAC Ontario Alliance Facilitators Meeting
November 21, 2012 – Ontario Federation of Labour Conference Call at 5pm
November 23-25, 2012 – PSAC Ontario Academic Sector Meeting
November 28, 2012 – PSAC Ontario/UNDE Press Conference in Borden at 11am over cuts to cleaning staff at CFB Borden
November 29-December 2, 2012 – Leadership Summit
December 10, 2012 – Ontario Federation of Labour Women’s Leadership Summit
December 13, 2012 – Tour of Queen’s University Organizing Tour
December 13, 2012 – Tour of the Kingston Penitentiary
December 13, 2012 – PSAC Kingston Area Council AGM meeting at 6pm
December 14, 2012 – PSAC National Education Committee Meeting
December 17-19, 2012 – Alliance Executive Committee Meeting