

Report of the Region

September 2019 (June 1- August 25 2019)

PART 1: ACTIVITIES AND REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Regional Council – activities, successes and objectives

The AGM was held on June 1-2 at the Delta in Ottawa.

- Council received a presentation from Équité Outaouais. The council passed a resolution to support their campaign to fight for more funding for social and health services in the Outaouais.
- Council passed resolutions that:
 - Change the entitlements for council. Locals are entitled to one delegate every 215 members.
 - Create a new regional Directly Chartered Local committee.
- Elections were held for Members at Large (Dave Lanthier, Tony Nicolas, Joy Morgan), Treasurer (Diane Girouard), and Separate Employer Delegate (Richard Weintrager) and their alternates.

The Executive Council met on June 3.

- The Executive conducted a Federal Election brainstorm and planning session.
- They received a presentation by ACORN and passed a motion to support their convention.

The Executive Council met on August 6.

- The Executive welcomed the new DCL committee chair Bill Riopelle. The finalization of the committee's terms of reference and budget will be discussed at the upcoming council.

- They received a presentation from a student organizer helping the scheduled September 27 Climate Strike. Executives will be attending and encouraging their committees to do so as well.
- Discussions also included: mobilizing around the federal election, financial updates, taxi chit policy, and Human Rights awards ceremony.

Regional activities and successes:

-The Regional Women's Conference, "Building Power for Change," was held June 8-9 in Gatineau. There were over 40 attendees and featured presenters included: Blandine Soulmana, Kim Thúy, Sharon DeSouza (Ontario REVP), Annie Smith St. Georges, and Greg McGillis (REVP NCR).

-Members working for Parliamentary Protective Services (PPS) held an event on June 17 when their president was wrongfully suspended.

-Many committees are on summer break however OAC, YWC, CRAPO, Pride are met to prime for the federal election and upcoming summer activities.

-During this period, Regional Representatives worked with members to carry out bargaining mobilization at the local level, assist with AGMs, and engage in member outreach.

-Members organized a solidarity action for striking military cleaners in Petawawa on August 2. We protested MaxSys Staffing-Consulting firm, hired by GDI, the employer, for scab labour during the strike. Press turnout included CTV and TVA news stations.

-Members from Petawawa and Kingston (Ontario Region) bussed to Ottawa to picket their respective employers (Commissionaries and GDI Services) on August 20. Ottawa members attended and the Regional Office helped organize the event.

Regional offices

-Paula Dignan is a Regional Representative in Ottawa.

Regional communications

Media interviews

- Members Cheryl Anderson, Pat St. Georges and Miheala Marin-Lazarescu were featured as profiles on TFO's provincial programming. They were featured as bilingual public servants and the story was part of the anniversary of language laws in Canada.
- NCR member Ruby Couture was featured on The Agenda (TVO) because of her Phoenix issues.

Social Media

- Most popular organic posts on Facebook included:
 - 3.2k reach on July 15, shared from PSAC National, CBC article regarding PSAC's push for the employer to cover medical notes (and that medical notes not be required for minor illnesses.
 - 3.4 K reach on August 7, shared from CLC page about a 30% pension cut for Sears retirees
 - 6.4k reach on August 2, pictures posted from the Petawawa cleaners protest in Ottawa outside the scab agency firm MaxSys
- Paid: the Pride Committee videos, created in July, were boosted for the month of August to increase member turnout to Pride.
- Trends:
 - The peak hours of page viewing on the PSAC-NCR Facebook are between 7pm-9pm.

Email news

- We now have 26,856 functional emails for the NCR Newsletter (August 1, 2019) which is up from 15,853 (August 1, 2018). There's been a dramatic increase as we have ensured new data is now imported into our email server.
- Our newsletter open rate average is 38% - 41%, which is significantly higher than industry standard.
- 53% of our members view the newsletter on their phones.

Political Action

OFL Power of the Many (Ford fightback campaign):

-Members attended the three events part of the OFL day of action on June 7. Renelle Chalifoux and members lead morning outreach at Tunney's pasture, and REVP Greg McGills spoke at the evening rally. Ottawa had the highest turnout of any events across Ontario.

Federal Election Strategy:

-The OAC Federal Election subcommittee, led by Robbie Henderson, met on July 18 to sort out logistics on approved plan for the NCR. We will be doing members visits in two ridings (Carleton and Orleans) and calls. Member outreach sessions include September 17 (in Orleans) and September 18 (in Carleton), October 9 (in Carleton) and October 10 (in Orleans). Call days will be held at 233 Gilmour on: September 16 and October 18 with a potential day on October 21.

-Members of the subcommittee organized a call session to members on August 8 and 22.

The Heat is On

-Members held petition days on July 3 and 4 at Tunney's and on Wellington.

-Alex Silas, A-REVP, with staff attended MP Catherine McKenna's community event on July 27 to speak with her about our concerns about privatizing the heating and cooling plants in the NCR. We asked about the environmental assessment (as there was none for the project) and she said she would follow up.

Terrasses de la Chaudière

-The NCR created a new campaign in response to the ongoing health and safety issues at TDLC. The campaign is a partnership with components (UNE, GSU, USJE, UCTE, AGR) with members in the complex. UNE is taking a political lead on the campaign since they cover over ¾ of the members in the complex.

-Leaders Andrew Shaver (NEVP for UNE), Randy Howard (NP for GSU) and NCR staff met with MP Steve MacKinnon and PSPC heads to address the health and safety concerns. We won a commitment for a cross building

committee between the union and management to address these issues. We have several follow ups and questions and we are waiting to hear back from the ministry. Planned outreach days at the complex include August 13 and 20 to recruit members to the campaign.

-We held two outreach days on August 13 and 20 at 15 Eddy St and 10 Wellington St to hand out flyers on the campaign and petition members.

Solidarity

- The Pride Committee met on July 24th and began calls and texts to members to ask them to part of the NCR delegation in Capital Pride.
- Members, and 233 Gilmour staff, participated in the Capital Pride Parade on August 25. The Regional Pride committee organized a great float and worked hard to ensure our presence in the parade.

Phoenix Pay Debacle

- Parliamentary Budgetary Officer says problems will continue until 2023.
- The government recently ended the incentive package for federal compensation advisors.
- PSAC is not accepting 5 days leave, and fighting for a cash settlement for members.
- Progress is being made, but there remains a 230,000 cases.

Collective Bargaining and Ratification

Ingenium (Science and Tech Museum) - Negotiations in process on classification issues only

NAC - Prepping for bargaining

OAG - Initial bargaining preparations

CSE - Declared impasse in August

NCC - Local submitting input on demands, notice to bargain yet to be issued

Education

- Talking Union Basics - August 23 (French and English Courses) - We held another TUB because of the high rate of applicants to the previous TUB.
- Political Action Course -August 29 (Bilingual)
- Grievance Handling - September 6 (French and English Courses)
- Classification Grievances - September 16 (French and English Courses)
- Union School Part II - October 3rd (bilingual, registration closed)
- New Local Officers Conference - October 23 (bilingual)
- Committee Pizzazz - November 4th (French and English Courses)
- Retirement Planning with CURC/CLC - November 22 (French and English Courses)
- Building Solidarity with Indigenous People's -December 6 (bilingual)
- Resolution Writing - December 16 (English Course)

PART 2: NATIONAL NEWS AND UPDATES

- TB, CRA and Parks Canada tables have declared impasse and are proceeding to the Public Interest Commission (PIC). FB has also declared impasse.
- Class action victory for National Defense employees who experienced sexual harassment and discrimination

Scheduled activities

- AEC - June 3 to 4, Ottawa
- Regional Women's Conference - June 8 to 9, Gatineau
- AEC - June 17, Ottawa
- NBoD - June 18 to 21, Ottawa