

ONTARIO COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



VOLUME 1 ISSUE 2

NOVEMBER 2012

PSAC ONTARIO



STANDING TOGETHER for our public services

The Harper Government has enacted far-reaching cuts across the entire federal public service, sacrificing members' jobs to pay for excessive tax cuts to big businesses. Things are certainly grim in many offices, with stress, rumours, and fear causing a decrease in workplace morale.

PSAC Ontario Council representatives have been present at worksites around the province to provide support to our members during this difficult time and assist in navigating members throughout the WFA process. Whether you are the recipient of an affected letter, a local leader looking to support your members, or an individual struggling with the realities of this horrible situation, we are all affected.



It is crucial that you understand your rights as a union member under WFA, including how it works, and what options you have. For information on the process please visit:

<http://www.psc.com/what/wfa/index-e.shtml>

Finally, it must be said that while preparing members for workforce adjustment and a degradation of workplace morale is important, we must also be prepared to fight back against these cuts and how their effects go beyond our members' jobs. These cuts impact families, neighbourhoods, communities, local businesses, and indeed, our entire society. At no time has the saying "We Are All Affected" been more true.



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DCL Conference



The 2nd Ontario Region DCL Conference was held at the Marriott Hotel in Toronto (Thursday, September 27th - Sunday, September 30th). There were 30 participants representing sixteen of the eighteen DCLs across the Region.

The Conference focussed on the theme of "Diverse Connected Leaders" and integrated strategies/tools for Local development within each workshop. On Saturday, participants attended a student rally against Bill 115 which was reported in the Toronto Star.



Young Workers Summit



July 27-29, 2012 PSAC Ontario held a Young Workers Summit in the Toronto Regional Office. Young PSAC activists were selected from around the province to engage with each other on issues facing young workers and how to better engage with their union. The Summit also provided the building blocks to begin outreaching to young workers within our region, with the goal of creating Young Workers Committees.

Supporting our Members in Bargaining

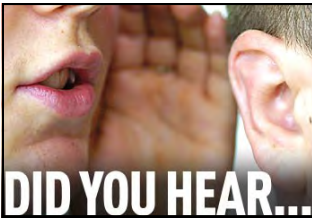
To support ongoing Frontier Border bargaining, CIU held a picket at the head office at Pearson Airport on June 22, 2012 at noon. Members from the Branch,



Component and PSAC's Ontario Regional Council stood together to demand a fair contract.



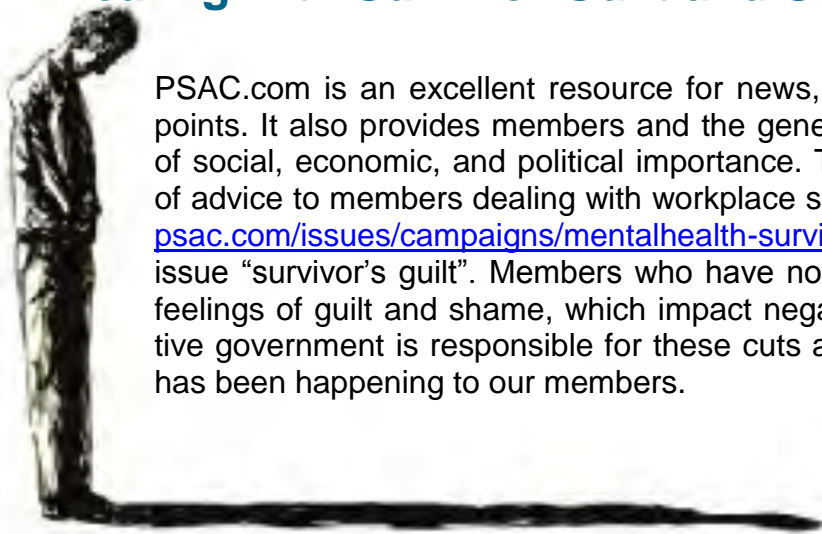
Rumours



Along with the general stress and discomfort that accompany such senseless and unnecessary job cuts; rumours are now swirling throughout workplaces like never before. Rumours are tricky things to deal with; they take on a life of their own and can misinform members and create further workplace stress.

Rumours are usually false, however, when you do hear a rumour it is important to share with your union leadership at the Local/Branch, Component, and Regional level know so that they can address it quickly. Only by having the correct information can rumours be effectively dealt with.

Dealing with Survivor Guilt and Stress Amidst the Cuts



PSAC.com is an excellent resource for news, literature, data, education, and contact points. It also provides members and the general public with analysis on major issues of social, economic, and political importance. The website is also an important source of advice to members dealing with workplace stress. A recent piece posted here: <http://psac.com/issues/campaigns/mentalhealth-survivor-syndrome-e.shtml>, deals with the issue “survivor’s guilt”. Members who have not been given a notice are often left with feelings of guilt and shame, which impact negatively on mental health. The Conservative government is responsible for these cuts and they are the ones to blame for what has been happening to our members.

We Want to Hear from YOU!

If you would like to contribute to the Ontario Council newsletter, provide feedback or ask a question, please contact: PSACONTARIOCOUNCIL@gmail.com



*Labour Day
Parade,
Hamilton*

My Community ~ My Future ~ My Public Services Video Competition Winners



We are pleased to announce the 2 winning teams for the My Community ~ My Future ~ My Public Services PSAC Ontario Video Competition are:

- Team 1 - Derrick Glende (CEIU Local 620)
- Team 2 - Ronda Evans, Tim Eddis and Rita Lemick (NHU Local 00009)

These PSAC members are helping to raise awareness of the negative impacts cuts to public services have on their communities. Let's all give them a big hand for their work and contributions! You can watch both videos on:

PSAC Ontario webpage: <http://ontario.psic.com/content-type/video>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/PSACOntario/videos>

Youtube: www.youtube.com/user/OntarioPSAC/



Share if you agree!

When federal public services are slashed, public service workers aren't the only ones who are affected. We all are.

Cuts hurt us all.

For more information and to tell your story, visit www.weareallaffected.ca.

