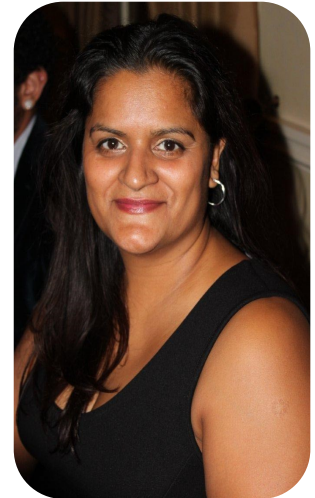




PSAC  
Ontario

# REFLECTIONS OF 2014



## People's Social Forum

The People's Social Forum took place on August 21-24 in Ottawa. Over 3,000 activists came together to promote a progressive vision for our country. This was an historic gathering, which was modeled on the World Social Forums that have taken place for over a decade.

PSAC took a leadership role in helping to organize this monumental event, and our union was well represented at the Forum. Through our union's participation we have further strengthened the connections between the Labour movement and the environmental, human rights, and social justice movements.

These alliances continue to build our strength through solidarity, as we advance the rights of our members and promote quality public services for all.



## 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.



## Toronto Young Worker Committee

On November 27, 2014, an open house was held in the PSAC Toronto Regional office to celebrate the inauguration of the first PSAC Toronto Young Worker Committee. Sharon DeSousa, REVP opened the event, and Lauren Baret, PSAC Ontario Council Young Worker Representative gave closing remarks.



Members discussed with each other the challenges of being a young worker in the federal public sector and the challenges to getting young workers engaged in their union.

## Bargaining Support - Actions on the 19<sup>th</sup>

All Locals across Ontario are being asked to come up with creative actions to show their solidarity on the 19th of each month, in anticipation of the Federal election originally set for Oct. 19, 2015.

Locals have come up with terrific ways of displaying their solidarity and photos have been shared on the PSAC Ontario Facebook page for members to comment and share.

Locals have worn wrist bands, stickers, Band-Aids, solid colours and union swag all to show their support.



## Supporting Our Veterans

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. Over 200 people gathered in Windsor on this day to protest the office closure.



## World Pride

The World Pride International Human Rights conference took place on June 25-27, 2014. PSAC delegates from across Canada participated in the two day conference, which helped to raise awareness of the struggles faced by LGBTQ communities across the globe.



## World Pride Parade

PSAC members participated in the Trans March on June 27, the Dyke March on June 28, and the Pride Parade on June 29, 2014. Over 30 members joined on the float, with another 100 marchers, the maximum allowed by World Pride.

## International Women's 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 demonstrations 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.

## Labour Day

Labour Day participation from PSAC members in Ontario continues to grow. PSAC Ontario Council selected orange Labour Day t-shirts for members to wear at these Labour Day events, with the following three slogans written on the back: *Solidarity is Power, Stand Together, Unite - Fight - WIN!, Stand Proud! Shout Loud!*

On October 2, 2014, PSAC Greater Toronto Area Council members received an award from the Toronto and York Region Labour Council for Best Decorated Vehicle for this year's Labour Day Parade.



## Canadian Labour Congress Convention

The Canadian Labour Congress convention elected Hassan Yussuff as the new CLC president during the Convention held in Montreal from May 4-8, 2014.

Brother Yussuff, who is the first racialized worker to hold the President position at the CLC, ran on a program of more grassroots engagement and a bolder labour movement confronting politicians and CEO's who are attacking workers' rights.



## PSAC Ontario Triennial Convention

The 6th Triennial PSAC Ontario Convention took place in Mississauga, Ontario, from June 6th – 8th, 2014. The Convention was one of the biggest for our Region with over 250 delegates.

The new CLC National President, Hassan Yussuff gave a rousing address on the need to take action to defend our rights and activists Brigette DePape and Sean Devlin spoke on the importance of unions in promoting social justice. Members also heard from PSAC's National President, Sister Robyn Benson, who shared her experiences dealing with this Conservative government and its disrespect for our members.



## 2015 Federal Election

Although the 2015 federal election is slated for October 19, 2015, many political analysts are predicting Harper will call an early election. After 10 years of Conservative rule; which has included cuts to public services, laying off 20,000 workers, and removal of many of Canada's environmental protections; it's time for change.

We need a government that is committed to making Canada a country where working families have retirement security, good jobs, quality health care and strong public services.



### Childcare is an Election Issue

On March 20, 2014, PSAC Ontario placed an ad in the Toronto Star advocating for a National Child-care program.

This was in addition to the editorial provided by Sharon DeSousa, Ontario REVP, on the importance of unions and their positive impact on the economy.

### 2015 PSAC National Triennial Convention

The PSAC 17th National Triennial Convention will be held at the Québec City Convention Centre beginning Sunday, April 26 and concluding Friday, May 1, 2015.

The deadline for observers to register to the 2015 Convention is March 2, 2015.



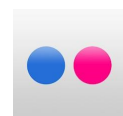
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