PSAC Ontario Regional Council Meeting Minutes July 15th, 2023 Delta Hotel, Thunder Bay

The meeting convened at 9:30a.m. on Saturday, July 15th, 2023, with the Ontario REVP, Craig Reynolds, as Council Chair and the following members in attendance.

Craig Reynolds, Regional Executive Vice-President, Ontario
Melanee Jessup, Alternate Regional Executive Vice-President, Ontario
Brandon Milford, Region 2 (Northeastern)
Melissa Arsenault, Region 2 (Northeastern)
Adam Murphy, Region 3 (Eastern)
Chris Snooks, Region 3 (Eastern)
Neil Wood, Region 4 (Southwestern)
Thu Trinh, Region 4 (Southwestern)
Leslie Searl, Region 5 (GTA)
Doron Jacob, Region 5 (GTA)
Jessie Lavergne, Young Workers Representative
Trisha Roach, Racially Visible Members Representative
Wendy-Ann Moulton, Region 6 (Hamilton/Niagara)
Peggy Jones, Directly Chartered Locals Representative
Missy Taylor, Regional Women's Committee Representative
Ted Cabanes, Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Trans, Queer and 2 Spirited+ Representative
Chandra Buschold, Regionally Based Separate Employer Locals
Michelle Woods, Indigenous Members Representative
Terri McGillivray, Members with Disabilities Representative

Staff: Lino Vieira, Political Communications Officer- Ontario
Cleo Reid, Executive Assistant to the REVP, Ontario
Jawara Gairey, Regional Coordinator- Ontario

Regrets: Karuna Dsouza, Academic Workers Representative
Tony Crupi, Region 1 (Northwestern)

Observers: Lynda MacLellan – Canada Employment and Immigration Union (CEIU) Alternate National Vice-President, Ontario

The Chair asked Neil Wood to read the PSAC Anti-Harassment Policy. Jawara Gairey was the Anti-Harassment Coordinator while Ontario Regional Council was in session.

The hours of sitting were:

- Saturday, 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Lunch 12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m., Break 10:30 a.m., 2:45 p.m.

Motion to adopt the hours of sitting.

m/s Melanee Jessup and Leslie Searl

Motion carried unanimously

The Chair requested an honour roll call for members who have passed away since the 2023 Ontario Regional Convention. The Chair held a moment of silence to acknowledge the lives that have been lost.

Moment of silence observed.

AGENDA:

1. Adoption of Agenda
2. Regional Executive Vice-President Update
3. Regional Office - Updates
4. Ontario Council Members Round table
5. Collective Bargaining Updates

6. Ontario Council Newsletter
7. CLC Convention
8. PSAC Ontario Regional Convention
9. Labour Day Celebration
10. PSAC National Convention
11. Conferences
    - National Equity
    - National Young Workers
    - Ontario Regional Directly Chartered Locals
12. New Business

Item 1. Adoption of Agenda

The Chair asked for a mover and seconder to adopt the Council meeting agenda.

Motion to adopt amended agenda

m/s/c Michelle Woods and Chris Snooks

Motion carried unanimously

Item 2. Regional Executive Vice-President Updates

Melanee Jessup assumed the Chair.

Craig Reynolds stated he had nothing to report and welcomed all the elected Ontario Regional Council members to Council.

Craig Reynolds resumed the Chair.

Item 3. PSAC Ontario Regional Office – Updates (Jawara Gairey, PSAC Ontario Regional Coordinator)

Jawara Gairey stated there was no operational update, and any staff that is on leave will be backfilled.

Chris Snooks noted that several members from the Kingston area stated the staff is not responding to inquiries that are sent into the regional office.

Jawara Gairey stated he is unaware of such an issue but would look into the situation.

Item 4. Ontario Council Members Round table

The Chair thanked the Ontario Regional Council members for their dedication to the membership and for all their hard work.

The following were highlights presented by Council members of their activities:

Peggy Jones thanked all the Council members for providing support to the DCL 533 Casino Woodbine workers that were recently on strike.

Missy Taylor spoke about the issues facing front-end services at Service Canada centres. Particularly, the fact that commissionaires who provided security during to the pandemic have since been removed.

The Chair urged Missy to bring this information to the attention of the CEIU Component so that they could bring this up directly with the department. Missy assured the Chair that it has been and the Component is dealing with it.

Ted Cabanes has been attending Pride events across the region and getting to meet with members.

Wendy-Ann Moulton attended an Indigenous event held in Hamilton by the Committees in that region, which was a success.

Hamilton MDAC will hold a BBQ coming up in August at Bob Black's residence.

Thu Trinh raised the issue that members are having difficulty contacting Canada Life over the phone and getting claims processed. Thu also stated that the timeframe for issuing leave letters to attend this July Council meeting were a bit late.

The Chair acknowledge that the Council meeting timeframe is usually tight in a convention year, due to the convention being held in June and the meeting being scheduled approximately three weeks following the convention.

Also, the Chair reminded members to send issues to the REVP's office so that they can be addressed prior to Council meetings.

Doron Jacob provided an update to Council that Marie Polgar-Matthews, the past Region 5 GTA representative, has passed on the information she had to him in regard to the Region 5 constituency. Also, that the Greater Toronto Area Council was invited to the Hamilton/Niagara event.

Terri McGillivray attended the Ontario Health Coalition's virtual meeting. Also, that the London Area will be starting up a London Members with Disabilities Committee and Terri will be helping the region to organize the group.

Trisha Roach asked for support from Council for an upcoming by-election in Scarborough, where the residents will have the opportunity to elect a progressive racialized person.

Melanee served notice of motion.

Wendy-Ann served notice of motion

Motion: Increase the budget for region 4 representative Neil Wood to $322.01.

m/s Melanee Jessup and Chris Snooks

Melanee Jessup stated this would bring the Region 4 representative up to $750 in their portfolio budget so that they can complete the work.

Motion carried unanimously

Motion: PSAC Ontario Council donate $200 to Diversity Cornwall to support their Pride event.

m/s Wendy-Ann and Missy

Peggy Jones stated that there was $1500 left in the donation line item for the remainder of 2023.

Amended Motion: PSAC Ontario Council donate $500 to Diversity Cornwall to support their pride event.

Motion to adopt amended motion

m/s/c Doron and Leslie

Item 5. <u>Collective Bargaining Updates</u>

- SSO member will become part of the PA bargaining group.

- Kids Help Phone (UNE 00904) – a tentative agreement has been reached and a ratification vote will be held shortly.

Canada Border Services Officers (FB)
Leslie Searl stated that bargaining was not happening over the summer, as the government will be on summer break. Bargaining will begin again in September. The bargaining team will be meeting with members to provide updates shortly.

PSAC has been pushing for retirement benefits for FB members that would introduce an early retirement option — also referred to as 25 and out — consistent with what other federal public safety employees already receive.

Renewal Agreements

- Canadian Corps of Commissionaires (Ottawa Division) - DCL 608 – members ratified their new collective agreement on June 1, 2023.

- Canadian Corps of Commissionaires (Kingston Division) – DCL 818 – members ratified their new collective agreement on June 14, 2023.

- Ontario Tech Sessionals (DCL 555) – ratified their new collective agreement on July 11, 2023.

Item 6. <u>Ontario Council Newsletter</u>

Lino Vieira thanked Melanee Jessup for her assistance in formatting and creating the Council Newsletter layout.

Council members were encouraged to submit their bio's, which are a great way for them to introduce themselves to the membership.

The next Council newsletter deadline for Council members to submit articles is September 18th, 2023.

Item 7. CLC Convention

The Canadian Labour Congress (CLC), 30th Constitutional Convention was held at the Palais des Congrès in Montréal from May 8 to May 12, 2023. The theme of the convention was “Canada’s Unions Lifting Everyone Up”. There were several Ontario Council members that had the opportunity to attend on behalf of PSAC.

Thu Trinh attended and took part in the rally which was an invigorating event and also an opportunity to connect with other labour activist.

Brandon Milford was inspired to see the large amount of labour activist in the country.

Michelle Woods spoke on a convention floor mic for the first time at a convention.

Item 8. PSAC Ontario Regional Convention

PSAC Ontario 9th Triennial Convention took place at the Hilton Markham Suites and Conference Centre on June 9th – 11th, 2023.

Ontario Regional Council invited Yanique Brandford as the guest speaker for the Convention and adopted “Help A Girl Out” as the convention charity of choice.

Wendy-Ann Moulton stated that it was offensive that some convention delegates only showed up on the day of elections on the Sunday. Wendy-Ann believes there should be repercussion for not being on the convention floor for the entire duration of the event.

Melanee Jessup wanted to know who is responsible for holding these members accountable for attending the days they are being paid to attend the event.

Leslie Searl stated that the sending body should have responsibility towards the person that they elected to represent their body.

Chris Snooks inquired if this issue can be brought before the NBoD.

Cleo Reid stated that if it is brought to an admin's attend that a member is missing, the admin will go check on that member in their room to make sure they are well. They will also investigate as to why the member is missing the session. The admin team had to do that quite a bit at this convention.

Adam Murphy stated that some delegates did not attend caucus' because they were not listed on the back of their agenda on their lanyards.

It was pointed out that there were several announcements made during the Convention plenary session letting delegates know they can Self-ID and register at the caucus room in person.

The Chair stated that the funding that was provided for the Ontario Regional Convention was insufficient to cover the total costs of the event. The Chair urged Council members that will be attending the PSAC National Convention to speak on the budget presented and request that the Regions receive increased funding.

Point of Privilege: Ted Cabanes announced that there is a Drag show at 10pm at the Bar across the train tracks. The cover charge is $20. An invite was extended to all Council members.

Item 9. Labour Day Celebration

This year the Labour Day celebration will be held on September 4th, all over the province. The Ontario Labour Day t-shirt is mustard yellow and the three solutions that will appear on the t-shirts are:

- Fighting for a Better Future
- Power through Action
- Protecting Public Services

There will be yellow frisbees with a black PSAC Ontario logo. The quantity of frisbees that were ordered depended on the Region's financial capacity and will be disturbed to active Area Councils within the Region. The quantities are also based on received Labour Day proposals, which will be sent out in the coming weeks.

Item 10. PSAC National Convention

The 2024 PSAC National Triennial Convention will be held in Ottawa at the Shaw Centre on May 26th to May 31st, 2024. The theme of the Convention is "Powering Progress", and the call out letter will be coming out shortly.

The Chair stated that if a Council member was looking to put a resolution forward, they should approach a DCL Local, as they are a sending body to the National convention and have till November to submit.

Peggy Jones the DCL representative on Council, asked that Council members keep the deadlines in mind when sending a resolution over, as the Local body has to pass the resolution at a meeting before it can be sent to national.

Item 11. Conferences

- **National Equity**

  The National Equity Conference will be held in Montreal on Oct. 19th – 23rd, 2023. All delegates and observers to the conference have already been invited.

- **National Young Workers**

  The conference will be held in Toronto from Sept. 15-17, 2023, and all newly elected Young Workers representatives will get the opportunity to attend.

- **DCL Ontario Region**

  The DCL conference new dates are Nov. 23 to 26, 2023 and the delegates that previously applied will not have to reapply. The conference will be held in Toronto.

- **PSAC National Leadership**

  The PSAC National Leadership conference will be held in Ottawa, Dec. 15th to 17th, 2023. All Council members will be invited to the conference.

Council Members Portfolio Amounts

Melanee Jessup stated that the Finance Committee has sent each Ontario Regional Council member their respective portfolio balance and budget for the remainder of the year.

Next Council Meeting

The next Ontario Regional Council Meeting will take place on October 25th to 28th and it will be held in Windsor, Ontario.

Business completed and meeting adjourned at 2PM