



PSAC Ontario REFLECTIONS OF 2018

Provincial Election

On June 7, 2018, the Progressive Conservatives (PC) won a majority government with 76 seats. With this majority, the provincial government wasted no time in rolling back workers' rights, including eliminating the \$15 minimum wage, paid sick days, equal pay for equal work provisions, among many others.

These regressive changes demonstrate how important elections and the political process are to our daily lives. The rights and freedoms that we fought hard to win, and now enjoy, can be taken away depending on the government in power; something we have seen with this government's use of back to work legislation for example.

However, we can fight back. By standing together and taking action we can demand progressive change. Even with a majority government, this government will back down if enough people raise their voices. So let us make sure that we continue to demand a better future for Ontario.



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Stop Contracting-out Campaign

The bases in Greenwood and Kingston were set to let go of cleaning staff who provide high-quality, dependable service for decades and who are represented by PSAC. PSAC and the Union of National Defence Employees (UNDE), undertook a campaign to urge the Canadian Forces to reconsider the privatizing of its cleaning services and support good, stable jobs. On September 20, 2018, PSAC and UNDE were pleased to hear the announcement that the contracting out of these jobs at both bases would be halted. The Department of National Defence also committed to creating a new process for future reviews of contracting out.

Alliance Facilitators Network Seminar

The PSAC Ontario Alliance Facilitators Network Seminar took place from September 29th to October 3, 2018 in Kingston. The seminar focused on preparing Alliance Facilitators (AFs) to provide lunch and learn workshops for Locals in Ontario. The Seminar also allowed AFs to network with their peers, update their facilitation and design skills and rebuild the capacity of the Ontario Regional AFN Program.



First Nations Policing Sector Meeting

The First Nations Police Sector meeting was held from January 31st to February 1st, 2018, in Thunder Bay and provided a forum for bargaining mobilization in the First Nations Policing sector. The theme of the meeting was "Parity means Parity", to highlight the unequal pay that First Nations police officers used to receive compared to their counterparts who work for the Ontario Provincial Police. Due to the pressure by our members and our union on the government, pay equity has now been achieved through legislative reform.



Fall School

The PSAC Ontario Fall School was held from November 22 – 25, 2018, in Toronto. Three courses were offered at the school, which were: Human Rights Activism, Advanced Duty to Accommodate and Anti-Harassment and Bullying. Participants at the school received advanced union training, while gaining specialized knowledge and skills in relation to these themes.



Orange Shirt Day

September 30th marks Orange Shirt Day, which came from the story of a residential school survivor (Phyllis), having her new orange shirt taken away on her first day of school. The date was chosen because it is the time of year in which children were historically taken away from their homes to residential schools. For more information, please visit:

www.orangeshirtday.org

Directly Chartered Locals Conference

The PSAC Ontario 2018 Directly Chartered Locals Conference took place on November 15th – 18th, 2018, in Toronto. The purpose of the conference was to continue to build and strengthen our DCLs in the region and provide the necessary tools to increase their capacity.

A special panel discussion was held with guest speakers; Mojdeh Cox, National Director, Anti-racism & Human Rights of the Canadian Labour Congress, Judith Monteith-Farrell, New Democratic Party MPP and Melisa Bayon, Political Action and Outreach Director of the Ontario Federation of Labour.



PSAC Phoenix Campaign

On February 28, 2018, PSAC held a National Day of Action on Phoenix, to commemorate the second anniversary of the implementation of the Phoenix pay system. In addition, Pay Advocate Assemblies were held across Ontario to further train and develop activists to assist other members on Phoenix pay files. Furthermore, a lobbying campaign targeting MPs took place, which focused on PSAC's demands from the government that include; a public inquiry, fair negotiations and damages for our members.



BURNT BY PHOENIX

Have you been burnt by Phoenix?

Make sure to send an email to your local Member of Parliament.

You can find their contact information here:

www.ourcommons.ca/Parliamentarians/en/constituencies/FindMP



Young Worker Summit

The PSAC Ontario Young Worker Summit was held from October 24-26, 2018, in Cornwall at the NAV Centre.

The theme was “*Value our Experience, Support our Growth, We are NOW!*” The purpose of the Summit was to build the capacity and sustainability of young worker committees throughout the Ontario Region.



Women's March

The international Women's march took place on January 20, 2018. This was the third anniversary of the Women's march and thousands of people took to the streets to condemn inequality and violence against women, and to demand change.



2018 PSAC Ontario Health and Safety Conference

The 2018 PSAC Ontario Region Health and Safety Conference was held in Mississauga, from December 1 – 2, 2018. There were fifty participants in attendance, with the theme of the conference being “*Mental Health in the Workplace*”. A donation drive was held during the conference that raised \$700 for the Ontario Health Coalition; one of the key advocacy groups in Ontario protecting our universal, public health care system.





Winning a Fair Contract for our CIU Members

The Customs and Immigration Union (CIU), a Component of the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC), held a number of demonstrations in 2018 to protest the over 3 and a half years without a new collective agreement.

This political action was the catalyst in CIU members attaining a new agreement with a substantial wage increase that put them on par with other law enforcement agencies.



Hands Off Our Health Care Rally

On October 23, 2018, the Ontario Health Coalition and the Ontario Federation of Labour held a mass rally at Queen's Park to stop the cuts to our healthcare system by the Progressive Conservative government.



PSAC National Convention

The PSAC National Convention took place in Toronto from April 29 to May 4, 2018. Chris Aylward was elected as the new National President, Magali Picard was acclaimed as the new National Executive Vice-President and Sharon DeSousa was elected as the Alternate National Executive Vice-President.



After elections took place on the morning of May 3rd, a rally organized by the PSAC Toronto Regional office took place over the lunch break. Members were bussed from the Metro Toronto Convention Centre to Allan Gardens. There they were joined by a chorus of drums leading the march through the streets of Toronto to Finance Minister Bill Morneau's office to demand immediate action on Phoenix, protection of our pensions and to improvements to our labour laws.

