

Standing Together

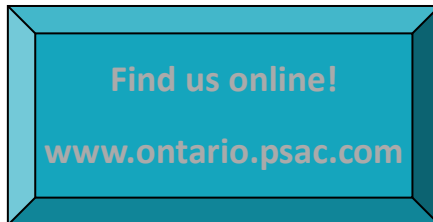
When the Ontario government passed Bill 28 (Keeping Students in Class Act) - a pre-emptive back-to-work legislation that included the notwithstanding clause – the labour movement came together to fight this abuse of power.

A press conference was held on November 7, 2022, where provincial and national union leaders came together and vowed to stand united to protect our democratic rights. That day, Premier Ford surrendered and agreed to withdraw the Bill, only 3 days after passing it, in a historic win for workers.

This win has shown the power of collective action. Even with a majority Conservative government, unions can make progressive change by working together.

PSAC Ontario will continue to stand with all education workers and any union looking to advance and protect their membership. Ford has made his greatest mistake yet, his government has galvanized the labour movement and energized the people of Ontario to demand better.

Craig Reynolds, PSAC Ontario Regional Executive Vice-President



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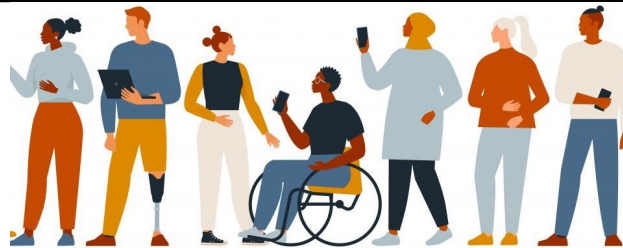
Antonietta/Netta Coccaro lives on the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee, and the Wendat peoples (Tkaronto/ Toronto).

Netta is continually working towards elevating silenced voices in order to support social justice for all people. They are currently enrolled in an American Sign Language (ASL102) course and continues to pursue learning ASL. They are an avid reader, with multiple books in progress at all times. They are currently reading “The Body is Not an Apology”, and “This Is My Real Name”. They are also desperately waiting for the third novel of “The Kingkiller Chronicle” to be released (the second novel was released eleven years ago). When they are not reading, they are likely to be found baking.

Netta began their career with the federal public service in 2017, as a Taxpayer Services Agent for the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). Currently, they work as a Team Leader at the CRA's Business Enquiries Contact Centre. Netta is also an Ontario Representative for CRA's LGBTQ2+ Network. Their union activism started in April 2019. They have been a Local Steward, the Local Vice President for the Contact Centre, and the Local Executive Secretary.

Since March 2022, they have been the LGBTQ2+ Representative on the Ontario Council. Netta believes that our union can and should do better when it comes to our 2SLGBTQIA+ communities because we deserve better. They are eager to continue amplifying our voices.

Antonietta/Netta Coccaro, 2SLGBTQIA+ Representative



My name is Thu Trinh, and I am excited to be your Region 4 (Southwestern) representative on Ontario Regional Council. I started working for the Government of Canada in 2010 and since then have been passionate about union priorities. In recent years, I have become more involved with my component (CEIU) and with PSAC. I am confident to say I have the necessary tools to advocate for our members and be a strong voice at every table.

I am bringing to Council my experience in several executive positions and am currently the President of my Local. My other roles include: Representative on the CEIU Ontario Racialized Action Committee and Chair of PSAC London's Regional Women's Committee.

I have and will continue to actively stand up for diversity, inclusion and belonging at all the spaces I occupy.

Thu Trinh, Region 4 (Southwestern) Representative



PSAC DCL 555 Bargaining Mobilization

The 3 bargaining units at the Ontario Tech University (TA/RA, Invigilators/Sessional Instructors and Post Doctoral Fellows) are all at the bargaining table this fall. PSAC DCL 555 held two mobilization meetings in the summer to support bargaining, which took place on July 20th and August 10, 2022, to encourage our membership to get involved in bargaining.

We spent the afternoon talking about different strategies going forward and our top priorities, which include: The right to disconnect, childcare and excessive workloads.

Marie Polgar-Matthews, Region 5 (GTA) Representative



Thunder Bay Labour Day



Michelle Woods and Tony Crupi, Executive Members of the Thunder Bay and Northwestern Area Council attended our community's Labour Day picnic, hosted by the Thunder Bay and District Labour Council on September 6, 2022.

Many people came out to attend the event and stopped by the PSAC tent to receive some tasty ice cream and PSAC t-shirts and fris-bees. It was great to see everyone in person once again and we are looking forward to next year.



Michelle Woods,
Indigenous Members Representative





Members with Disabilities Access Committees



What is accessibility? It simply means giving people of all abilities the opportunity to participate fully in everyday life. A disability can happen to anyone at any time. There are various types of disabilities: visual, hearing, physical, mental, and many others that may be visible or invisible, such as diabetes or heart disease.

Members with Disabilities Access Committees (MDAC) are constitutionally recognized committees of PSAC, advocating for the rights of people living with disabilities.



These spaces allow us to discuss issues important to our members and to identify barriers to participation that we can work on solutions for.

Souad Soubra Boone (Sue),
Members with Disabilities Representative

Rally to Support Fair Bargaining

On October 21, 2022, I joined PSAC's rally to support fair bargaining in London. I was proud to be united with members in front of the Dominion Building, joined with participants from the PSAC Young Workers Conference taking place at the same time.

Members have been working tirelessly throughout the pandemic and working without a contract since June 2021. We want the employer to recognize and appreciate the work we do for Canadians. We need the employer to give us what we deserve and if that doesn't happen, we will continue to fight for an agreement that includes fair wages, better work-life balance, job security and inclusive workplaces.

Thu Trinh,
Region 4 (Southwestern) Representative





Since March 2022, I have been the 2SLGBTQIA+ Representative on Ontario Council. My primary job is to keep the equity group informed of things that are happening within PSAC Ontario; plan and work with any Pride Committees on any events and initiatives; and to start new Pride Committees across Ontario.

I am trying to start PSAC Pride Committees, as the GTA Pride Committee is the only one in all of Ontario! Having more Pride Committees in Ontario means:

- More 2SLGBTQIA+ resolutions can be submitted to conventions;
- The Committees may be able to send delegates to conventions to defend and vote on resolutions;
- More inclusive events; and
- Greater representation in our Union!

If you are interested in being a part of a PSAC Pride Committee, please reach out to me: lgbtq2plus.rep.ontariocouncil@gmail.com

Antonietta/ Netta Cocco (they/them),
2SLGBTQIA+ Representative



PSAC · Ontario
Public Service Alliance of Canada

Let's help start a new PSAC Durham Regional Area Council



Do you live in Oshawa, Whitby, Ajax, or Pickering? Are you interested in knowing more about your Union? Do you want to participate in union events and activities and address issues around employment, community, and social justice?

If you are interested, please contact your PSAC Region 5 Ontario Council Representative member Marie Polgar-Matthews (Marie_L_Polgar@hotmail.com) to get involved.

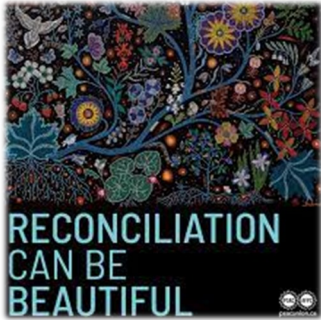
Marie Polgar-Matthews,
Region 5 (GTA) Representative



Council Member Bio

Niidisnikaaz Niizh waabishkizi ma'iingan-ag (my name is Two White Wolves), also known as Michelle Woods. My First Nation Community is Couchiching First Nation, which is part of Treaty #3 territory. I am from the Bear Clan and I am a Jingle Dress Dancer in the pow wow circle.

It is my honour to be the Indigenous Members Representative for the PSAC Ontario Regional Council. Together, we can work towards strengthening and protecting the rights of Indigenous members and work towards reconciliation.



The objectives of my role are:

- To continuously learn
- Continue to build dialogue with the PSAC Regional Offices
- Outreach and support for our Indigenous members
- Promoting Union Education and Training
- Keeping members informed on what the PSAC Ontario Council is doing
- Bringing Indigenous issues to Council

I want to see our Indigenous members engaged in our union and build a dialogue to share our voices at the highest political level in the Ontario Region.

Miigwech. With thanks.

Michelle Woods, Indigenous Members Representative

Childcare on Campus

On May 2nd, University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT)/Durham College announced that they would close their Campus Childcare Center in September 2022. Workers were devastated by the news, which negatively impacted their lives and the entire community.

Workers need access to quality, affordable childcare, to be able to do their work. If workers are able to come to work knowing their children are close and safe, they will be able to focus more on their jobs, which benefits UOIT. UOIT needs to realize that this short-term cost-saving measure, is not profitable, it is a mistake.

“Tech with a Conscious” is the UOIT slogan. But removing accessible childcare goes against this very slogan and is being done without consideration of how it will impact our community.

PSAC DCL 555 commits to doing everything we can to save access to childcare on campus. We are going to work with cross-campus Locals, the community, and with our members to mobilize against this short-sighted and mean-spirited decision.



Marie Polgar-Matthews, Region 5 (GTA) Representative



Fighting for our Rights



At what point do you say, “I’ve had enough!” At what point do you push back? For me it was the day I became indeterminate. The employer made it sound like it was a great achievement, but they simply reminded me of the horror of being placed on short-term contracts for over 5 years. It put my family and co-workers through hell, and I would never wish this experience on any worker. This is what started my union activism.

I hold an Honours Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in Labour Studies from McMaster University. For over 5 years, I have been the Chief Steward for CEIU Local 00576 and for the past 4 years, Chair of the Windsor & District Area Council. In 2021, the members elected me to PSAC Ontario Regional Council - Region 4 (Southwestern). I also sit on the PSAC Ontario Health & Safety Committee and the CEIU Ontario Collective Bargaining Standing Committee. In addition, I am an active member of the LUMCC, Collaborating Committees, and Windsor District Labour Council.

I have been passionately promoting the interests of Women, Racialized workers, Young Workers, 2SLGBTQIA+, Retirees, Veterans, Indigenous Peoples, and Persons with Disabilities. Some of my most memorable moments with our union came from working to build solidarity with workers, politicians, businesses, labour councils, and community groups in Windsor and surrounding areas.

Let’s not forget, me bugging everyone to embrace new technology and social media. Maybe you have seen one of my many posts or memes. “The Treasury Board is not your friend!” is my favourite meme I created.

I hope to bring my dedication, leadership, experience, and knowledge to help our membership and union with the challenges ahead. It has been an amazing journey and I am proud to bring the members’ interests to many different tables and let our employer know – every chance I get - that our members have had enough!

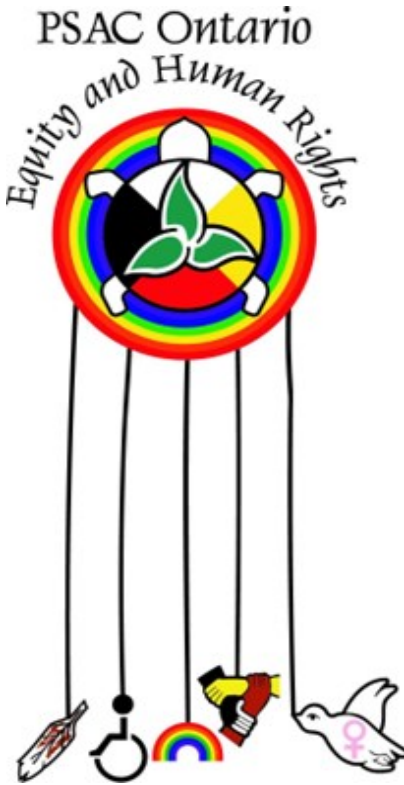
Barry Lamont,

Region 4 (Southwestern) Representative





PSAC Ontario Equity and Human Rights Committee



PSAC Ontario is committed to equity, justice and human rights for all Canadians. Within the region, committees have been established to further this cause:

- Regional Women’s Committees (RWC)
- Racially Visible Access Committees (RVAC)
- Members with Disability Access Committees (MDAC)
- Indigenous Circles
- Pride Committees

At each PSAC Ontario Regional Convention, elections are held for representatives on Ontario Regional Council for each of the equity seeking groups to bring diversity, representation and an equity analysis to all of our union work.

I am Missy Taylor, and I am your Regional Women’s Committees Representative on Ontario Regional Council.

“ I raise up my voice – not so I can shout, but so that those without a voice can be heard... we cannot succeed when half of us are held back.” - Malala Yousafzai

Women are strong. We are resilient. We have the right to be treated equitably and afforded the respect all human beings deserve. Women unfortunately need to continually fight to have these rights upheld. The PSAC Regional Women’s Committees are a safe space for us to join together and work on progressing key issues affecting our members and building our activism to claim our space in every realm. I encourage all who self-identify as a woman, to join your local Regional Women’s Committee.

Resist. Persist. Claim your space and use your voice for those who cannot!

Missy Taylor,

Regional Women’s Committees Representative

