

PSAC Greater Toronto Area Council – GTAC



General Membership Meeting

6:30PM Thursday April 11 2024



Attendees:

Doron Jacob UTE L. 5, Michelle Halket UHEW L. 9, Jacquie Smith USJE L. 70125,
Markpaul St.Bishoy CEIU L. 645, Michael Di Trani (?), Joanne Sam CIU L. 24, Bobbette Jones-Kita CIU L. 24, Khary Hughes CEIU L. 541, Dino Kaitharan UTE L. 51, Veronica Eastman retired, Elisa Patel CEIU L. 541, Jennifer Hong UTE L. 48, Neda Kaveh CFIA L. 14, Neruson Murugesamoorthy CEIU L. 541, Sunil Deonaraine CEIU L. 541, Taina Joseph-Charlot CEIU L. 613, Sukhdeep Deol UNE L. 34, Omar Majeed CEIU L. 570, Mary Bodnar UPCE L. 108, Priyanka Goyal UHEW L. 9, Roula Kourounis CEIU L. 645, Peter Bach CEIU L. 648, Lorenza St. Martin CEIU L. 613, Pansy Green UCTE L. 18, Carlos Da Silva UNE L. 87, Celestina King CEIU L. 613, Dan Barrett UNDE L. 625, Dennis Milosevic CIU L. 24, Michelle Spencer UTE L. 48, Folake Akindele UTE L. 51, Ivan Lui GSU L. 27, Juanita Cole-Gonsalves CEIU L. 570

PSAC Regional Staff Rep: Nicole Wall, Rohit Revi

1. Call to Order :6:37pm

- a. Solidarity Statement was read by Peter Bach, contact Nicole Wall PSAC Staff Rep, if you feel you have been harassed while attending this meeting.
- b. Land Acknowledgement was read by the chair.

2. Review of Agenda

Michelle asked whether there was an up-date on the anti-harassment statement. Nicole provided an up-date from the PSAC National

Approval of the Agenda

3. Review of previous meetings

GTAC AGMM March 14, 2024, deferred until next meeting

4. Officer Reports

- a. Written Financial Report _ MarkPaul,

paper work has been submitted to the REVP and banking details need to be up-dated, until such time there is no report from the treasurer at this time.

5. **Standing items in brief** Staff Rep, Nicole provides PSAC updates for April.

Bargaining and Strikes:

1. [Strike votes for over 9,000 workers at Canada Border Services Agency begin April 10 | Public Service Alliance of Canada \(psacunion.ca\)](#) – CIU members conducted strike votes across the country yesterday, while the first PIC hearing began and will resume April 22. <https://psacunion.ca/fb-bargaining-team-makes-presentation-public> Once the non-binding PIC report is released the members could be in a strike position within 7 days.

For strike vote information visit - <https://psacunion.ca/fb-strike>

Emails have gone out to members with their voting credentials for VOGO. Members can attend any of the mandatory info sessions, after which they can cast their vote. They can vote any time after they have watched the mandatory info session if they feel they need a bit of time to think about it up until the last day of voting. Remember to check your junk or spam folder for the email, as lots of members are reporting it going there.

If you have not received their voting credentials, contact the Toronto RO at vote_TOR@psac-afpc.com or call [647-805-5004](tel:647-805-5004).

Members can register for an info session here: <https://national.psac-afpc.vote/>

2. USJE is having town hall updates on bargaining for the RCMP civilians April 17th and 18th – register online – [RCMP civilian members: register now for national townhall meetings | Public Service Alliance of Canada \(psacunion.ca\)](#)
3. The Non-Public Funds workers are still on strike in various locations in Ontario and other provinces – these folks are some of the lowest paid PSAC members. The UNDE National President wrote a op-ed piece worth reading - [Winger: Civilian military workers at Canadian bases deserve wage fairness | Public Service Alliance of Canada \(psacunion.ca\)](#) Support the call to boycott base locations on strike - [Boycott of CFMWS begins as strikes passes 60-day mark | Public Service Alliance of Canada \(psacunion.ca\)](#)
4. PSAC makes recommendations to strengthen the anti-scab legislation included in Bill C-58 - [PSAC pushes for improvements to anti-scab legislation, expand protections to all federal workers | Public Service Alliance of Canada \(psacunion.ca\)](#)

Events and Education:

5. Saturday April 20th PSAC celebrates Arab Heritage Month – register for the virtual panel here - [PSAC celebrates Arab Heritage Month | Public Service Alliance of Canada \(psacunion.ca\)](#)

6. PSAC joins with other major Canadian unions to call on the government to stop arms trade with Israel - [Statement: Canada must suspend arms trade with Israel | Public Service Alliance of Canada \(psacunion.ca\)](#)
7. Education - [Union Education at PSAC Ontario – PSAC Ontario](#) Local Officers Training April 19-20, 2024, Racism and Our Labour Movement June 7-8, 2024, Trans Rights and Inclusion at a Critical Moment June 14, 2024.
8. Save the Date – May 15th at 6pm (virtual) the Racially Visible Committee is hosting an event to celebrate Asian Heritage Month – which will focus on the legacy of anti-racist struggles and solidarity within Asian communities. Stay tuned.

Grievances, Complaints and Pay Equity:

9. [UPDATED: Taxability of Phoenix damages – victory for members across the country | Public Service Alliance of Canada \(psacunion.ca\)](#) – If you are retired or no longer a PSAC member and received Phoenix general damages in 2022 or 2023 in order for those damages to be deemed nontaxable you must file an extension request and a notice of objection form before April 30, 2024. PSAC secured an agreement with CRA that deems up to \$1,500 of Phoenix damages as non-taxable from 2021 onwards.
10. For UTE Call Centre members there is grievance language being suggested by the component if you are being forced to work shift work hours – [CRA Call Centre Members – Hours of Work | Union of Taxation Employees \(ute-sei.org\)](#)
11. Treasury Board Pay Equity Committee update - [Joint update from the Pay Equity Committee | Public Service Alliance of Canada \(psacunion.ca\)](#)
12. Hopefully PSAC members will eventually be included in the class action suit filed on behalf of some Indigenous federal workers - [Indigenous class action lawsuit: Fight continues, PSAC members not included | Public Service Alliance of Canada \(psacunion.ca\)](#)
13. PSAC has filed a grievance around the transfer of 1300 Statistical workers to the PA collective agreement as TB is not following the CA with regards to classifications, hours of work and probationary periods - [PA Group: PSAC files policy grievance against employer for mishandled transfer of members to Treasury Board | Public Service Alliance of Canada \(psacunion.ca\)](#)

A question was asked about the completing the Phoenix Tax form, if not sure just fill it out again.

Michelle provided information gaining access to your MYCRA account, it will be visible. A confirmation number is provided, and it is a safer bet.

The objection can be filed at anytime, even if you have filed your taxes.

A question regarding over-payment actions, how to object to this process. This is specific to your department and local and should be Phoenix complaint needs to be filed.

6. Old Business

a. 2023 Local and General Activist of the Year.

Michelle Spencer was awarded Activist of the Year, for her work in highlighting that PSAC has, a member of the Toronto York Labour Council, and participated a number of rallies, such as search the landfill, labour day.

Michelle expressed thanks for the nomination and the award.

b. Political Action Survey Results

Is a loose guideline for what GTAC would like to acknowledge and follow for the up-coming year.

For example for the month of March six topics to bring awareness to the membership

-provided members with information around CEIU strike votes and how to participate

-provided information on various educational opportunities coming up, as well as virtual events happening Nationally (i.e. Arab Heritage month virtual panel, etc.

7. New Business

a. GTAC can organize emphasizing they must be connected to a political, social justice or solidarity initiative. Some of the ideas suggested were as follows

b. Upcoming Committee Events, Campaigns, Etc.:

The Chair opened the floor for the discussion of ideas from the membership for future events.

June 21 National Indigenous day – Bar-B-Que:

Locations, there needs to be a balance between all areas of the GTA ie Scarborough.

collective food bank volunteer drive. Volunteer at a food bank- ie Daily Bread.

Neuroson- what is the general participation for past events.,

GTAC uses Eventbrite for the events for the Bowling (there was a cap for the RSVP) and the Bar-B-Que

Elisa offered, community involvement, picnic /block party to support small business, or biking or walking groups.

Question- can we do fundraising at events. Nicole and the Chair provided a response at the events, we could do a 'pass the hat' We need the support and approval from the REVP's office around a specific event that would be a fundraiser. For example, the Bowling event had a food drive component to it.

b. TYLC- May day event Saturday May 4th 1pm at Nathan Phillips Square-International Working Class Rally

c. Coalition Partner Activity- Western University Strike support request from the Hamilton Labour Council;

a. Round table:

Jacquie Strike support for the York University Tas. Carlos would like to offer to volunteer for events coming up, ie May-Day. Doron put his contact information in the chat for everyone.

Roula, glad for the great turnout for the meeting.

Dan

1. NPF fundraising event for the striking workers. UNDE Local 625 challenged the Locals present to donate funds to the NFP striking workers – this Local has agreed to donate \$300.00.

2. June 21st 2 containers being shipped to Baffin Island area for two Northern communities, Taloyoka, food drive

Sunil- MP spring clean-ups in the local parks, is a good opportunity to approach them about striking workers

Nicole advised to reach out to the Toronto or Kingston regional office, for donations for the NPF workers, for equality distribution to the workers.

Veronica Kudos to the committee executive.

8. Adjournment 7:40pm

b. Next Meeting General Members Meeting_ May 11 2024