

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

October 7-10, 2008

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 for training and meetings from June 20-24, 2008. The training was meant to not only reinforce the knowledge base but to bring the group together in an in-residence atmosphere, help build the team and get them familiar with one another. By all accounts, the training met these goals.

During the meetings, Council members were given their committee assignments. They were also briefed on the financial guidelines both for their portfolio budgets and for their committees.

Collective Bargaining was one of the agenda items covered. As our meetings were happening a few days after our June 19 Day of Protest, Council members shared their participation in events that day. We also provided a detailed report on the numerous activities that occurred in our Region. Several Council members sit on their respective negotiating teams and they had an opportunity to share that information with Council.

Council was briefed on a few of the PSAC Campaigns that we are currently involved in and were encouraged to take part in those as well as our Think Public Campaign events slated for the summer months. Finally, Council discussed Labour Day and the many events planned around that day in the Region.

I was able to participate in a number of events that occurred in our Region during the reporting period. My thanks to Sister Val Fargey for her invitation to attend and speak to the participants at the CEIU Ontario Bargaining Conference in Niagara Falls. Thanks also to Sister Rucchi Bhalla for her invitation to speak to the delegates at the Canadian Coalition of Graduate Employee Unions Conference in London. The event was sponsored by our own University of Western Ontario Graduate Teaching Assistants Local 610. My thanks to Sister Debra Nadeau for arranging a very interesting tour of 8 Wing Trenton. Participants included Brothers John MacLennan, John Gordon, Wayne Samuelson and Barry Turner, Local President, along with myself and Sister Nadeau.

I was invited to run the elections for two Component Conventions held in our Region, UNDE and National. My thanks to both re-elected Brothers, John MacLennan, and Daniel Kinsella for the invitations. Finally, Ontario had a very strong delegation at our first ever Aboriginal Peoples' Conference held in Winnipeg. Ontario delegates elected Sister Barbara Goodfellow (Wardlaw) and Brother James Marchand to represent them on the PSAC NAIM Circle.

Collective Bargaining & Mobilization

We held an Ontario Parks Mobilization session in Toronto in June. We are seeing the benefits of it already as our Parks and Canal workers have been busy with various mobilization events. I was able to participate in some events on the Trent Severn Canal as well as the World Canal Conference held in the Rideau Canal and Kingston area. We are proceeding with mediation for our Parks members in late September.

All of our Treasury Board units and CFIA will be meeting with the employer between the end of September through October 10. The TC unit will also be in mediation at this time. As we are in the middle of a Federal Election, some wonder what type of mandate the employer will have for these meetings.

As the AEC Officer responsible for our UPCE members at Canada Post, I have been fully engaged with all of the planning and strategy meetings to date. Although our team has met at the bargaining table a number of times, this employer seems unwilling to negotiate a fair collective agreement for our members. As such, we will be conducting strike votes across the country in October for Canada Post.

Finally, we were able to avoid a strike of our UCTE members at Thunder Bay International Airport. Last ditch efforts with the assistance of a conciliation officer produced an enhanced offer which was ultimately accepted by our members.

Political & Social Action

Once again, PSAC Ontario members were highly visible at numerous Labour Day events in the Region. Through our Political Action budget, we were able to assist our members' participation in a record number of activities in 16 different communities. Think Public was our overall theme for Labour Day 2008. My thanks to the hundreds of PSAC Ontario members who participated in events in their communities. Members have expressed their appreciation of John Gordon's and Patty Ducharme's participation in events in London and Toronto respectively.

We are working on 9 targeted ridings in the Region in the lead up to the Federal Election. With membership involvement, we are confident that candidates that support our issues will be elected.

Organizing

Our organizing drive at Queen's University for 1500 Graduate Teaching Assistants has been progressing steadily, with the assistance of several events over the summer months. We are also involved in a drive at the University Of Ontario Institute Of Technology in Oshawa for 120 Graduate Teaching Assistants.

Education

The first of four regionally delivered advanced courses was held in Sudbury in late September. Twenty Northern members were given Local Officers Advanced Training (LOAT). The training was well received and we are looking forward to the delivery of two more LOAT sessions in Kingston and London as well as a Duty to Accommodate (DTA) course slated for Toronto.

National Portfolios

The following duties are my national portfolio assignments:
Collective Bargaining; Federal Sector Reorganization and Modernization; Classification Reform and Pay Equity; and Local Development.

I am also the AEC officer responsible for the following bargaining units:
Technical Services (TC); NAV Canada; and Canada Post.

I sit on the following NBOD Committees:
Roles, Responsibilities and Structure; Collective Bargaining (co-chair); and Local Development (co-chair).

I am also assigned to the Racially Visible 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 27 – September 21, 2008

May 27	-	OFL Board Meeting
May 31	-	Workers Health & Safety Centre Training
June 2	-	Ontario Parks Canada Mobilization Session
	-	Travel to Ottawa
June 3 – 5	-	NBoD Meetings, Ottawa
June 5	-	Travel to Toronto
June 9	-	Travel to Niagara Falls
June 9 – 10	-	CEIU Ontario Bargaining Conference
June 10	-	Travel to Toronto
June 11	-	Council Training Prep Meeting
	-	GTAC Meeting
June 13	-	Conference Call – Directly Chartered Locals
June 16	-	Travel to Ottawa
June 17-18	-	AEC Meeting
June 18	-	Travel to Toronto
June 19	-	Day of Protest Events
June 20 – 22	-	Ontario Council Training
June 23-24	-	Ontario Council Meetings
June 25	-	UPCE NSCC Teleconference
June 25	-	Toronto MDAC Meeting
July 3	-	Travel to Wakefield, Quebec
July 3 – 4	-	AEC Retreat
July 4	-	Travel to Toronto
July 29	-	AEC Conference Call
August 5	-	Parks Mobilization, Trent Severn Canal
August 6	-	Pay Equity Teleconference
	-	Travel to London
August 7	-	Canadian Coalition of Graduate Employee Unions (CCGEU) Conference, University of Western Ontario, London
August 7	-	Travel to Toronto
August 12	-	Travel to Quebec City
August 13 – 15	-	Agriculture Union Convention
August 15	-	Travel to Toronto
August 17	-	Travel to Niagara Falls
August 18 - 20	-	UNDE Convention
August 20 – 21	-	National Component Convention, Toronto
August 22	-	UNDE Convention
August 23	-	Travel to Toronto
August 26	-	UPCE NSCC Conference Call
August 27	-	JLP Field Co-ordinators Teleconference
August 28	-	Political/Communications Officer Interviews
September 1	-	Toronto Labour Day Parade
September 2	-	Travel to Ottawa

- FUJE Meeting
- Travel to Trenton
- September 3 - Union Leaders Tour 8 Wing Trenton
- September 3 - Travel to Toronto
- September 4 - AEC Conference Call
- September 8 - Travel to Ottawa
- Collective Bargaining Meeting
- Joint NSCC Meeting
- September 9 – 10 - AEC Meeting
- September 10 - Travel to Toronto
- September 12 - Pay Equity Teleconference
- September 15 - Travel to Kingston
- Kingston RO Open House
- Kingston Area Council Meeting
- Travel to Toronto
- September 16 - Travel to Kingston
- PSAC Wine & Cheese for World Canal Conference Delegates
- Travel to Toronto
- September 18 - Travel to Winnipeg
- September 19-21 - PSAC Aboriginal Peoples' Conference
- September 21 - Travel to Toronto