



**Public Service Alliance of Canada
Regional Executive Vice-President, Ontario
Report
October 2011 – January 8, 2012**

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.

The REVP's office has expanded as of October 31, 2011 with the hiring of our new Executive Assistant. The successful candidate, Cleo Reid, is a welcome addition to the PSAC Ontario Region.

Collective Bargaining

Currently PSAC Ontario Region has many bargaining units who are in various stages of the bargaining process.

Highlights of Ongoing Negotiations

- On Dec. 6, 2011 there was an information meeting for TC members working in the Hamilton Niagara and Greater Toronto Area in Toronto. The meeting began the process of identifying and setting up the Area Co-coordinators Structure.
- Bargaining team members for the FB group have been traveling throughout the Region to mobilize support and provide information on the FB contract negotiations. During these meetings the team has been collecting signatures for the FB petition.
- DCL 901 Post-Doctoral Fellows (PDF) bargaining team met with the Regional Negotiator to prepare for the negotiation of the local's first collective agreement. The PDF bargaining team began developing bargaining proposals, informed by a survey of current PDFs.
- The employers for the First Nations Police Civilians and Officers employed at Anishinabek Police Service (APS) and Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service (NAPS) are challenging the jurisdiction of the Public Service Alliance of Canada union certifications under the Canada Labour Code. The Canada Industrial Relations Board has considered their jurisdictional objection and PSAC is now in the submissions process.

New Agreements (Ratified)

First Collective Agreements

- DCL 818 Commissionaires at CFB Kingston ratified their agreement on Oct. 4, 2011

- DCL 611 Postdoctoral Associates at the University of Western Ontario ratified their agreement on Oct. 12, 2011
- DCL 555 Sessional Lecturers at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology ratified their agreement on Nov. 15, 2011

Renewal Agreements

- UNE 394 members who work for Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety ratified their renewal agreement on Oct. 4, 2011
- DCL 501 Blue Water Bridge members ratified their renewal agreement on Oct. 13, 2011
- UNDE 636 Sunlite Cleaners who work for Koprash Inc. in Borden ratified their renewal agreement on Sept. 26, 2011
- UNDE 650 Sunlite Cleaners who work for Koprash Inc. in Trenton ratified their renewal agreement on Nov. 16, 2011

Provincial Election – Oct. 6

Harper's Conservatives and Mayor Rob Ford had predicted a "hat-trick" with the election of a Hudak Conservative government as inevitable. PSAC Ontario strategically identified seven primary and secondary ridings to mobilize the membership in support of candidates who were supportive of public services. The election results within these ridings were clear: NDP gained 3 seats; LIB lost 3 seats; and 1 seat remains held by the PC Party. As a result the NDP now holds the balance of power in a Liberal Minority Government.

This electoral result was achieved in part through the work of PSAC members who volunteered their time to engage our members and the public during this election. By targeting key ridings and ensuring voters were well informed on party platforms in regards to; worker rights, health care, childcare and affordable post-secondary education, PSAC members helped to turn the tide.

In addition, the PSAC Ontario website was used to present a Provincial Election Members' Toolkit, which was developed to get members directly involved by providing the tools necessary to effectively lobby their MPPs. Also, a "Protect Public Services" YouTube video was created to highlight how our members have been rallying against cuts across the region.

As part of PSAC's Fightback plan we will continue to pressure Members of Provincial Parliament over the next 4 years on maintaining and enhancing public services by getting the membership politically engaged.

Mobilization

The Occupy Movement has been part of our effort to get the membership engaged in a movement that represents the struggles of poor and working class people. PSAC Ontario

members have participated in various Occupy rallies throughout the Region since the movement expanded from its American roots internationally on Saturday Oct. 15. When Occupy Toronto was evicted on Nov. 23, 2011, PSAC members were the last to leave St. James Park. Members' responded to appeals by Occupy Toronto to remain throughout their eviction to ensure their safety from an overwhelming police presence.

The PSAC Ontario Region is now on Twitter (@PSACOntario) in an effort to further mobilize and inform the membership and engage with young members. The Region has also begun a Flickr account (PSACOntario) to store and highlight our event photos for members to easily access.

On 19 October 2011 members of PSAC's Ontario Council and Greater Toronto Area Council supported the MUNACA campaign by getting the message out about the unfair treatment of non-academic staff. Members handed out flyers to potential students and their parents at recruitment sessions at Lawrence Park Collegiate Institute and Northern Secondary School in Toronto to support MUNACA workers.

On Dec. 3-4, 2011 PSAC Ontario held its first ever DCL First Nations Police Services Conference. This conference brought together the First Nations Police Civilians and Officer Locals employed at Anishinabek Police Service (APS) and Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service (NAPS) and Treaty Three Police Service Officers to begin to work and strategize together. Through the conference the locals decided to form a Council to strengthen their collective voices with their employers.

Fightback Campaign

We have finalized dates and locations for the Stewards Assemblies as part of our fightback initiative. The Stewards Assemblies have been designed to engage members to become politically active with sections on lobbying and PSAC's campaigns, including; Mental Health, CFIB and Third Choice campaigns. Members from Components will be educated on their rights under the WFAA in an effort to prevent further job cuts to the public sector.

PSAC Ontario has continued to collect signatures for the Tony Clement petition at all events including education courses, rallies and meetings. At the Ontario Federation of Labour's Convention (Nov. 21-25, 2011) PSAC issued a challenge to all participants in attendance to complete one full petition sheet in 24 hours. We received a great deal of petitions in response to this challenge and CUPE Ontario, CUPW and USW agreed to take the petition back to their membership.

To place the pressure directly on Treasury Board President, Tony Clement we held a rally outside the Sheraton Centre Hotel in Toronto where the Minister was delivering a speech to the Canadian Club of Toronto (Oct. 31). We received press from City TV and the Minister began to follow PSAC Ontario on Twitter due to our online social media coverage of the event.

CEIU Ontario activists have engaged an ongoing battle with their department to stop the job cuts and office closures. Rallies have been conducted across the region and include rallies on Oct. 18 in Hamilton, Oct. 20 in Oshawa, Oct. 29 in Niagara Falls and Dec. 16 in Sturgeon Falls. We have received favourable press for these rallies and the public and our labour allies have been very supportive.

For the CFIB campaign, a member was brought in for 3 weeks to coordinate the distribution of materials to the regions, publicize the campaign and to begin to engage with local businesses. To continue to mobilize our membership around this campaign we are including this initiative within our Stewards Assemblies.

PSAC Ontario has been active in promoting the Third Choice campaign through distribution of the campaign business cards, endorsements by Ontario Council representatives and through our social media (Facebook and Twitter). Also, the campaign has a direct link on the PSAC Ontario website featured prominently on the main page.

Education

An Advanced Stewards Course was held in London from Oct. 27-30, 2011 and in Kingston from Nov. 3-6, 2011. During the Kingston Advanced Stewards Course on Nov. 5, 2011 participants held a rally outside Veterans Affairs to protest the recently announced cuts.

A Local Officers Advanced Training was held in Barrie from Oct. 27-30, 2011.

A Workers Health and Safety Centre Level 1 advanced education course was held in Sudbury on Nov. 17-20, 2011.

Labour Movement/ Solidarity

In an effort to strengthen our relationships with our allies we have attended several events including:

Toronto Rally to Defend City Services and Jobs - On September 26, 2011 PSAC members joined thousands of community members and workers speaking out for city services in a mass rally at Toronto City Hall.

PSAC was in attendance to support the Ontario Network of Injured Workers' Groups and Toronto Injured Workers' Advocacy Group during their rally for Injured Workers. This was the 20th Annual Christmas Demonstration at the Ministry of Labour in Toronto, which took place on December 9th, 2011.

The Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU) Ontario Chapter held its 15th annual awards dinner, dance and fundraiser, where Sharon DeSousa (REVP-Ontario) and Larry Rousseau (REVP-NCR) were keynote speakers. The function was a huge success with representatives from every major union in attendance including the CLC, OFL and community groups such as the Asian Canadian Labour Alliance, Latin American Trade Union Coalition and Justice for Migrant Workers. NDP Member of Parliament, Olivia Chow accepted on behalf of her late husband Jack Layton the CBTU Annual Leadership Humanitarian Award.

The Ontario Federation of Labour held its 11th biennial Convention on November 21-25, 2011 at the Sheraton Centre Hotel in Toronto. There was strong participation from PSAC members who voiced their views on the policy papers and resolutions presented, which will shape the OFL's mandates for the next 2 years.

The British Columbia Federation of Labour invited Sharon DeSousa to speak on a three person panel at their Union Renewal Conference on Nov. 29, 2011. The Conference was a means to discuss the challenges facing the labour movement, including how to engage racialized and aboriginal workers. Sharon spoke on the highlights of PSAC's commitment to equity and human rights, including PSAC's recent victory of the Canada Post pay equity case.

Equity and Human Rights

The four PSAC Human Rights committees (RWC, RVAC, MDAC, Aboriginal Circle) held a jointly sponsored event on International Human Rights Day (Dec. 10). This event was cosponsored to increase solidarity between the various equity group members through a human rights framework of commonality. This initiative will continue next year, as members recognized the importance of continuing to work together.

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 June 3 to October 7, 2011

Oct. 12, 2011 – PSAC Toronto Staff Meeting
Oct. 12, 2011 – PSAC Toronto Racially Visible Members Committee meeting
Oct. 18, 2011 – Service Canada Rally in Hamilton
Oct. 20, 2011 – Service Canada Rally in Oshawa
Oct. 20, 2011 – “Harper on Trial” Community Event in Toronto
Oct. 24, 2011 – DCL Region-wide Conference Call
Oct. 25, 2011 – GSU Convention Opening Speaker
Oct. 26-28, 2011 – PSAC Organizing Program Conference
Oct. 31 to Nov. 1, 2011 – Alliance Executive Committee Meeting
Nov. 2, 2011 - Alliance Executive Committee Staff Meeting and Negotiations
Nov. 3, 2011 – PSAC Ontario Council Committees Meeting
Nov. 4-6, 2011 – PSAC Ontario Council Meeting
Nov. 5, 2011 – CBTU Awards Dinner and Dance Fundraiser
Nov. 15, 2011 – WOCAMI PSAC Staff Conference
Nov. 16, 2011 – Alliance Executive Committee Meeting
Nov. 18, 2011 – Occupy Toronto Rally at the C.D. Howe Institute
Nov. 19, 2011 – Occupy Toronto Rally
Nov. 20, 2011 – OFL Executive Board Meeting
Nov. 21-25, 2011 – OFL 11th Biennial Convention
Nov. 21, 2011 – Occupy Toronto Rally
Nov. 23, 2011 – Occupy Toronto Rally
Nov. 29, 2011 – B.C. Federation of Labour Union Renewal Conference
Dec. 1, 2011 – National Board of Directors Meetings
Dec. 3-4, 2011 – PSAC DCL First Nations Police Sector Conference
Dec. 5, 2011 – PSAC Hamilton MDAC, AC and RWC joint meeting
Dec. 9, 2011 – Injured Workers Rally in Toronto
Dec. 10, 2011 – PSAC Toronto Equity Committees’ Human Rights Forum
Dec. 12-13, 2011 – Alliance Executive Committee Meeting