



**Public Service Alliance of Canada
Regional Executive Vice-President, Ontario
Report
January 9, 2012 – May 10, 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.

Collective Bargaining

As of May 4th, 2012 Jawara Gairey became the new Regional Negotiator for the Ontario region. Currently PSAC Ontario Region has many bargaining units who are in various stages of the bargaining process.

Highlights of Ongoing Negotiations

- On February 15-16, 2012 the PSAC bargaining teams for both the Field Interviewer (FI) and Regional Office (RO) bargaining units met with representatives for Stats Can in Ottawa to exchange proposals and commence negotiations for a new collective agreement.
- On March 13, 2012 talks between TC members and Treasury Board broke off. PSAC will be referring the outstanding issues to a conciliator. Regional representatives have been working on mapping TC workplaces for purposes of supporting ongoing mobilization activities.
- March 14, 2012, OMNI Facility Services Canada Ltd. (previously known as Koprash – Renfrew County – CFB Petawawa bargaining unit will begin negotiations for its renewal agreement.
- On March 28, 2012, bargaining team members for the FB group reached an impasse and have applied to the Labour Board for conciliation.
- April 10, 2012, a notice to bargain was issued for the YQG Windsor International Airport. The bargaining committee and negotiating team had several meetings prior to this date and all bargaining proposals have been reviewed and submitted. Bargaining dates have been put forward to the Employer.
- PSAC tabled a comprehensive package of proposals on April 19, 2012 to begin bargaining a first collective agreement for DCL 901 Post-Doctoral Fellows at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario.

- The PSAC bargaining team met with Parks Canada during the week of April 23-27, 2012. Given the impact of workforce adjustment on the department, both parties agreed to reschedule negotiations for September.
- On April 24, 2012 PSAC filed for conciliation for DCL 802 – Commissionaires at Lester B. Pearson airport. Strike votes were conducted on May 8th and 10th, 2012, with the membership overwhelmingly supporting strike action should the need arise.
- May 1-3, 2012 extensive negotiations took place for Candu Energy and PSAC/UNE 000358. Negotiations are proceeding with dates scheduled for May 14-15, 2012.
- In May, PSAC decided to refer bargaining to conciliation for CFIA members, asking the Public Service Labour Relations Board for the appointment of a Public Interest Commission.
- During the last week of June there will be a certification vote conducted by the Ontario Labour Relations Board among the Graduate Research Assistants (GRA) and Graduate Student Assistants (GSA) at the University of Western Ontario. Registered full-time graduate students, who by the date of the vote, have been given an RA or GSA appointment, will be eligible to vote to join PSAC.
- 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.

Renewal Agreements

- DCL 501 members who work at Blue Water Bridge in Sarnia ratified their renewal agreement on April 16, 2012.
- DCL 00002, Wequedong Lodge in Thunder Bay members have reached a tentative agreement on May 10, 2012.

Provincial Budget – March 27

The Ontario Provincial budget was released on March 27, 2012. The REVP's office attended the budget lockup to analyze the budget before it was released to the public. With over 300 pages of nuanced cuts to public services such as health care and education, this budget was particularly devastating for the most vulnerable in our society. Furthermore, the chilling and recurring statements of interfering in free collective bargaining with teachers and doctors, displayed the same disrespect for the bargaining process that we've seen from the Harper Government.

Within this budget, post-secondary education funding will be cut by \$160 million. With over 4,000 PSAC Ontario members in the education sector, this budget has a particularly devastating impact for our academic DCL members. Despite having been elected on the

promise to reduce college and undergraduate tuition fees by 30 per cent, McGuinty's 2012 budget cancels nine scholarship programs and increases post-secondary tuition fees by five percent, on average.

Mobilization

The Ontario region has delivered WFA training through the Local Presidents and Stewards Assemblies, both before and after the federal budget was delivered. In total, there were 14 Assemblies scheduled, with only one remaining to be completed later next week. These Assemblies were designed to inform members of PSAC's fightback campaigns and engage with members to become politically active, while informing members of their rights under WFA. In addition, further WFA training has been delivered to locals through lunch and learns at worksites and through the regional offices. Considering the extensive impacts of cuts to northern Ontario locals, five WFA sessions have been scheduled across the region throughout the month of May. To date there have been 37 WFA sessions delivered in Ontario.

Fightback Campaign

The Local Presidents and Stewards Assemblies, as part of our fightback initiative, provided members with the tools to become politically active with sections on lobbying and information and materials on PSAC's campaigns, including; Mental Health, CFIB and Third Choice. The Assemblies also provided tools on how to mobilize members to engage in political action.

PSAC Ontario in partnership with the Union of Veterans Affairs Component held a press conference on the potential cuts to services for veterans in the upcoming federal budget on February 23, 2012. The press conference was held in Mississauga near three UVAE locals, with members from each in attendance. Speakers included; Yvan Thauvette, Union of Veterans' Affairs Employees National President, Jayne Quinn, UVAE National Vice-President, Ontario Region, Michael Blais, Founder/President, Canadian Veterans Advocacy, Wayne Marston, NDP Member of Parliament for Hamilton East, Critic for Seniors, Pensions and Human Rights, and James Forrest, RCMP Veteran's Association, President of Toronto Division.

PSAC's March 1st, National Day of Action was a huge success. We received favourable media from news outlets across the province. Members were excited and glad to see their union take direct action in this national show of solidarity.

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.

PSAC members took part in an NDP town hall in Hamilton over the possible change in age eligibility for Old Age Security after Harper's comments in Davos, Switzerland on Mar. 9, 2012. Community members were outraged at this attack on seniors and were voicing their concerns.

On March 28, 2012, just before the Federal budget was released, Wayne Marston (NDP MP for Hamilton East—Stoney Creek, Ontario) and Critic for Seniors, Pensions and Human Rights, presented PSAC Ontario's over 4,000 signatures for our Tony Clement petition in the

House of Commons right after Question Period. Wayne rose in the House to present our petitions and demonstrate that communities across Ontario valued public services and were against the proposed cuts by the Conservative government.

March 29, 2012, PSAC Ontario held federal budget watch events, within each of our regional office areas. Working in partnership with the district labour councils, the budget watches were open to all members and the public. The budget watches received a large amount of media coverage across the region. As part of our efforts to build solidarity with other labour unions and community groups, the Toronto regional office budget watch event invited the following guest speakers: Marie Clarke Walker, CLC Executive Vice-President, Sid Ryan, President of the OFL, Garry Neil, Council of Canadians Regional Executive Director, Edward Lantz, Toronto ACORN Canada Board of Directors and Bruce Cox, Executive Director, Greenpeace Canada.

Education

A Health and Safety Conference was held on April 14-15, 2012, which focused on stress and mental health. With 45 delegates and 15 observers, the Conference offered members tools, materials and resources in addressing mental health in the workplace. Alliance Facilitator training was held the three days prior (April 11-13) where 6 Alliance Facilitators were trained on workshop delivery. All the Conference information and resources were posted onto an online site for members to access:

<https://sites.google.com/site/psaontariohandsconference2012/>.

Labour Movement/ Solidarity

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

Toronto - Rally Against Rob Ford - On January 17, 2012 PSAC members joined thousands of community members and workers speaking out for city services in a mass rally at Toronto City Hall to prevent massive cuts in the city's budget. The rally was a tremendous success and many of the services that were slated to be cut were not.

London – Caterpillar Solidarity Rally – On January 21, 2012 PSAC members from across Ontario came to support the locked out Caterpillar workers in London, Ontario. PSAC's Katy Fulfer, Local President for DCL 610 (Teaching Assistants and Postdoctoral Associates at Western University) spoke at the rally. In attendance there were over 10,000 people, including various labour unions and community groups.

The Canadian Federation of Students held a national day of protest on February 1, 2012. PSAC activists around Ontario were urged to take part in their communities to support affordable, quality public education. A large rally was held at Queen's Park in Toronto where several thousand students, labour union activists and community members took part.

PSAC members took part in the Global Afrikan Congress' forum on racial discrimination in the justice system on February 21, 2012 in Toronto. Part of that panel discussion was on the Conservatives omnibus crime bill and the danger it poses to equity and civil liberties.

Participants engaged in a discussion of the negative implications of the passage of this bill for social justice advocates.

In Toronto on March 6, 2012 the First Nations community of Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug (KI) held a demonstration downtown, just across from a major mining conference taking place in the Convention Centre. The KI had been struggling with the provincial government to remove the Toronto-based God's Lake Resources mining corporation from mining on their ancestral land without their consultation. PSAC members stood in solidarity with the KI cause and a few weeks later the KI Nation won their fight against the mining company through the province's intervention.

On April 14, 2012 PSAC stood in solidarity with CUPE at a rally at the Toronto Reference Library, as negotiations for librarians in Toronto had taken a turn for the worst under Mayor Rob Ford. Members wanted to show their support for this vital public service, whose members help to educate and better our society.

Toronto – PSAC activists joined a demonstration on April 17, 2012 in front of the Coroner's office for the Justice for Migrant Workers rally. The rally was held due to the deaths of two migrant farm workers in southern Ontario to highlight the plight of migrant workers in Canada and the unsafe conditions of their work.

On April 21, 2012 the Ontario Federation of Labour (OFL) organized a mass demonstration against the proposed cuts in the provincial budget. PSAC activists convened in the Toronto regional office for a 1 hour teach-in on the potential impacts of this budget before heading to the rally. The rally had over 10,000 people take part, with Sharon DeSousa speaking at the rally on behalf of PSAC members in the province.

On April 23-24, 2012, the NDP held their National Leadership Convention in Toronto to elect the next leader of the official opposition. PSAC had a strong presence at the Convention and we look forward with working with our NDP allies in stopping the Harper Government.

On April 25, 2012 PSAC Ontario participated in a Global Teach-In. The Global Teach-In had speakers from 7 countries, with more than 15 cities on 4 continents. The Teach-In used videoconferencing technology and was hosted in the PSAC Toronto regional office. The event discussed the challenges facing humanity, as well as alternative policies needed globally, with PSAC's contribution on how the federal budget of austerity will harm the economy and local communities.

Equity and Human Rights

The PSAC Toronto Racially Visible Committee sponsored a Black History Month dinner on February 29, 2012. The event was held in a banquet hall in Scarborough and was a huge success with many PSAC and community members in attendance.

On March 8, 2012 PSAC's Greater Toronto Area Council, Toronto Regional Women's Committee and the Toronto Racially Visible Committee co-sponsored an International Women's Day Event with ACORN Canada in Toronto. Colleen Wice, Ontario Council Regional Women's Committees Representative spoke on PSAC's behalf about how Harper's cuts hurt women. PSAC also had a booth at the event with our fightback and human rights materials.

The first PSAC Pride committee in Ontario was established in Toronto, with the open house taking place on April 16, 2012 in the Regional Office. This is the first PSAC Pride committee in Ontario and activists are excited at the opportunity to create a safe space to discuss LGBT issues and activism.

On May 5, 2012 PSAC Ontario co-sponsored a May Day and South Asian Heritage Month celebration in Mississauga. The event was a huge success with over 200 people in attendance.

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

Jan. 19, 2012 – United Way Gala
Jan. 21, 2012 – Stewards Assembly in Moose Factory
Jan. 23, 2012 – Stewards Assembly in Timmins
Jan. 24, 2012 – Stewards Assembly in Sault Ste. Marie
Jan. 25, 2012 – Stewards Assembly in Sudbury
Jan. 26, 2012 – Stewards Assembly in North Bay
Jan. 28, 2012 – Stewards Assembly in Thunder Bay
Jan. 30, 2012 – OFL Executive Board meeting
Feb. 1, 2012 – Canadian Federation of Students Protest at Queen's Park
Feb. 4, 2012 – Stewards Assembly in Kingston
Feb. 6, 2012 – AEC meeting
Feb. 7 – 9, 2012 – NBOD meeting
Feb. 11, 2012 – Stewards Assembly in Pembroke
Feb. 13 – 17, 2012 – PSAC National Convention Constitution Committee
Feb. 21, 2012 – Toronto Pride Committee meeting
Feb. 23, 2012 – UVAE press conference in Mississauga
Feb. 23, 2012 – AGM CEIU 648
Feb. 25, 2012 – Stewards Assembly in London
Feb. 27, 2012 – Toronto Racially Visible Committee meeting
Feb. 28, 2012 – Workers Health and Safety Centre meeting
Mar. 1, 2012 – PSAC Ontario Council committees meetings
Mar. 2 – 3, 2012 – PSAC Ontario Council meeting
Mar. 5 – 6, 2012 – AEC meeting
Mar. 7 – 9, 2012 – NHU Local 00021 - DCL 00603 vote
Mar. 14, 2012 – CUPE rally at Toronto Reference Library
Mar. 23 – 24, 2012 – NDP Leadership Convention
Mar. 26, 2012 – Stewards Assembly in Hamilton
Mar. 27, 2012 – Ontario Provincial Budget Lockup
Mar. 28, 2012 – Stewards Assembly in Barrie
Mar. 29, 2012 – Federal Budget Watch in Toronto
Mar. 31, 2012 – Stewards Assembly in Toronto
Apr. 2, 2012 – OFL Executive Board meeting
Apr. 14 – 15, 2012 – Ontario Health and Safety Conference
Apr. 16 – 17, 2012 – AEC meeting
Apr. 21, 2012 – Teach-In and Rally at Queen's park over Provincial budget
Apr. 25, 2012 – Global Teach-In
Apr. 27, 2012 – WFA Regional Meeting
Apr. 28, 2012 – NBOD meeting
Apr. 29 – May 4, 2012 - PSAC National Triennial Convention
May 8, 2012 – South Asian Month Celebration in Toronto
May 9, 2012 – Stewards Assembly in Oshawa