

Report of the Regional Committee of the Francophone Women of the NCR (CRFF) - PSAC

Period: September 1st to December 31st 2015

Presented by: Sandrine Oka – CRFF President

- The priorities of CRFF are:
 - ✓ The Women's World March (WWM) 2015 in Trois-Rivières, Quebec
 - ✓ The Campaign to combat violence against women
 - ✓ Recruitment and
- Other business areas include: Bill C-4 and other austerity bills, reproductive rights, and the National Daycare Campaign.

September 2015:

- The committee met on September 22, 2015.
- We had two special guests who came to speak to us about the Women's World March in 2015 in Trois-Rivières (WWM 2015):
 - 1) Sister Blanche Roy: former union representative PSAC (Gatineau Regional Office) responsible for the women's portfolio, who remains active in the community and sits on the organizing committee for the regional WWM 2015. She spoke to us about the history of the women's world march since its inception in 2000 and its role in democratic struggles.
 - 2) Sister Valérie Lafrance: student at the UQO, active member of her local and head of women's portfolio. She came to tell us about the October 15th regional activity to precede the march in Trois-Rivières on the 17th.

October 2015:

- During the month of October, we focused our work on the final preparations for the WWM 2015.
- On 15 October, we participated in the regional activity that preceded the WWM 2015, including a march in downtown Hull, which ended at UQO where cultural and educational activities organized by community groups were held.
- On October 17th, the big day, members of our committee and other sisters boarded two buses at 6am and we headed Trois-Rivières to participate in the giant WWM 2015. It was an exciting day full of energy, feelings of strength and hope. When we arrived at the

gathering location, delegations from all regions of the country came together behind their respective banner and began the long and enormous march through the city.

- It is with pride and joy that we met several PSAC sisters and brothers who came from other regions, including Brother Daniel Toutant, from Trois-Rivières, whose pride in welcoming us in his city was palpable.
- At the end of the march participants were treated to a great show, music and moving speeches by the river.

November 2015:

- We held our meeting on November 24, 2015.
- As President of CRFF I presented a report on the meeting of the PSAC National Human Rights Committee meeting in which I had participated (November 3 and 4, 2015). We discussed the issues affecting equity groups and planning as well as the objectives and strategies to be adopted. A copy of this report was also submitted to the REVP.
- We discussed December 6th -day of action against violence against women- and upcoming activities in which we would be participating, such as the Dec. 6 vigil (at Minto Park near the PSAC HQ); the 12 days of action against violence against women; (coordinated by AGIR Nov. 25 - Dec. 6), as well as the PSAC Conference on Domestic Violence and its impact in the workplace (Dec. 11-13).
- We also discussed the International Day of Human Rights (Dec. 10) and an activity organized in part by PSAC. A document to this effect was circulated.

December 2015:

- Our meeting took place on December 16.
- I presented a report on the PSAC Conference on Domestic Violence and its impact in the workplace (Dec. 11-13) which was attended by presidents of women's committees and regional and national leaders. This was followed by a discussion and the desire of the committee to continue work on the theme of violence against women for the coming year.
- Sister Isabelle Crisafi spoke about the work of social delegates in some workplaces and their role on the issue of domestic violence. A discussion followed, and members were interested to learn more about it and about best practices.
- We began to discuss preparations for International Women's Day (March 8th), including having a CRFF booth at noon at Place du centre (Portage).

Coming up:

- International Women's Day – March 8th

- The NCR regional women's conference (summer 2016)
- Information tables
- Special Guests

