

## **Report from Members with Disabilities Action Committee (MDAC)**

**From April 01 until August 30, 2015 inclusive**

Richard Lynn - Chair  
Behiye Cinkilic –Vice Chair  
Marc Masson –Secretary  
Peter Hyduk –Treasurer

April 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting - \* Threats to the Duty to Accommodate and Telework mandate

Denise presented her findings and noted that many people returning to work after Long Term Disability or Maternity Leave are either:

- told that they can't be accommodated right away;
- are told to find some other department that can; or
- find that there is no desk, job description or a supervisor to report to

She expressed her frustration that only a few departments have a Return to Work Committee (RWC) to help returning employees with the transition. Denise has requested that MDAC members contact their own HR representative to see if there is even a RWC and report their findings at our next meeting.

April 25<sup>th</sup> till May 01<sup>st</sup> – The 17th National Triennial Convention of the PSAC was a success. Many of our members attended and some of our resolutions were accepted ie:

\* Disabled Regional Representatives can now inspect the potential location of any PSAC conference to ensure that is accessible.

\* Because of mobility issues of finding a bank in an unfamiliar city, people with disabilities can request their Travel Expense check prior to their attendance to the conference.

May 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting – Special Guest Speaker Anne Cole Graduate Student from McMaster University; Long Term Disability or Maternity Leave.

Because this is such a pressing issue, Anne Cole, Graduate Student from McMaster University decided to do research in this area and attended our meeting to discuss the direction of her paper. She is looking for 6 women to take part in a study of mental health factors that affected their return to Public Service after an extended leave. She is requesting MDAC to spread the word about her research and help her find volunteers for her study to give them a platform to be heard.

- Because of our shortage of swag, ideas were forth as to what would be the best ones to order, with our logo to promote our committee. Some of the top ideas were: \* Pen/ flashlight \* Jar openers \* Pens \* Windbreakers

#### June 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting - John's retirement

After joining the Public Service in 1973, our long time MDAC brother will be taking a much deserved retirement from the office environment. He has agreed to remain with MDAC to provide his experience and expertise, but will not have a vote. To thank him for his union dedication, cake was served along with John regaling us with stories of his active union career.

August 8<sup>th</sup> – Jam Day Co-Event with RVAC we both had tables and handed out information and swag to people attending the event at Mooneys Bay Beach. RVAC donated the \$58.80 they raised and MDAC raised \$66.00 from button donations, all funds raised for Sister Dianne Brown's favourite charity "Feeding the 5000 in Jamaica".

We will be looking into promoting MDAC and it's role out into the Unions eyes and ears, so everyone knows we exist, why and that we can help.

This report is submitted by:

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Richard H. Lynn MDAC Chair

This 01<sup>st</sup> day of September of the year 2015.