

**Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) National Capital Region (NCR)**

**Young Workers Committee (YWC) Report**

**From: January 1<sup>st</sup> 2019**

**To: April 30<sup>th</sup> 2019**

**Executive Elected Officials**

Co-Chair – Ayrin Proulx

Co-Chair – Kevin Hanson

Secretary – Alex Silas

Treasurer – Faisal Ibrahim

Communication Officer – Caroline Reid

To the members of the National Capital Region Council,

The Young Workers Committee (YWC) is proud to present our first report to the council as a full executive, as we were all elected in January 2019. We did not waste any time in our elected positions, as a few weeks after being elected in our positions, we met and updated our Terms of Reference to reflect our vision and mission of governance for the committee. Since January, we have had four committee meetings where we continue to discuss issues that are facing young workers in today's workforce. Not only have the co-chairs been able to voice these common issues on the PSAC website, we continue to push our goal of recruiting young workers to join the committee.

Recruitment is the committee's number one goal, and we had preliminary talks about a "go big or go home" music event, which was a bit too ambitious without having the necessary network to run a successful event. Instead, the committee has focused its time and energy on creating a WhatsApp chat group, where in passing, we can add young workers we meet to this chat by obtaining their cellphone numbers and adding them into the group. In the WhatsApp group, we are then able to update the young workers on various events and meetings in a resourceful way.

As we continue our gentle momentum to build and recruit young workers to join the committee and participate in our initiatives, we had an offer to engage the Ontario Student Action Network and they participated in one of our young workers' committee meeting. We also have partnered up with workers who are young at heart to help us with recruiting members, and have seen an increase of about 2-3

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members, who are continuously returning to our committee meetings. We take pride in retaining these young workers, and we promise to continue to keep them engaged and reward them in hopes they will be more active in their workplace and community for the greater good.

At the end of February, several elected young workers' committee officials had a chance to lobby Members of Parliament (MP) through the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC). This was an exciting day, as we lobbied MP's on universal pharmacare and better pension legislation for Canadians. We also had a chance to meet the Labour Minister, Patty Hajdu, on our lobby day. She was quick to take us up on our offer to meet with her about young worker issues that we are witnessing in today's workforce. We are now planning to take Patty up on her offer, and hope to secure a date in the near future.

Leading into March and April, the young workers participated in the Moon Time Sisters drive and donated feminine products to better assist and support feminine hygiene within the indigenous community. Our momentum does not stop there, as we are planning on rebuilding our social media presence, and use some of our funding within our budget to obtain swag for an awareness strategy and use the swag for recruitment purposes. We are also looking at mobilizing young workers through a "reviving the volunteer day" campaign where the young workers' committee can be the forefront in organizing several volunteer initiatives in one day, while young workers use their volunteer day (if applicable) to participate in volunteering for youth related services within the National Capital Region. We are also in the preliminary stages of a pilot project, with the goal to collect used clothing from workers to donate the clothes to various shelters around the NCR. Our strategy would be to collect used professional clothing for individuals who may not be able to afford work attire so that they can increase their self-esteem, confidence and feel professional when preparing for things like job interviews and important labour events/meetings. We feel this may be a slight relief in the bigger goal of lowering the unemployment rate of underprivileged citizens within the NCR, who are unemployed or stuck on social services, to regain self-confidence in the journey to re-integrate back into the workforce.

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We continue to work hard at educating young workers through recruitment strategies, and we would like to continue to work with the student federations and all other relevant groups to assist them through any mobilization and support they need going forward. We are zealous about this first quarter as the Young Workers Committee elected officials, and we hope to continue to maintain a bright present and future for young workers and for all members of the Public Service Alliance of Canada.