

# **Report of the REVP National Capital Region January 2018 (covering September 23 to January 26)**

## **PART 1: ACTIVITIES AND REGIONAL PRIORITIES**

### **Regional Council – activities, successes and objectives**

- Regional Council convened on September 24 at the Hilton Lac Leamy, where critical discussions were held on the CLC's Pharmacare plan and PSAC's anti-privatization campaign.
- The Regional Council Executive met in October and December.
- The key developments in the region during the fall of 2017 and January 2018 have included:
  - Major online actions in support of Ontario's Bill 148, and direct action against bully employers such as some Tim Hortons franchises.
  - Significant media coverage of the Phoenix pay debacle.
  - Promotion of content critical of anti-pension Bill C-27.
  - Organizing and supporting the Parliamentary Protective Services unit as it seeks a new collective agreement.
- Less than a month after I met with the Liberal NCR caucus and requested that the government move on reversing Harper-era legal changes to the collective bargaining process, the government introduced Bill C-62, which seeks to do precisely that.
- We are very pleased to welcome local 76000 at the International Development Research Centre as the NCR's newest Directly Chartered Local (DCL). Local 76000 accounts for about 240 members.
- PSAC NCR is making preparations for the Triennial National Convention in Toronto in April and May. We will have a regional caucus and have requested a hospitality suite.

- Through my participation in the Phoenix sub-committee of NBoD, I have helped shape the direction of PSAC's renewed efforts at pressuring the government into resolving the Phoenix scandal and treating members fairly.

## **Regional offices**

- A new regional representative has been hired for a one year term in order to replace another representative who is on a one year leave. This new hire will start in February.

## **Regional communications**

- **Media interviews:** I continue to do many interviews on various topics, though the bulk are about the Phoenix Pay system situation. I have been interviewed by CBC, Radio-Canada, TVA, The Hill Times, 1310 News, CFRA, 104.7fm Gatineau, and Le Droit. A couple of highlights:
  - My extensive interview with The Hill Times about security workers in the Parliamentary Precinct became part of a front page story.
  - My October 31 interview on CBC regarding PSAC's complaint to the Labour Board has had over 10,000 views on Facebook.
- I also had many interviews around the presentation to the House Committee studying the Parliamentary Protective Service file.
- **Social Media:** PSAC NCR continues to be actively involved in social media, particularly on Facebook and Twitter, and to a more limited extent on Instagram.
  - Our clips of the October 12 Phoenix rally received over 6,000 cumulative views.
- **Email news:** PSAC NCR also regularly communicates with members via e-mails. We have approximately 14,000 non-work email addresses in our database.
- **Online campaign actions:** PSAC NCR actively supported the Fight for \$15 and Make It Fair campaigns during the fall of 2017 via new

online campaign tools that facilitate members contacting their MPPs about the issue by email and phone.

- **Improving PSAC's communications:** I have held extensive discussions with PSAC's new Director of Communications, Campaigns & Political Action about the need to improve and greatly innovate communications with members. We discussed the urgent need for website renewal, website support for locals, customization of web content for members, modern internet campaign tools, and social media improvements. We agreed on almost every element and promised to work closely together in improving our web presence and communications planning.

## **Political Action**

- **Agenda for Change:** PSAC NCR is actively engaged in Ottawa ACORN's Agenda For Change initiative, which seeks to bring together progressive organizations in the city and push for progressive candidates in the October 2018 Ottawa municipal elections.
- **NCR Liberal Caucus lobbying:** PSAC NCR has agreed with the NCR Liberal Caucus to meet periodically to discuss issues of concern. We are currently preparing for our next breakfast meeting on February 8.
- **Ontario minimum wage campaign solidarity:** PSAC NCR members and staff actively support the Ontario Federation of Labour's campaign against bully employers and continue to participate in solidarity action at various Tim Hortons outlets.

## **Phoenix Pay Debacle**

- **Phoenix Rally:** PSAC organized a major Phoenix rally with support from CEIU on October 12 in front of the Prime Minister's Office. To the surprise of many, the turnout was large, with an estimated 500 people, and a large number of journalists.

- **Phoenix Lobbying:** I spoke about the Phoenix pay debacle at a town hall organized by MP Greg Fergus in Aylmer on November 6 and I joined two PSAC members to discuss Phoenix concerns with MP Catherine McKenna on November 29.

## **Collective Bargaining and Ratification**

- **Parliamentary Protective Services:** Our local representing Detection Specialists in the Hill continues to fight for a new collective agreement and has organized numerous actions with the help of the NCR's regional organizer.
  - I also had the opportunity to present our case at the House of Commons Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs on November 9.
- **Canadian Food Inspection Agency and Canada Post Corporation:** PSAC reached a tentative agreement with the CFIA and the CPC in November 2017 and NCR regional representatives are in the process of organizing ratification votes.
- **NAVCAN:** The first bargaining session with NAVCAN management occurred on December 12-15 and made significant progress.
- **Canada Border Services Agency:** The NCR helped organize a major march in support of FB bargaining on September 29.

## **Education**

- Registration levels in NCR Education Courses were strong. Popular courses included Talking Union Basics, the Stewards' Symposium, and Grievance Handling.

## **PART 2: NATIONAL PORTFOLIOS**

- Public Service Dental Care Plan Board of Management.
- NavCan Bargaining Team.
- Union of Postal Communications Employees Bargaining Team.
- Ontario Federation of Labour Executive Board.
- Phoenix Sub-Committee of NBoD.

## **PART 3: REVP ACTIVITIES, LEAVE & ATTENDANCE**

- I participated and attended many activities in locals, regional meetings, conference calls, and other events to inform and mobilize our activists as well as our members on how to protect our public services, and defend and promote our collective bargaining rights and provisions.
- A full accounting of travel outside the region has been submitted to the National President.
- A full accounting of the my expenses has been submitted to the National President.
- A full accounting of leave taken for the period has been submitted to the National President.
- All overtime requests for certain weekend activities have been submitted.

### *Scheduled activities*

- Government Services Union convention, September 26-28, Ottawa.

- FB unit march and rally in front of CBSA headquarter, September 29, Ottawa.
- Customs and Immigration Union convention, September 29-October 1, Ottawa.
- NCR Executive Committee, October 2, Ottawa.
- PressProgress Relaunch event, October 3, Ottawa.
- Fight for \$15 and Fairness Ottawa organizing meeting, October 5, Ottawa.
- GCWCC Campaign Launch, October 7, Gatineau.
- Phoenix rally in front of PMO, October 12, Ottawa.
- Alliance Executive Committee retreat, October 13-15, Gatineau.
- Alliance Executive Committee meeting, October 16, Ottawa.
- National Board of Directors meeting, October 17-20, Ottawa.
- Action on the Hill for Parliamentary Protective Service unit, October 23, Ottawa.
- NAVCAN bargaining conference, October 24-26, Ottawa.
- Halloween Action for Parliamentary Protective Service unit, October 31, Ottawa.
- Presentation at Town Hall on Canada's Public Service organized by MP Greg Fergus, November 6, Gatineau.
- Parliamentary Protective Service unit meeting with MP Steven Blaney, November 7, Ottawa.
- Presentation for Parliamentary Protective Service unit at House of Commons Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs, November 9, Ottawa.
- Alliance Executive Committee meeting, November 14-16, Ottawa.
- Founders' Day celebration, November 16, Ottawa.
- Ontario Federation of Labour convention, November 18-27, Toronto.
- NCR Calendar distribution event, November 28, Ottawa.
- Meeting with MP Catherine McKenna, November 29, Ottawa.
- NCR Calendar distribution event, November 29, Gatineau.
- Leadership Summit, November 30-December 3, Ottawa.
- NCR Executive Committee meeting, December 4, Ottawa.
- NBOD sub-committee on Phoenix, December 6, Ottawa.
- Assembly of First Nations gala, December 7, Ottawa.

- Alliance Executive Committee meeting, December 11, Ottawa.
- National Board of Directors meeting, December 12-14, Ottawa.
- Agenda for Change meeting with Ottawa ACORN, December 19, Ottawa.
- Public Service Health Care Plan negotiations team meeting, December 20, Ottawa.
- Alliance Executive Committee meeting, January 9-11, Ottawa.
- Ontario Federation of Labour Executive Board meeting, January 17-18, Toronto.

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Respectfully submitted,

**Greg McGillis**  
**NCR REVP**