



PSAC
Ontario

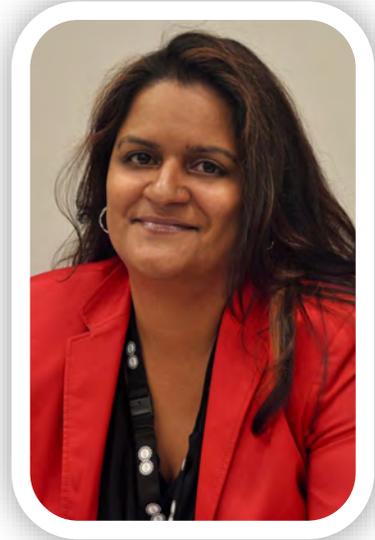
REFLECTIONS OF 2015

Member Feedback

Our region has been working to improve communications with our members and our capacity for action. From our education program to our social media, we have been building our region's abilities to deliver important information to you.

To continue to improve, it is vital that we hear back from our members. In 2015, we distributed an online survey called the Ontario Local Health Check survey, which aimed to find out what some of the education and development needs are for our Locals. This work will continue in 2016, as we work to strengthen our membership.

I would like to thank all of the members that took part in our Ontario Local Health Check survey. Your feedback is greatly appreciated.



PSACOntario



@PSACOntario



PSAC Ontario Region



OntarioPSAC

Federal Election



Stephen Harper launched the longest election campaign in 143 years when the writ was issued on August 2, 2015, calling the election for October 19th.

Our Union responded with the largest advertising campaign we've ever undertaken, with our

Vote to Stop the Cuts campaign. This campaign, along with the work of our activists were key in helping to remove the Conservative government from power.

Actions on the 19th

Locals across Ontario came up with creative actions to show their solidarity on the 19th of each month throughout 2015, in anticipation of the Federal election that took place on October 19, 2015.





*Together we
changed the
face of our
government!*



CLC Election Preparation Conferences

The Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) held election preparation conferences across Ontario to train activists on mobilizing for change. Workshops included building local campaigns, how to build political support, using social media and how to reach out to different demographics to get out the vote.



Leadership Training

On January 30-31, 2015 PSAC Leadership Training was held in Mississauga. Over thirty participants, including members from Ontario Regional Council, Component Executives (RVPs, NVPs and Branch Presidents), the National Aboriginal Peoples Circle, and the National Human Rights Committee attended the Ontario Region Leadership Training.



Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women

On April 8th, 2015, the Toronto Regional Women's Committee hosted an event to raise awareness around the issue of murdered and missing Indigenous women in Canada. The event included a facilitated teaching of the *Faceless Dolls* project and a letter writing campaign.

Sister Sheila Karasiewicz, the Ontario Council Representative for Aboriginal Members was the special guest speaker who spoke about how the faceless dolls represent the Indigenous women who have been killed or are missing in Canada.



CUPE 3902 and 3903 Solidarity

On March 13, 2015 a flying squad made up of members from our PSAC Directly Chartered Academic Locals made their way to York University and the University of Toronto to support CUPE 3902 and 3903, as both Locals were on strike.



PSAC members from Queen's University, Western and the University of Ontario Institute of Technology came down to walk the picket line with their Sisters and Brothers, in support of improving working conditions for these two Locals who collectively represent nearly 12,000 workers.

2015 PSAC National Triennial Convention

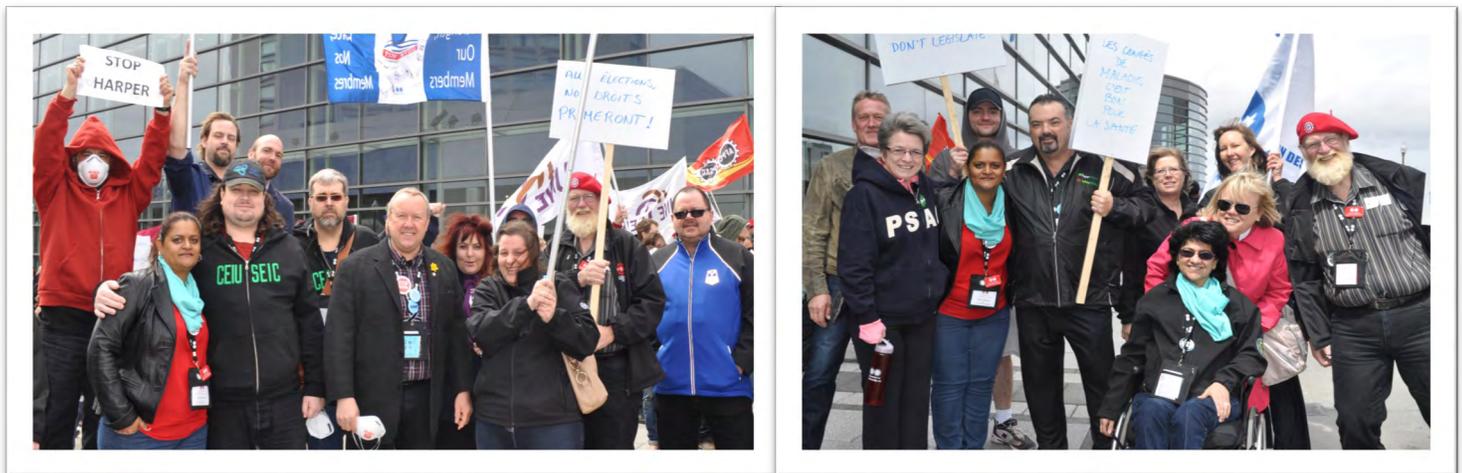
The PSAC's 17th National Triennial Convention took place in May 2015 in Quebec City. Below are some of the resolutions passed, which will set PSAC's priorities till the next National Triennial Convention in 2018.

Emergency Resolution

- Up to \$5 million for a public awareness campaign to defeat the Conservatives in the federal election.

Finance Committee

- Advanced cheques for PSAC members with disabilities to participated at fully-funded functions.
- Strike pay increase for PSAC members in the three Canadian territories (Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut).



Constitution Committee

- PSAC Constitution will add gender expression to the inclusion of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans definition.
- Regional Health and Safety Committees are officially recognized by PSAC.
- The PSAC Constitution will be amended to allow Regions the option of electing a second Alternate to the REVP.
- That Locals, Regional Women's Committees and Human Rights Committees can appoint delegates, rather than electing them, to represent them on PSAC Area Councils.
- The age of defining a young worker was raised from 30 and under, to 35 and under.

2015 PSAC National Triennial Convention

Collective Bargaining Committee

- PSAC will launch a campaign opposing the contracting-out of federal building maintenance jobs and expose the pitfalls to the employer and to the public of contracting-out services.
- PSAC will campaign and lobby to protect our members negotiated sick leave.
- PSAC will provide all members who are required to carry a firearm (or use of force tools), legal counsel who is an expert in law enforcement, fully paid for by PSAC and immediately accessible in the event that a member is involved with discharging their firearm.

General Resolutions Committee

- PSAC will continue to advocate for a nationally-funded child care program and will dedicate \$10,000 per year for each Region to promote the campaign in their workplaces and communities.
- PSAC will establish and fund education courses directed at Aboriginal women for union leadership positions.
- PSAC will lobby the federal government to add gender identity to the Canadian Human Rights Act.
- PSAC will create a domestic violence awareness course to educate members on the struggles of victims of domestic and/or workplace abuse and tools to help represent these workers.
- PSAC will fund Regional Racially Visible Conferences.
- PSAC will adopt the Union of Environment Workers (UEW) and PSAC BC Region's policy paper on water conservation.
- PSAC will ensure that an accessibility review is undertaken of all event facilities used by PSAC by a member from the Members with Disabilities Working Group. Also, that PSAC work to ensure that any barriers to members' participation at PSAC events are removed.
- PSAC will lobby to change the Employment Insurance Act to extend benefits for claimants to reflect the reality of varying lengths of time required due to their type of disability.
- PSAC will lobby the federal government to commence a National Public Inquiry into missing and murdered Aboriginal women. Also, the PSAC will lobby the government to adopt a national action plan on violence against women and implement all recommendations from the National Public Inquiry.
- PSAC will encourage our membership to initiate discussions with employers about creating positive spaces by implementing gender neutral washrooms and changing facilities where necessary.

Ontario Federation of Labour Convention

The Ontario Federation of Labour held its 13th Biennial Convention, under the aspirational banner "*The Ontario We Want*," from November 23 to 27, 2015 in Toronto.

Chris Buckley was elected OFL President, Patty Coates was elected as the OFL Secretary-Treasurer and Ahmad Gaied was elected OFL Executive Vice-President.

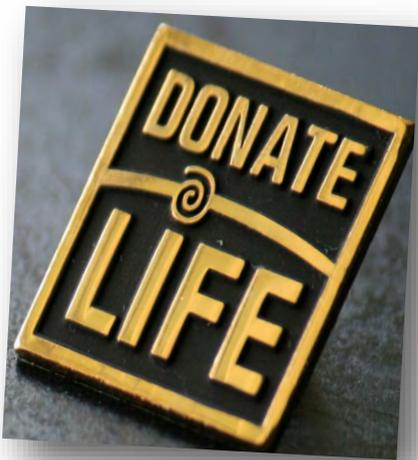
Delegates to the convention rallied on the third day to demand justice for injured workers.



Organ Donation

Organ and tissue donation is an important program in Ontario. Right now, over 1500 people in this province are waiting for a life-saving organ transplant.

Registering online to be an organ donor takes 2 minutes, with 1 organ donor being able to save up to 8 lives. Visit www.beadonor.ca to register online, since donor cards are no longer valid in Ontario.



CIU Day of Action

The Customs and Immigration Union (CIU) held a Day of Action on October 8, 2015 at Pearson International airport.

Over 100 members came together to send a loud and clear message protesting the Harper government's cuts to public services.

