

Report Of The Regional Executive Vice-President, Ontario To The National Board of Directors

February 2-5, 2010

It is a privilege to submit my report to the National Board of Directors. The report contains my activities as well as the work of the PSAC in Ontario.

Our Voice in the Region

The PSAC Ontario Council met on October 16-18, 2009, in London. Some of the major issues that were discussed and reported on at the meeting include:

PSAC Ontario Convention 2011:

Date and location of the upcoming Ontario Regional Convention were discussed and it was agreed to hold the Convention in the GTA on May 13-15, 2011. Composition of Convention Committees will be discussed at the next Ontario Council meeting in February 2010 and the call-out letter will be ready for distribution in December 2010.

Federal Election Strategy:

Brother Hassan Husseini presented the draft Ontario Regional Federal Election Strategy. It was noted that our strategy is based on the priorities and political direction provided by the AEC and the NBoD and that the regionally based materials that we are proposing to produce, will complement those that are being prepared nationally.

It was stressed that the political goal of our engagement in the election campaign is to deny Harper a majority government and elect as many progressive, pro-labour candidates as possible. The strategy identifies eight (8) ridings across our region as potential targets to focus our work in during the campaign. The strategy envisions providing LWOP and training riding organizers, who will work in the targeted ridings to mobilize the members, pull the vote out and assist in building a membership activist base to work on future **Think Public** campaigns.

PSAC Women's Forum:

Ontario Council was informed that a special two day Women's Forum is being organized and will be held in Toronto on February 8-9, 2010. It was noted that we could not hold the forum this fall due to the overwhelming number of events and actions we are already planning for.

The Women's Forum will bring together PSAC women activists from regional women's committees and other PSAC activists to learn what the PSAC is doing to fightback against attacks on women's rights and to discuss and strategize on ways to mobilize the membership and move forward on these campaigns. The Forum will mainly focus on federal pay equity as well on childcare and young mothers.

First DCL Conference:

Ontario's First Directly Chartered Local (DCL) Conference was held in Toronto from October 22-25, 2009, with representation from 13 DCL's from across the Ontario Region. Throughout the four day Conference, delegates participated in a variety of panels and engaged in lively debates which focused on the important role of DCL's in our union and the need to build strong local collectives.

Delegates also partook in a number of workshops and forums that covered issues such as: collective bargaining, health & safety, problem solving in the workplace, union organizing and political campaigns. Conference delegates took this opportunity to network with other DCL's from across the region.

Staffing Update:

Ontario Region Staff Representatives, Brother Phil Trottier and Brother David Doyle have announced their retirement to take effect early this year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them both for their longstanding service and dedication to the PSAC and wish them all the best as they move into retirement.

Political & Social Action

The focus of our regional political activities during the period of this report was diverse. Staff and members were engaged on a number of fronts including: preparing for a potential **federal election** in the fall, where we will have a great opportunity to highlight our **Defend Quality Public Services (DQPS)** campaign. An Ontario regional electoral plan of action was finalized and forwarded to Ottawa for approval.

Regional Women's Committees across our region organized and participated in actions, forums and rallies commemorating December 6, and mobilizing against the continued attacks against women's rights in Canada.

Over 60 PSAC delegates from the Ontario Region as well as the NCR participated in the **OFL Convention** which was held in Toronto, from November 23-27, 2009. PSAC delegates at the convention participated in the general debate and highlighted the role and the services that our members provide in Ontario. We also participated in a noon hour demonstration in support of striking CEP workers at Cadillac Fairview in Toronto's financial district. More importantly, a new political leadership took over the OFL with the election of Brother Sid Ryan (CUPE Ontario) to the President position and Sister Marie

Kelly (USW) to the Secretary-Treasurer position. Sister Terry Downey (OPSEU) continues in her position as Executive Vice-President.

As you are aware, Sister Christine Collins has been my counterpart on the OFL Executive Board for the better part of the past decade. Sister Maria Fitzpatrick has now been assigned that role by the National President. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sister Collins for her unwavering commitment and dedication to representing the PSAC at the OFL. She not only has my respect but the respect of all the affiliates of the Ontario Federation of Labour. Thank you once again.

GTA members and staff participated in a number of **strike support** events in solidarity with striking members of the **Museum of Civilization and the War Museum in Ottawa**. These solidarity pickets were directed at Museum Board members who were meeting in Toronto. The actions / pickets were aimed at putting pressure on the Board to get back to the table and negotiate a fair collective agreement. Ontario Regional Council made a cash donation in support of our striking sisters and brothers at the two museums. We were happy to see a positive outcome for their long struggle.

Organizing

It is my pleasure and honour to welcome new members into the PSAC, the result of a couple of organizing victories in our region. The first is a victory in re-organizing **contract cleaners at CFB Petawawa** who were formerly represented by PSAC as employees of Koprash Investments Inc. The contract cleaners voted overwhelmingly to return to the **PSAC (UNDE)** fold and we welcome them back.

I would also like to welcome our newest members from an organizing victory at the **University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT)** in Oshawa, where we organized 250 graduate student employees.

We continue to work on a number of campaigns that include: the re-launch of **Queen's University** TAs and TFs organizing campaign in addition to our continuing campaign at the slots at **Woodbine Racetrack** in Toronto.

Education

The Ontario Council (October 17-18) discussed our 2010-2012 Ontario Education Plan in detail and agreed to the following education schedule for the current three-year cycle:

- 2010 – Fall School (4 Offerings)
- 2011 – Geo-Based Advanced Courses (4 Offerings)
- 2012 – Fall School (4 Offerings)

I am proud to report that in the previous cycle, we trained 1,486 members in our region. Last but not least, please note that we have just completed UDP Level I courses and are about to commence Level II.

National Portfolios

The following duties are my national portfolio assignments:

Collective Bargaining, Classification, Pay equity, Representation and Legislative Change; Health and Safety.

I am also the AEC officer responsible for the following bargaining units:

SV; NAV Canada; and CSIS.

I sit on the following NBOD Committees:

Roles, Responsibilities and Structure; Health and Safety; and Privatization, P3's and Contracting Out. I am also assigned to the Health and Safety National Conference.

The report on these national portfolios is covered in the Report of the National President to the NBOD as well as in the Committee reports to the NBOD.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerry Halabecki
Regional Executive Vice-President, Ontario

REVP Ontario Activities for September 13, 2009 – January 14, 2010

- September 13 - Travel to Ottawa
- September 14 - AEC
- Roles, Responsibilities and Structure Committee Meeting
- September 15 - Negotiator Refresher Training
- AEC
- DCL Conference Teleconference Call
- September 16 - Negotiator Refresher Training
- National Health & Safety Program Briefing
- Travel to Toronto
- September 17 - Meeting with Alternate, REVP
- Meeting with Regional Co-ordinator
- September 21 - Federal Election Preparedness Meeting
- September 22 - Meeting with Regional Education Officer
- September 23 - AEC Conference Call
- United Way Luncheon
- September 24 - Advanced Stewards Training – Hamilton
- September 25 - National Health & Safety Resolutions Committee Conference Call
- September 29 - Federal Election Plans Meeting
- DCL Conference Planning Meeting
- October 4 - Travel to Montebello, Quebec
- October 5-7 - NBoD Strategy Session
- October 7 - Travel to Ottawa
- October 8 - NBoD Meeting
- AEC Meeting
- October 9 - NBoD Meeting
- Travel to Toronto
- October 13 - Meeting with Regional Co-ordinator
- October 15 - Travel to London
- Ontario Council Committees
- October 16 - Ontario Council Committees
- Ontario Council Meeting
- October 17-18 - Ontario Council Meetings
- October 18 - Travel to Toronto
- October 20 - National H & S Resolutions Committee Conference Call
- October 22-25 - Ontario Directly Chartered Local Conference
- October 25 - Travel to Ottawa
- October 26-27 - AEC Meetings
- October 27 - Travel to Toronto
- November 2 - AEC Conference Call
- November 3 - UDP Participant Sort with Regional Co-ordinator

November 3	-	Meeting with OFL Vice-President
November 4	-	GTAC Open House
November 6	-	Advanced Steward's Training – London
November 10	-	Ships Crews Teleconference Call
November 12	-	National H & S Resolutions Committee Conference Call
November 13	-	Duty to Accommodate Training – Kingston
November 15	-	Travel to Ottawa
November 16	-	AEC Meeting
	-	PSMA Meeting
November 17	-	AEC Meeting
	-	Travel to Toronto
November 18	-	Travel to Montreal
November 19	-	National H & S Conference Preparations
November 20-21	-	National H & S Conference
November 21	-	Travel to Toronto
November 22	-	OFL Board Meeting & Constitution Committee Meeting
	-	PSAC Caucus
November 23-27	-	Ontario Federation of Labour Convention
November 30	-	Hamilton Committees Celebration Event
December 1	-	Chinese Trade Union Delegation Visit
	-	Travel to London
December 2	-	UDP Level I
	-	Travel to Toronto
December 3	-	PSMA Conference Call
December 8	-	Toronto RO Holiday Luncheon
	-	Niagara Area Council Meet and Greet
December 9	-	Aboriginal Committee Training
December 10	-	Ottawa Striking Museum Workers Demonstration, Toronto
December 13	-	Travel to Ottawa
December 14	-	AEC Meeting
	-	UWO Post Docs Strategy Committee Meeting
	-	PSAC Staff Conference
December 15	-	PSAC Staff Conference
	-	Travel to Toronto
December 17	-	Travel to Ottawa
	-	Canada Post Evaluation Meeting
	-	Travel to Toronto
January 9, 2010	-	Ontario Region Staff Conference Call
	-	United Way Luncheon
January 10	-	Travel to Ottawa
January 11-13	-	AEC Meetings
January 13	-	Collective Bargaining Meeting
	-	Travel to Toronto