



Privatization Costs More

Case studies around the world show that when you privatize public services it costs the taxpayer more for a lower quality service. This should not be surprising, given that a private company is mandated to constantly increase profits to appease shareholders. They are not designed to ensure the public good or prioritize community benefits.

In Canada, we are fortunate to have strong public services such as universal health care. But this wasn't because of luck, this was due to decades of struggles by activists, unions, progressive politicians and community groups to force these changes. Often, against very powerful and rich corporations, lobby groups and banks.

But the fight is not over. In Ontario, the Ford Conservative government is pushing a privatization agenda in our health care system. A system that has benefited us all and ensures that access to care is not limited by finances.

Hospitals are spending four times more on private nursing agencies to cover staffing shortages than they were at the start of the pandemic. According to data obtained by the Globe and Mail, there are 78 hospitals using the controversial agencies, up from 31 in 2020-21. They spent \$168.3 million in public funds on the companies in the first three quarters of last year, up from \$38.1 million in 2020-21. The average hourly rate paid is \$140.47 — quadruple what a first-year hospital nurse earns.

This waste of taxpayer dollars could have been spent training and hiring more full-time nurses. Instead, these public funds have enriched private nursing agencies, depleting much needed resources for our public system. This is at the same time the Ford government legislated 1% pay raises for the sector, leading to further staffing shortages.

We need to stop this government in its blatant attempt to dismantle our public system and lead us to for-profit health care like our neighbours to the south. The U.S. has in fact the worst health care outcomes of any high-income country, with more Americans likely to die younger and from avoidable causes.

Let us stand together and take on the critical fight to keep our health care system and our public services – public, universal and strong!



Craig Reynolds,
PSAC Ontario
Regional Executive Vice-President

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We welcome newsletter articles from current or retired members. Articles should be no longer than 250 words and be accompanied by pictures, if possible. Please email your submission to Lino Vieira at vieiral@psac-afpc.com.



PSAC members were there: March for the Land



Protect our Public Health Care



As the representative for Members with Disabilities I advocate for those who may not be able to advocate for themselves. Recently I had the opportunity to do just that.

The Ontario Health Coalition held a mass protest at Queen's Park to send a message to the Ford government that we do not want private health care and a two-tier system.

With 5,000 amazing activists we descended on Queen's Park. We sang, we chanted, we listened to speeches. And we sent a message to the Ford government that we do not want private health care.

As a proud mother and mother-in-law of two men who are in the health care system, I see the toll it takes on them. I have been on the receiving end of phone calls in which my son asks for someone to just listen to what he has to deal with every day at the hospital he works at.

I see the strain in the face of my son in law, who is an amazing paramedic when he feels that he has let down a patient when he doesn't have the support or the equipment to help them.

I also have parents who will need long term care as they age. I get angry when I read that they will receive only 2 hours of care in a 24-hour day of personal attention. So, I continue to get angry and channel that anger by protesting and will continue to do so, until change is made for the better.

Terri McGillivray, Members with Disabilities Council Representative

PSAC ONTARIO EDUCATION

The PSAC Ontario Region Fall Education Schedule is posted online at:
<https://ontario.psac.com/education/>

Upcoming courses include:

- Local Officers Training in Toronto – November 17-18, 2023
- Grievance Handling in London – November 17-18, 2023
- Grievance Handling in Sudbury – November 18-19, 2023
- Duty to Accommodate in Sudbury – December 2, 2023
- Duty to Accommodate in Thunder Bay – December 2, 2023
- Grievance Handling in Kingston – December 9-10, 2023

Please keep an eye out for our Winter Education Schedule, which will be released in early January 2024!



Chatham-Kent Pride Fest 2023

On August 12th, 2023, I attended the Chatham-Kent Pride Fest. My daughter and I had the privilege of celebrating diversity with the 2SLGBTQIA+ community at this fun and meaningful event supporting inclusion.

I was ecstatic by the turn out and community support! I had a great time meeting other activists and like-minded friends in the area and found out that the support had grown more than double since the last Pride in 2022. I believe that Pride creates opportunities to celebrate, advocate and educate the public.



Pride month is in June, as it marks the 1969 Stonewall Riot in NYC. But when my daughter asked me why this Pride Parade was taking place in August, I had to do some research. I learned that the first Canadian gay rights protest was on August 28th, 1971 on Parliament Hill. Thus, Pride celebrations vary across the country and Chatham-Kent chose theirs in August following this Canadian tradition.

It is important to be an ally and show your support for equality. Here are a few ways you can demonstrate your allyship:

- Learn about 2SLGBTQIA+ history
- Take part in a Pride event
- Donate or support 2SLGBTQIA+ organizations/businesses

Thu Trinh, Region 4 (Southwestern Ontario) Council Representative

Fighting for a Fair Contract



On September 21st, members of the Customs and Immigration Union were in Ottawa for the 2023 National Triennial Convention and also held a rally to demand that the employer return to the bargaining table to reach a fair agreement.

The main issues in this round of bargaining are: Following up on a previously negotiated demand of 25-and-out, telework conditions, and bringing our Officers pay up to the standard of other law enforcement officers across Canada.

We reminded the Employer what happened on August 6th, 2021, when we shut down the borders to demand a fair contract. All the activists present were confident and vocal that we are not afraid to do it again. We keep Canada's borders safe and we deserve respect!

Leslie Searl, Region 5 (GTA) Council Representative





Council Bios



My union passion was ignited with the Union of Taxation Employees (UTE) while working at a CRA call centre. Our workplace was fraught with many issues and a management team that was running rampant in their arbitrary decisions. I started as the only rep and automatic VP of the call centre and in time, through hard work, dedication, and communication, I was able to build a team of colleagues that could hold management accountable.

I continued my union journey, learning and engagement by joining PSAC's Greater Toronto Area Council. I quickly realized that my interests aligned with the Council and was lucky enough to be elected President. As President, I engaged our members through several events such as a BBQ for the National Indigenous People Day, a bowling event to prepare for an upcoming strike, as well as a holiday event celebrating Human Rights Day.

As your GTA Region 5 rep, I want to connect with the members within the region. I want to plan activities that members would both enjoy and participate in. I want to inform our members of the Greater Labour movement within our Region and entice our members to join the several committees and Area Council that represent them. No excuses. Politics affect us all whether we choose to participate or not and I want you to join me in creating change for a better GTA.

Doron Jacob, Region 5 (GTA) Council Representative

My name is Ted Cabanes, and I am the newly elected 2SLGBTQIA+ representative on PSAC Ontario Council. Pride isn't confined to a single month; it's a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion every day. I ran for this council position to bring an intersectional lens to our union activism, fostering understanding, respect, and acceptance within all our equity communities.



My vision is simple; a year-round celebration of Pride ensures continuous progress in the fight for equity and rights. Together, we'll challenge stereotypes, break down barriers, and create safe spaces where everyone can be their authentic selves.

In my role, I've worked closely with the geographic Ontario Council representatives, focusing on promoting intersectionality within equity groups. My mission is to empower and amplify the voices of the underrepresented 2SLGBTQIA+ community in Ontario, encouraging them to actively participate in shaping our union's future.

Remember, Pride isn't limited to a season, it's a commitment that lasts 365 days a year. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any concerns or ideas to share. I eagerly anticipate collaborating with each of you throughout my term to create a more inclusive and equitable union for all.

Ted Cabanes, 2SLGBTQIA+ Council Representative

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Council Bios



My name is Thu Trinh and I am your Region 4 (Southwestern Ontario) Rep and 2nd Alternate Regional Executive Vice President for PSAC Ontario.

I am a proud Vietnamese woman who came to Canada at the age of 11. From a young age, I have been passionate about social justice. Throughout my life, I have advocated for equality, fairness, respect and inclusion for all. I enjoy using my lived experiences to be the voice of the voiceless and a beacon of light to others.

I have been involved in our union since 2014 and some of the roles I have held are: Steward, Chief Steward, Local President, and Chair of various committees including the Women’s Committee, CEIU Racialized Action Committee and the Ontario Council Health and Safety Committee.

Since the PSAC Ontario Regional Convention, I attended Council training and our first meeting in Thunder Bay. Upholding and promoting our mandate is my priority, thus I have been supporting and communicating with Locals, Area Councils, and the PSAC London regional office. I have attended meetings to assist with the start-up of committees, advocating for more education and attended Pride Parades in our region.

After the historic strike, I truly believe that now is our time to create opportunities to celebrate, advocate, support, and educate our membership on the power of belonging to a union. Build together, move together and better together!

Thu Trinh, Region 4 (Southwestern Ontario) Council Representative



Congratulations to new and returning Council members on their election at the PSAC Ontario Convention. L—R, front row: Peggy Jones, Directly Chartered Locals Rep; Leslie Searl, Region 5 Rep; Terri McGillivray, Members with Disabilities Rep; Chandra Buschold, Regionally Based Separate Employers Rep; Melanee Jessup, Alternate Regional Executive Vice-President; Missy Taylor, Women’s Committees Rep; Michelle Woods, Indigenous Members Rep; Thu Trinh, Region 4 Rep, 2nd Alternate REVP; Ted Cabanes, 2SLGBTQIA+ Rep; Karuna Dsouza, Academic Workers Rep; Doran Jacob, Region 5 Rep. Back row: Adam Murphy, Region 3 Rep; Melissa Arsenault, Region 2 Rep; Wendy-Ann Moulton, Region 6 Rep; Neil Wood, Region 4 Rep; Craig Reynolds, Regional Executive Vice-President; Chris Snooks, Region 3 Rep; Jessie Lavergne; Young Workers Rep; Trisha Roach, Racial Visible Members Rep. Absent, Tony Crupi, Region 1 Rep. and Anne Duval, Region 2 Rep.