



**Public Service Alliance of Canada
Regional Executive Vice-President, Ontario
Report
May 16, 2014 to August 29, 2014**

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

- DCL 410, Treaty Three officers bargaining team met with the employer Mar. 4, 5 and 6, 2014. Future meeting dates are being scheduled to continue bargaining.
- DCL 401 Nishinawbe-Aski Police Service officer bargaining team met with the Employer on July 8, 2014 where they tabled their final proposal.
- DCL 426 Anishinabek Police officers have been appointed a conciliation officer on August 20, 2014 to begin conciliation.

Renewal Agreements

- On June 24, 2014, members who work for the Port of Johnstown, UCTE local 00066, ratified their new tentative agreement.
- On July 28, 2014, UNDE Local 650 who work for OMNI Cleaners in Trenton ratified their new collective agreement.
- On August 14, 2014, contact cleaners employed at CFB Petawawa (UNDE Local 636) ratified their new collective agreement.
- On August 28, 2014, DCL 802 Commissionaires at Pearson airport ratified their new collective agreement.

Organizing

Graduate-Student Research Assistants at Queen's University

PSAC filed a certification application on April 23rd, 2014 to represent 1600 Graduate-Student Research Assistants at Queen's University. The vote was conducted on April 30, 2014, however, the results are sealed due to the employer contesting certain ballots cast. The process is before the Labour Board with hearing dates set later this year.

Operational Managers at Ontario Corrections

PSAC Ontario has launched a campaign to organize 600 Operational Managers employed by Ontario's Correctional Services. Ontario's Correctional Service establishes, maintains, operates and monitors correctional institutions and probation and parole offices. The Union of Solicitor General Employees (USGE), a Component of the PSAC, has expressed their support for this organizing campaign. PSAC filed a certification application to request a Union vote and the Ontario Labour Relations Board (OLRB) ordered a vote for the week of April 16th till April 19th, 2013. All ballots have been segregated and the count postponed until the Employer challenge with respect to managerial exclusion is dealt with. The first hearing date took place on October 9, 2013, with hearings continuing in 2014.

Provincial Election

On May 27, 2014, PSAC Ontario held a province-wide telephone town-hall to discuss the provincial election and the controversial Progressive Conservative platform. The call was moderated by Sharon DeSousa, REVP-Ontario and speakers included, Larry Rousseau, REVP-NCR, John Cartwright, President of the Toronto and York Region Labour Council and Trish Hennessy from the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

PSAC Ontario worked with PSAC NCR to ensure that our members in Ontario understood the importance of this election and the threat the Progressive Conservative party represented. On May 29, 2014 a French telephone town-hall was held on the election, hosted by Larry Rousseau, REVP-NCR.

PSAC Ontario also worked in consultation with the Ontario Federation of Labour and affiliates on strategic targeting based on internal polling information. Based on this polling information, a letter from the REVP of Ontario was sent to members in those targeted ridings, with a candidate Q & A on several key election issues. Phone banks and member campaigners were used to ensure that members were aware of the anti-worker platform of the Progressive Conservative party in this election.

June 12, 2014 was vote day, with the Liberals winning a majority government, gaining 58 (+5) seats, the Progressive Conservatives at 28 (-9) seats and the New Democratic Party achieved 21 (+4) seats. A full breakdown by riding can be viewed online at:

<http://www.cbc.ca/elections/ontariovotes2014/>

Federal By-elections

On June 30, 2014, two by-elections were called in Ontario; Scarborough-Agincourt and Trinity Spadina. Letters were sent to both ridings from the REVP to ensure members got out and voted in these by-elections.

Trinity Spadina had become vacant when NDP MP Olivia Chow stepped down to run for Mayor of Toronto. The Liberals were able to win the Trinity Spadina seat from the NDP, with Adam Vaughan winning the election. The Liberals also held their Scarborough-Agincourt seat with their candidate Arnold Chan being elected.

PSAC Ontario 6th Triennial Convention

The PSAC Ontario Regional Convention took place in Mississauga from June 6-8, 2014. The Convention was the largest in our Region's history with over 266 delegates, 5 observers, and 15 guests. Delegates debated and voted on resolutions, elected their new Ontario Council and re-elected Sharon DeSousa as REVP for Ontario.

Mobilization

Treasury Board Mobilization Meetings

17 meetings took place across Ontario, with 2 sessions for each meeting beginning on April 28, 2014 and continuing into June. These meetings were held to educate members on how bargaining has changed under Bill C-4, the overall bargaining process and how to mobilize support for their bargaining teams. These meetings also gave members the opportunity to ask questions directly with a bargaining team member and have their concerns addressed.

Boycott National Public Service Week

PSAC continued our boycott of National Public Service week in 2014, with members encouraged to create their own member appreciation National Public Service Week events. PSAC Ontario Locals held several different actions during their lunch times and on their breaks, creating their own barbeques and pizza parties. Members created a visual statement to management by wearing We Are All Affected t-shirts, ribbons, solid colours, boycott stickers, band aids representing sick leave, and buttons. Members distributed the handouts prepared by PSAC; "Conservative Cuts to Public Services" and "Standing Together for Sick Leave".

"Appreciation-grams" were used by one Local to send a personalized thank you message to all their members, while another Local's members have refused to accept any overtime work from management.

Labour Day

On August 28, 2014, the PSAC London Area Council hosted a Labour Day barbeque in the courtyard at 451 Talbot Street, in London from 12pm till 1:15pm. Joining the event was; NDP MP Irene Mathyssen, NDP MPP Peggy Sattler, London Mayoral candidate Matt Brown, London District Labour Council President Patti Dalton, and PSAC Regional Executive Vice-President for Ontario, Sharon DeSousa.

Last year's celebration brought together over 300 workers from various departments. This year's event was even bigger, with workers discussing the impacts that cuts to federal departments have made on their workplaces.

We Are All Affected Campaign

Veterans Affairs Canada Campaign

After 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, PSAC Ontario continues to campaign for increasing benefits and services for veterans. Media attention remains with reports that veterans are being underserved and are frustrated by the Conservative government's lack of action. We will continue to increase pressure on the government when the House returns in the fall, by ensuring that veterans' stories are publicized.

One-on-One Campaign

Our region continues to focus our one on one campaign through messaging around the importance of solidarity especially in terms of bargaining. Highlighting our wins in our collective agreements and the threat to these achievements has helped connect members with the importance of this campaign. We will continue to sign pledge cards and encourage member to member conversations, as bargaining remains a key priority for our membership.

Toronto Star

On June 5, 2014, a special edition of the Toronto Star was released with an insert on the Ontario provincial election. Sharon DeSousa, PSAC REVP-Ontario provided an editorial section on the importance of the provincial election and voting for progressive change.

PSAC Ontario Strategic Planning Meeting

On July 10, 2014, PSAC's Ontario Council was joined by the Region's National Vice-Presidents and Regional Vice-Presidents to develop an action plan on defeating the Conservative government in the 2015 federal election. The meeting provided a platform where regional leadership could discuss strategies and objectives, which provided the framework for a regional plan that will be rolled out in the fall.

Buskers Festival Kingston

On July 10-13, 2014, the PSAC Kingston Area Council participated in this year's Buskers Festival in Kingston. The Area Council partnered with CUPW in their campaign to stop Canada Post's removal of door to door delivery service. The Area Council asked the public to sign CUPW's petition, while also circulating a petition for a National Child care program.

Labour Movement/ Solidarity

London Social Forum

On July 11-13, 2014, London held a Regional Social Forum in preparation for the Peoples' Social Forum at the Lorne Avenue Public School in downtown London. The London Regional Social Forum provided an open meeting space for individuals and community groups to share ideas, experiences and network in the areas of justice, peace and ecology. The Forum was organized by a diverse grassroots coalition of individuals and groups including the Council of Canadians, union activists, First Nations, and youth. Guest speakers included; Tony Clarke, Murray Dobbin, Carol Baker and Ken Lewenza Jr.

Peoples' Social Forum

On August 21-24, the first ever Canada-wide Peoples' Social Forum took place. PSAC Ontario sponsored 4 buses to bring members and activists to this historic occasion, with central locations in London, Toronto and Kingston and two returning buses at the end of the Forum on August 24, 2014.

On the Thursday August 21, 2014, a massive rally was held with thousands of participants on Parliament Hill. Union members gathered at the War Museum at 3pm to hear a variety of speakers including, PSAC President Robyn Benson, Ontario Federation of Labour President Sid Ryan, Brigette DePape, and Denis Lemelin, National President of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers. From there, members marched across to Parliament Hill, where Hassan Yussuff, President of the Canadian Labour Congress addressed the crowd among other speakers from First Nations movements.

PSAC members from across Canada were able to participate in over 500 workshops at the Forum, including 4 workshops delivered by PSAC on Friday, August 22, 2014. PSAC held a breakfast caucus on the Friday to connect members from coast to coast and to speak on the importance of the Forum and creating links with community groups and progressive organizations. On the Saturday, PSAC members were invited to the movement assembly on protecting public services to help develop a declaration that was delivered at the end of the Forum on Sunday.

Daryl Bean Chair

On May 28, 2014 a special celebration of the new recipient of PSAC's Daryl Bean Chair Professorship in Law and Women's Studies was held at Western University in London, Ontario. The Chair was created in honour of past PSAC President, Daryl Bean, who pursued the pay equity complaint against the federal government, which led to a \$3.2 billion settlement.

Professor Gillian Demeyere was the successful recipient of the Daryl T. Bean Professor in Law and Women's Studies. The lunch celebration included: Dean Michael Milde, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Dean Iain Scott, Faculty of Law, and Jessica Schagerl, Alumni Relations and Development Officer, Faculty of Arts and Humanities. PSAC President Robyn Benson was the guest speaker at the event.

OFL Regional Meetings – Defending Workers' Rights

The Ontario Federation of Labour (OFL) scheduled regional meetings across Ontario that focused on the Progressive Conservative attack on union rights, based on Tim Hudak's white paper. These meetings trained members on the Right-to-Work threat that challenged the Rand formula, automatic dues check-off, a union's political rights, and the scope of bargaining. The campaign has been credited, with all of Labour's support, in defeating Hudak in the provincial election.

CLC Regional Meetings – Together Fairness Works campaign

The Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) Together Fairness Works campaign promotes the importance of unions and dispels the myths and negative propaganda that the mainstream media has perpetrated. The extensive ad campaign demonstrates how unions have benefited society as a whole and link union membership with social justice.

Equity and Human Rights

South Asian Heritage Month

The Ontario Federation of Labour held their annual South Asian Heritage Month event by co-hosting a labour celebration at Brampton's Sagan Banquet Hall on May 8, 2014. The event drew over 300 participants to celebrate South Asian cultures and honour labour and community activism. Among the event sponsors were the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC), the Brampton-Mississauga and District Labour Council (BMDLC), the Asian Canadian Labour Alliance (ACLA), the Latin American Trade Unionists Coalition (LATUC), the Coalition for Black Trade Unionists (CBTU)–Ontario Chapter, and a number of affiliates. Emceed by OFL Executive Vice-President Irwin Nanda, the event included cultural performances and dancing, along with speeches concerning the barriers faced by South Asian Canadians. Keynote speakers included CLC Executive Vice-President Marie Clarke Walker, NDP MPP Jagmeet Singh and OFL President Sid Ryan.

National Aboriginal Day

On National Aboriginal Day, June 21, 2014, members in Thunder Bay took part in festivities at Old Fort William in Thunder Bay. PSAC had a booth at the event handing out literature and PSAC Idle No More posters. Members, Linda Britt, Jon-Paul Blais, Kevin Lundstrom and Sara Moffett volunteered at the booth.

World Pride International Human Rights Conference

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. PSAC held a caucus meeting in the evening on June 25, 2014, where members were given the opportunity to network with each other, as well as receiving PSAC Pride t-shirts.

World Pride

PSAC members participated in the Trans March on June 27, the Dyke March on June 28, and the Pride Parade on June 29, 2014. The PSAC Toronto Pride Committee organized PSAC's float in the Pride Parade, which celebrated PSAC Pride with a peacock theme. Over 30 members joined on the float, with another 100 marchers, the maximum allowed by World Pride.

Grassy Narrows

PSAC Ontario supported the annual River Run on July 31, 2014 in Toronto. The River Run is in support of Grassy Narrows First Nation, whose territory is located in Northwestern Ontario. The community has been suffering with mercury poison for decades after the Ontario government had allowed logging on their territory without their consultation. The paper mill upstream ended up dumping 9,000 kg of mercury into Grassy Narrows' River four decades ago and the local environment and community are still suffering the effects.

Pride

Pride celebrations happen throughout Ontario, and members have taken part in Kingston, London, Windsor, Thunder Bay, North Bay, Hamilton and Sudbury. PSAC Ontario members

taking part in these celebrations reinforce our union's commitment to equality for LGBTQ communities.

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 May 16, 2014 to August 29, 2014

- May 20, 2014 - Treasury Board Meeting in Barrie
- May 21, 2014 - Treasury Board Meeting in Trenton
- May 22, 2014 - Treasury Board Meeting in Petawawa
- May 23, 2014 - Academic Sector Meeting in Kingston
- May 24, 2014 - Treasury Board Meeting in Kingston
- May 26, 2014 - Treasury Board Meeting in Mississauga
- May 26, 2014 - Ontario Provincial Election Telephone town-hall
- May 28, 2014 - Event celebration of PSAC Daryl Bean Chair at Western University in London
- May 28, 2014 - Union of Taxation Employees Local 13 AGM
- May 29, 2014 - Treasury Board Meeting in Toronto
- May 31, 2014 - Treasury Board Meeting in Hamilton
- May 31, 2014 - Ontario Federation of Labour South Asian Heritage Month celebration
- June 2, 2014 - Treasury Board Meeting in Scarborough
- June 3, 2014 - Convention Meeting
- June 5, 2014 - Ontario Regional Council meeting
- June 6-8, 2014 - PSAC Ontario 6th Triennial Convention
- June 10-12, 2014 – National Board of Directors meeting
- June 13, 2014 – Alliance Executive Committee meeting
- June 16, 2014 – Ontario Federation of Labour Executive Board meeting
- June 17-18, 2014 – PSAC Ontario Regional Staff Conference
- June 19, 2014 – Ontario Federation of Labour meeting
- June 25-27, 2014 – World Pride Human Rights Conference
- June 29, 2014 – World Pride Parade
- July 2, 2014 – Education Committee Meeting in Ottawa
- July 7-8, 2014 – Ontario Regional Council Training
- July 9, 2014 – Ontario Regional Council meeting
- July 10, 2014 – Strategic Planning Session
- July 16-19, 2014 – Union of Taxation Employees Convention in Windsor
- July 24, 2014 – PSAC Toronto Racially Visible Committee meeting
- Aug. 8-13, 2014 – Trustee Training in Calgary
- Aug. 15, 2014 – University of Ontario Institute of Technology meeting in Oshawa
- Aug. 19, 2014 – United Way of Toronto meeting
- Aug. 21-24, 2014 – Peoples’ Social Forum in Ottawa
- Aug. 22, 2014 – Education Committee meeting in Ottawa
- Aug. 28, 2014 – Labour Day BBQ in London