

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

October 6-9, 2009

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 June 27-28, 2009, in Toronto. Some of the major issues that were discussed and reported on at the meeting include:

Representation Update:

Council welcomed Sister Jacque DeAguayo who reported that we continue to face a backlog of grievances. There are more than 3,000 cases (635 from the Ontario region) awaiting hearings and only 3 Grievance and Adjudication Officers to do the work. She also reported, however, that a number of measures and resources have been put in place in order to deal with the backlog as fast we can. However some of the delays are related to the over-legalized grievance procedure and dispute resolution.

Sister DeAguayo also reported that a Representation Symposium is being planned for either April or May 2010 which would include a training component. The Symposium is geared for staff and members alike. She also spoke about the importance of engaging in political action to make positive legislative change.

Ontario Regional Health and Safety Conference:

Under the theme of "Safe & Healthy Workplace Environment", over seventy members attended the conference which was held in Toronto on June 6-7, 2009. Components, DCL's and equity group members were all well represented at the conference.

The three conference workshops were: Heat and Cold Stress; Myth of the Careless Worker; and Violence in the Workplace. Participants who completed the workshops were given certificates from the Worker Health and Safety Center. Brother Chris Wilson, the Ontario Regional Coordinator spoke at the conference as did Sister Angela Fairweather, the Ontario Health and Safety Rep and Brother Jeff Bennie, the PSAC National Health and Safety officer.

Young Workers Conference:

The first Ontario Young Workers Conference was held from June 12-14, 2009, at Queen's University campus in Kingston. 17 young members attended the conference, and for many this was their first interaction with the union. Delegates heard from a number of speakers, including the REVP about the value of becoming active in the

union as well as how our union works. Other speakers included: president of the Graduate Society at Queen's University and the CLC's Youth Representative.

First DCL Conference:

Preparations are well under way for the Ontario region's first Directly Chartered Local (DCL) conference to be held in Toronto from October 22-25, 2009. A full report on the conference will be provided at the next NBoD meeting.

Staffing Update:

Finally, it is my pleasure to report that we have filled the position of Regional Political Communications Officer. Brother Hassan Hussein comes to us from the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) where he was a National Representative in the Political Action and Campaigns Department.

Political & Social Action

The focus of our regional political activities during the period of this report was the **Defend Quality Public Services** (DQPS) campaign. Members across the region continue to be engaged in promoting the **Think Public** campaign at events in their local areas. The campaign itself was the highlight of the 16 different Labour Day events that were organized by PSAC members across the region. The PSAC's message of promoting and defending quality public services was certainly seen, heard and read at these activities.

PSAC members participated in the June 13th CLC demonstration held in Toronto. Also in June, PSAC members joined other union members in the OFL Drive to Work Caravan which made campaign-like stops in dozens of communities across our region.

Members from the Ontario Region as well as the NCR are looking forward to playing an active role at the upcoming OFL Convention to be held in Toronto, from November 23-27, 2009. Politically speaking, this will be an especially important convention of the Federation as two of the top positions are up for election.

Organizing

We continue to be very busy in the region working on a variety of organizing campaigns that are at various stages of the process. As noted in the previous report we are renewing our efforts to organize Queen's University TAs and TFs.

Some of the other organizing campaigns that we are currently engaged in include:

- CFB Commissionaires in Kingston where we are close to filing application;
- University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT) in Oshawa, where we are in the process of intensive card signing which just commenced with the beginning of the new school year;

-Beginning to organize slots at Woodbine in Toronto, which is at the stage of meeting inside organizers and scheduling home visits;
-University of Western Ontario Graduate Student Employees, where hearings at the OLRB continue.

Finally, it is my pleasure to report that we have just filled the Ontario Regional Organizer position based in Toronto. Sister Michelle Sweeney is not new to the organizing program as she was a Regional Organizer for the Prairie Region and backfilled the position of Regional Organizer in the Ontario Region. Michelle was also active in her former local, the Graduate Teaching Assistants at University of Western Ontario.

Education

I am pleased to inform you that the Fall Ontario Region Education Program schedule has been released and sent to all our locals across the region. The schedule is also available on the ontario.psic.com site. Educational courses offered include: Advanced Stewards Training; Duty to Accommodate; Human Rights Activism; Anti-Harassment Training, as well as the Ontario wide Union Development Program (UDP). The registration deadline for the UDP course is October 2nd.

Members across the region have been encouraged to sign up for these educational opportunities and our staff are working hard to make these courses a success.

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 May 25 – September 9, 2009

- May 25 - Travel to Moosonee
- Moosonee Educational
- May 26 - Moosonee Educational
- Travel to Toronto
- May 27 - Greetings to CUPE Convention
- May 28 - Meeting Young Worker Conference
- May 29 - UWO Local 610 Training, London
- May 30 - National Component Ontario Regional Seminar
- May 31 - Travel to Ottawa
- June 1 - AEC Meeting
- June 2-5 - NBoD Meetings
- June 5 - PSAC Social Justice Fund Annual Meeting
- Travel to Toronto
- June 5-7 - Ontario Region Health & Safety Conference, Toronto
- June 10 - Political/Communication Officer Interviews
- June 11 - Meeting with Regional Co-ordinator
- June 12 - Ontario Young Workers Conference, Kingston
- June 13 - CLC Rally, Toronto
- June 16 - Meeting with Regional Co-ordinator
- Toronto RWC AGM
- June 18 - Travel to Ottawa
- June 19 - AEC and Management Team Strategy Session
- June 20 - AEC and Regional Co-ordinator Strategy Session
- June 20-22 - AEC Retreat, Merrickville
- June 23 - Political/Communication Officer Interview
- Travel to Toronto
- June 24 - Meeting with Regional Co-ordinator
- June 25 - Drive 2 Work Caravan at Queen's Park
- June 26 - Ontario Council Committee Meetings
- June 27-28 - Ontario Council Meetings
- July 2 - Political Action Committee Review of Labour Day
Proposals
- July 3 - Think Public Events Conference Call
- July 4 - Travel to Ottawa
- July 5 - TC Bargaining Team Caucus Meeting
- July 6-8 - TC Bargaining Arbitration Board Hearings
- July 8 - Travel to Toronto
- August 4 - AEC Conference Call
- Meeting with Regional Co-ordinator
- August 10 - Travel to Ottawa
- August 11 - AEC Meeting
- Travel to Toronto
- August 25 - Meeting with Regional Co-ordinator

- August 31 - Political Communications Officer Orientation
- September 1, 2009 - Meeting with Regional Co-ordinator
- September 3 - London Labour Day BBQ
- September 7 - Toronto Labour Day Parade
- September 8 - Travel to Ottawa
- September 9 - Bargaining Meeting
- Canada Post Negotiations Review Meeting
- Travel to Toronto