

Report of the Regional Executive Vice-President, Ontario to the National Board of Directors January 24-27, 2006

It is a pleasure 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.

Ontario Regional Council

The PSAC Ontario Council met from November 4-6, 2005. Discussions included the PSAC Social Justice Fund Anti-Poverty projects that we hope to get approval on as well as a commitment from Council and various PSAC committees to get involved in those projects. We had an in-dept discussion on Service Canada including how it may affect Ontario members as well as ways in which we can fight the initiative. The upcoming federal election was another important issue addressed. We talked about the resources that will be available, some of the ridings which we are targeting as well as what types of activities we can do in the region to engage our membership.

Political & Social Action

A large contingent of PSAC members from Ontario and the NCR attended the OFL Convention in Toronto from November 21-25, 2005. Our members were not shy about the microphone and shared information with the Convention on Service Canada, CRA's client service counters, our pension grab, as well as privatization horror stories. Privatization, in particular, P3's, was a top topic at the 8th Biennial gathering. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our members who assisted the OFL as well as the PSAC throughout the week.

Due to overwhelming response, the PSAC Social Justice Fund has endorsed over 30 Anti-Poverty projects throughout the country. Ontario was approved for 7 of these and our members are very excited to get these projects under way in the new year. For further information please check the Ontario Website.

Education

The education schedules for 2006 are now posted on our website. Because of the upcoming UDP course in the fall and the work to plan for the 2007-2009 cycle, there will be no Fall School offered in 2006. We are instead offering three advanced courses at our Spring School which will run from May 31 – June 4, 2006 at Kempenfelt. The course programs are Local Officers Training, Duty to Accommodate and Health & Safety Activism. Registration kits are available through any of our Regional offices as well as on our website. Space is limited so get your application in early and avoid disappointment!

Regional Activities

As has been the custom, I had the privilege of speaking to our graduating class from our Fall School 2005. Many thanks to everyone involved for another highly successful school. Ontario employers beware... another 60 trained, skilled and eager activists have been set loose!

I was invited to attend a meeting with John MacLennan and Debra Nadeau for UNDE Local 00642, IMP Trenton. We met with the Director for IMP concerning the future of our members who work for the company in light of DND's removal of helicopters from the base. I believe the meeting went well and it was a great opportunity to meet one of Ontario's newest locals.

I was part of a PSAC team that delivered a presentation to McMaster University Staff Association (MUSA) in Hamilton along with several other unions. We were not the successful presenter, however it was not due to the excellent work our organizers did on the drive. I also attended a few meetings of the Greater Toronto Area Council and two meetings of UCTE Local 4 from Pearson International Airport.

As we head into the New Year, much of our resources will be geared toward the federal election and working to protect our members' interests from whatever type of government our country elects.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerry Halabecki
Regional Executive Vice-President, Ontario