



**Public Service Alliance of Canada  
Regional Executive Vice-President, Ontario  
Report  
June 3 – October 2, 2011**

**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 September 19, 2011 with the hiring of our new Political Communications Officer. The successful candidate, Lino Vieira, is a welcome addition to the PSAC Ontario Region. The process for hiring a new Executive Assistant is on-going and will be filled before the next National Board of Directors meeting.

**Collective Bargaining**

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

*Highlights of Ongoing Negotiations*

- UNE Local 358 is in bargaining with Atomic Energy Canada Limited.
- The Postdoctoral Associates are in negotiations with the University of Western Ontario for their first collective agreement. This employer has been reluctant to resolve issues at the table. PSAC has launched an on-line petition on our national website to encourage members to support their bargaining team by sending a message to the employer demanding a fair contract.
- The James Bay Hospital and Weeneebayko hospital were amalgamated. The new hospital is called WAHA (Weeneebayko Area Health Authority) and PSAC is in the process of negotiating a first collective agreement.
- DCL 501 at Blue Water Bridge has begun negotiations. Members used a recent MP visit to lobby for better working conditions.
- UNDE Local 650 in Trenton is in negotiations with Sunlite Cleaners.

*Tentative Agreements (ratification dates to be scheduled)*

- UNE Local 394 has reached a tentative agreement with the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety.
- UNDE Local 000636 has reached a tentative renewal collective agreement for contract cleaners working at CFB Borden.

- DCL 818 Commissionaires at CFB Kingston have reached a tentative agreement for a first collective agreement.

## **New Agreements (Ratified)**

### *First Collective Agreements*

- DCL 901 Teaching Assistants and Teaching Fellows at Queens University ratified their agreement on June 26, 2011.
- DCL 426 Anishinabek Police Service officers ratified their agreement on July 22, 2011.
- DCL Sudbury Commissionaires ratified their agreement on July 24, 2011.

### *Renewal Agreements*

- UCTE members employed at Canada Ports Corp., Prescott ratified their renewal agreement on September 7, 2011.

## **Provincial Election**

The Provincial Election is being held on October 6, 2011. All PSAC Ontario Area Councils, Committees and members have been busy engaging their communities and promoting our "Protecting Public Services" message. The PSAC Ontario Regional website has a 2011 Provincial Election link. This link contains an election toolkit developed for our members to ensure they are educated on the relevant issues and on their political rights. PSAC Ontario has also started a Twitter page, whose focus has been on getting the membership out to vote for Public Services. Communications materials (fightback flyer, Think Public Fans with an election message, letter from the REVP and a candidate questionnaire) have also been developed. These materials have been distributed through all Labour Day activities in the region as well as a mailout to all Committees, Local Presidents, Area Councils, etc.

In consultation with the Ontario Federation of Labour, PSAC Ontario has targetted the following Primary Ridings: Timiskaming—Cochrane, Thunder Bay—Atikokan, Bramalea—Gore—Malton, Scarborough—Rouge River. The Secondary Targeted Ridings are: Windsor West, Hamilton Mountain and Oshawa. Membership lists have already been sorted by targeted ridings to facilitate an outreach strategy. Recent polls indicate that this election is wide open - this is our chance to make a difference and stop a Hudak-Harper Alliance.

PSAC Ontario has made engaging the youth one of our priorities in this Provincial Election. Nicole Beaulieu is a student who was brought into the Sudbury Regional Office through the Youth Placement program that PSAC Ontario has been involved in for several years. Nicole was reported in 2 local newspapers; the "Sudbury Northern Life" and "Sudbury Star", as a PSAC youth organizer who successfully lead a group of fifty activists on a march to help end the erosion of public services and to raise community awareness on this issue. Chants of "protect human rights" and "make your voice count" echoed through the streets of downtown

Sudbury. High tuition fees, the cuts to public services and childcare are key issues for young people in this election.

## **Mobilization**

We are mobilizing our PSAC Ontario membership around the potential cuts to public services and layoffs of our members. To accomplish this task we have been promoting our “Think Public” and “Fightback” campaigns at all PSAC events, education courses, community and Labour Day activities throughout the region. Currently mobilizing activities are occurring throughout the region in support of Parks, CFIA, FB, TC and SSO negotiations. For example, on August 3<sup>rd</sup> until August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011 FB Mobilization conference was held to support contract negotiations.

## **Fightback Campaign**

Between the Kingston Blues Festival, Kingston Labour Day parade, Toronto Labour Day Parade, Toronto Stop the Cuts Mass Meeting, Windsor Fair and Youth march in Sudbury, PSAC (Ontario) has collected in excess of 1,500 signatures on the Tony Clement petitions with more petitions being signed at each Union event. This is a good start; however, our Region intends to continue to obtain signatures to support the goal of over 150,000 signatures nationally by the end of October.

PSAC is fighting back against cuts to public services and our Region recently won an important victory for members working at Atomic Energy Canada Ltd. (AECL). Local President Kirk Cooper in a joint statement with the employer confirmed that there will be no layoffs of PSAC bargaining unit members employed at AECL. PSAC represents 75 design technologists/specialists at AECL, more than 50% of whom were at risk of losing their jobs following the Harper Government's decision to sell AECL to the Montreal-based engineering giant, SNC-Lavalin.

CEIU Ontario activists have engaged an ongoing battle with their department to stop the job cuts to term positions. Rally's have been conducted across the region. For example, PSAC members rallied on September 12 outside their federal government worksite in Richmond Hill. Led by Cathy Malone and the members of Local 569, the lunchtime rally was designed to raise awareness of the Harper government's cuts to public services. PSAC Ontario will continue to support all members engaged in this fight.

## **Education**

The first ever DCL Stewards School was held on July 19 – 22, 2011. The purpose of the school was to increase the capacity for Directly Chartered Locals to service and represent their members effectively. This initiative also coincides with PSAC's “Year of the Steward” campaign to build the capacity of our Union's base. Each participant of the school received a DCL Stewards Toolkit to assist them in representation upon arrival at their worksites.

On July 25 and 26, 2011, PSAC Ontario Regional Council came together for intense regional training on their roles and responsibilities as leaders within the region.

## **Labour Movement/ Solidarity**

PSAC members supported the Canadian Union of Postal Workers strike by joining picket lines across the Region. I spoke at a solidarity rally in Toronto hosted by the Toronto and York Region District Labour Council and participated on picket lines in Ottawa, Hamilton and Toronto.

OPSEU Rally – The rally was held on Sept. 13, 2011 for striking OPSEU college support workers from Georgian, St. Clair, Durham, St. Lawrence, Mohawk, Niagara, Centennial, George Brown, Humber, and Seneca Colleges. The REVP for Ontario was one of the speakers at the rally with several PSAC members participating. On Sept. 18, 2011 a tentative agreement was reached by OPSEU for more than 8,000 community college support staff in Ontario, ending an 18 day strike.

## **Equity and Human Rights**

PSAC participated in Pride events throughout the Ontario region. Pride events are a great way for our members to show solidarity with the LGBT community. In less than a month we were able to participate in the Toronto Parade (the largest in North America) with Sister Karen Church, Brother Patrick Tanedo and PSAC Toronto Regional Staff attending this event. We placed Radio Ads and a YouTube video (prepared by Brother Patrick Tanedo) to ensure PSAC's visibility in support of the LGBT community. PSAC (Ontario) also participated in the Pride parades in: Thunder Bay, Sudbury, Windsor, Kingston and London Pride.

## **Portfolios Assigned to the REVP**

- Education
- Student Employment and Young Workers
- Organizing
- Local Development
- Assigned to the Education and Library Science (EB) Bargaining Unit

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**

June 3, 2011~ PSAC National Capital Region Triennial Convention  
June 4, 2011~ Toronto/York District Labour Council~ Strike/ Lockout Training  
June 5, 2011~ Hamilton Canadian Union of Postal Workers Strike  
June 6-10, 2011~ PSAC Ontario Staff Conference  
June 7-8, 2011~ Ontario Federation of Labour Board Meeting  
June 22, 2011~ Toronto Canadian Union of Postal Workers Rally  
June 24, 2011~ PSAC Ontario Council Fight Back Plan Conference Call  
June 27-28, 2011~ Alliance Executive Committee Meeting  
July 3, 2011~ Toronto Pride Parade  
July 4, 2011~ Meeting with Ontario Federation of Labour, President Sid Ryan  
July 6-8, 2011~ Alliance Executive Committee Retreat  
July 12, 2011~ Hamilton, Area Council and joint Committees meeting  
July 19-22, 2011~ PSAC Ontario Directly Chartered Locals Stewards School  
July 24-27, 2011~ PSAC Ontario Council Training and Meeting  
August 4, 2011~ National Board of Directors Meetings  
August 11, 2011~ PSAC Toronto Renovations and Staff Meeting  
August 22-September 2, 2011~ Vacation  
September 5, 2011~ Hamilton Labour Day Parade and BBQ  
September 6, 2011~ PSAC National Education Conference Call  
September 7, 2011~ Unionware Training  
September 10, 2011~ South Western Ontario Area Council Summit  
September 12, 2011~ Ontario Federation of Labour Executive Board Meeting  
September 12, 2011~ CEIU Local 569 "Don't Cut Me" Rally  
September 13, 2011~ OPSEU Rally  
September 14, 2011~ Greater Toronto Area, Area Council AGM  
September 16-18, 2011~ CEIU National Triennial Convention  
September 19-20, 2011~ Alliance Executive Committee Meeting  
September 22, 2011~ GWCC United Way Labour Luncheon  
September 22, 2011~ Organizing Conference Call  
September 26, 2011~ Toronto/ York District Labour Council Rally  
September 30- October 2, 2011~ PSAC Aboriginal Peoples Conference  
October 3, 2011~ Alliance Executive Committee Meeting  
October 4-7, 2011~ National Board of Director's Meeting