

**Report of the
Regional Executive Vice-President
National Capital Region
January 2016**

PART 1: ACTIVITIES AND REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Regional Council – activities, successes and objectives

- The Regional Council met on October 3 and focussed discussions on the home stretch of the federal election campaign. Emphasis was placed on members engaging in the regional campaign to ensure the defeat of Conservative candidates.
- The Regional Council Executive held a post-election debrief and discussed the forthcoming regional budget on December 7.

Regional offices

- Competitions for three Regional Representative positions are underway and the results should be announced in February.

Regional communications

- Members received information about PSAC from the website, email newsletters, and social media posts. The REVP's office continues to be heavily solicited by the news media with requests for interviews dealing with public services, union issues, social justice issues and the OLG lockout.
 - The REVP newsletter has close to 12,000 subscribers.
 - The PSAC NCR Facebook page now has nearly 5,200 'likes'. Thanks to paid boosting, our posts reach tens of thousands of targeted Facebook users per week.

- PSAC NCR is now on Instagram at [instagram.com/psacncr](https://www.instagram.com/psacncr)

Federal elections campaign work

- On October 6 and 8, the NCR held regional telephone town halls to discuss the federal elections and answer member questions around how a change in government could affect bargaining.
- On October 9, I met with Anita Vandenberg, then the Liberal candidate in Ottawa West-Nepean (one of the three target ridings in the NCR), to emphasize that the Liberals must not continue the Conservative cuts to the public service should they form government.
- In the two weeks leading up to October 19, the regional office intensified election work with assistance from members. Additional telephone canvassing shifts were scheduled and additional door-to-door member visits were organized. By then, it was clear from Ottawa riding-level polling done by EKOS, Mainstreet, and Environics that our three target ridings—Orleans, Ottawa West-Nepean, and Nepean—would probably all go Liberal, not Conservative, but it wasn't so clear which way Kanata-Carleton would go. In response, the regional office and member canvassing teams undertook a canvassing blitz in Kanata-Carleton on October 17.

Connecting with the new government

- Within days of the election, newly elected Liberal MP-elects in the NCR were invited for a breakfast 'meet and greet' with myself and other PSAC staff. Eight of twelve MPs showed up and expressed interest in continuing a close relationship with PSAC. Going forward, they agreed to meet every 3-4 months.

Collective bargaining and mobilization

OLG lockout

- On December 16 at 12:01 a.m., the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLG) locked out 124 workers at the Rideau Carleton Raceway Slots on Albion Rd., south of the Ottawa airport, over the key issues of wage increases and pension security. Members have been picketing almost every day since then and slowing down traffic coming into the facility in order to speak with clients about their issues.
 - A special New Year's Eve action, which benefited from community support, led to wait times of up to 20 minutes for many clients. Given that evening's significance as the busiest night of the year for the casino, the action had a significant impact on business.
 - Workers have collected over 6,000 signatures on their petition calling on the Ontario government to end the lockout through a fair offer.
 - Media coverage of the lockout has been good, and attempts by media to distract from the core messages relating to wage increases, pensions and privatization, have been corrected as quickly as possible.
 - Members have now been trained up and are lobbying councillors, MPPs and members of the OLG board.

Treasury Board mobilization

- The NCR is preparing for the continuation of Treasury Board bargaining in February and reconvened the region's TB mobilization team on January 14 to devise plans to support bargaining teams in the coming months.
- Members of the Ottawa Area Council attended pre-budget consultation meetings held in January.

Organizing

New IDRC Local

- Around 245 workers at the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in Ottawa joined PSAC after the unionization drive was won by a 77% vote. The Canadian Industrial Relations Board certified the results on November 26. The workers at IDRC are now in the process of setting up a new local and gearing up for their first round of bargaining later this year.

Support for CUPA

- In September, PSAC entered into a service agreement with the Carleton University Postdoctoral Association (CUPA), a union of about 45 postdoctoral scholars. CUPA was certified as a union in December 2012 and has been trying to reach a first collective agreement since negotiations began with the university in April 2014. PSAC is providing negotiations, organizing and communications support to CUPA and, under the service agreement, CUPA must hold a full membership vote on formally joining PSAC within a month of striking a collective agreement.

Solidarity activities

- The Ottawa airport taxi lockout, which began in August, continued into the fall and PSAC members and staff offered solidarity support on numerous occasions, including the largest action at Coventry offices on November 13. The lockout was resolved through a reorganization of the bargaining units just before the holidays in December.

Education

- Nearly a hundred union activists participated in the weeklong union school in Montebello between November 30 and December 4. Participants took in-depth courses on various aspects of union work and also had many opportunities to meet and network with members from across the region. They also had the chance to listen to a panel

discussion with Brother Chris Aylward and keynote speeches by Kathleen Monk (Engage Canada) and Régine Laurent (Fédération interprofessionnelle de la santé du Québec). Feedback from members about the union school was overwhelmingly positive.

OFL Convention

- The NCR sent a delegation to the OFL Convention November 22-27) and members were actively engaged throughout week. With the acclamation of Chris Buckley as the new OFL President, it is expected that affiliates who left the federation during Sid Ryan's tenure will return, thereby helping restore the federation's financial situation.
- Barrie and District Labour Council President Patty Coates was elected as the OFL Secretary-Treasurer.
- After a three-way race for the position of OFL Executive Vice-President, Ahmad Gaied from UFCW Local 1000A was elected.
- Delegates also passed a comprehensive action plan that will guide the OFL over the next two years. Some highlights include:
 - Working towards anti-scab legislation
 - Supporting strong public services and fighting privatization, including stopping the sale of Hydro One
 - Advancing equity
 - Fighting for a \$15 minimum wage

PART 2: NATIONAL PORTFOLIOS

- Social Justice Fund
- Official Languages
- Collective bargaining: FB unit
- Federal Council, NDP
- Public Service Dental Care Plan
- Local Stewards and Development Initiatives

PART 3: REVP ACTIVITIES, LEAVE AND ATTENDANCE

- The REVP 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, defend and promote our collective bargaining rights and provisions, and especially, getting rid of the Harper regime.
- A full accounting of travel outside the region has been submitted to the National President.
- A full accounting of the REVP's 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

- English telephone town hall on elections, Ottawa, October 6
- Elections Canada voting photo-op for media, Ottawa, October 7
- FB and PA demonstration, Montreal, October 8
- French telephone town hall on elections, October 8
- Meeting with Ottawa West-Nepean candidate Anita Vandenberg, Ottawa, October 9
- Canvassing blitz in Kanata-Carleton, Ottawa, October 17
- AEC, Ottawa, October 26
- NBOD, Ottawa, October 27-30
- French Union Development Program activities (step 6), Montebello, November 7-8
- Remembrance Day activities, Ottawa, November 11
- AEC, Ottawa, November 16-17
- PSAC Founder's Day, Ottawa, November 18
- Congress of Black Trade Unionists dinner/gala, Toronto, November 21
- OFL Convention, Toronto, November 22-27
- Union School, Montebello, November 30-December 4
- NCR Executive Committee meeting, Ottawa, December 7

- Ottawa Vanier NDP Annual General Meeting, Ottawa, December 15
- First day of picketing for OLG Slots lockout, Ottawa, December 16
- New Year's Eve action at OLG Slots, Ottawa, December 31

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Rousseau
NCR REVP