

**Report of the
Regional Executive Vice President
National Capital Region
May 2016 (covering January 1 to March 30)**

PART 1: ACTIVITIES AND REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Regional Council – activities, successes and objectives

- The Regional Council met on January 30 and, amongst others, passed the budget with the exception of the Membership Benefit Fund.
- The Regional Council Executive met in February and April.

Regional offices

- Three competitions for regional representatives were concluded successfully:
 - Raphaël Valay-Nadeau (indeterminate) in the Ottawa office.
 - Tobie Castonguay (indeterminate) in the Gatineau office.
 - Anne-Marie Grondin (determinate) in the Gatineau.

Regional communications

- Members received information about PSAC from the website, e-mail 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 site now has nearly 5,500 'likes'. Thanks to paid boosting, posts from the Facebook page reach tens of thousands of targeted Facebook users per week.
 - PSAC NCR is also present on Instagram, Twitter and YouTube.

Connecting with the new government

- On February 5, the REVP, the President of the Ottawa Area Council and the President of the Conseil régional d'action politique en Outaouais met with eight Liberal Members of Parliament in the National Capital Region (Mauril Bélanger, David McGuinty, Will Amos, Chandra Ary, Karen McCrimmon, Steve MacKinnon, Will Fergus and Anita Vandenberg). Messages emphasized were the importance of rolling back cuts to public services, repealing the problematic parts of Bill C-4

(passed under the Conservatives), and asking for investments in public services in the 2016 federal budget.

Budget 2016

- On March 22, the REVP participated in media scrums at Parliament Hill, sharing PSAC's first impression of the 2016 federal budget. Coverage was picked up by national media outlets and also many regional media outlets.

Collective Bargaining and Mobilization

OLG Lockout

- The lockout at the OLG Rideau Carleton Slots continued into the new year. There were a couple of new bargaining sessions but none of these led to a tentative agreement.
 - Direct lobbying of NCR Members of Provincial Parliament by locked out workers began in January and continues.
 - A major trip to Toronto was held on March 9; locked out workers took part in a press conference, visited question period (where the opposition grilled the Liberals about the lockout), as well as a rally with other PSAC members from OLG operations in Toronto (Woodbine) and Sault Ste. Marie.
 - Pressure tactics in this period have also included advertising on social media, newspapers, billboards and radio.
 - Significant earned media achieved in period, with at approximately 30 news reports on newspapers, radio and TV.
 - Political support for the locked out workers has been cultivated with MPPs MacLeod (Progressive Conservative) and Cindy Forster (NDP).
 - In the face of continuing lockout, more political pressure will be brought to bear on all elected officials.

Treasury Board mobilization

- The first core Treasury Board bargaining session under the new government took place in February and then a second meeting was held in March. It became clear in March and in April that the Liberals still intend to push for weakening of the sick leave regime, notably removing it from the collective agreements, and privatizing administration of sick leave, and renewed efforts to mobilize members around TB bargaining began again at that point.

- The REVP held a webinar on April 21 to discuss the latest updates around TB bargaining, with participation of PSAC national negotiator Holmann Richard and EB elected bargaining team member, Danielle Moffet. Approximately 100 members participated.

Organizing

Support for CUPA

- Postdoctoral researchers at Carleton University signed and ratified their first contract with the administration in late February after an arduous bargaining process that lasted almost two years. The postdocs, who have their own union (the Carleton University Postdoctoral Association or CUPA) signed a service agreement with PSAC last year to help them reach a first contact after bargaining stalled in the summer of 2015. T
- The researchers, who earned as little as \$25,000, now have a new three year contract that boosts the minimum annual salary to \$30,000 retroactive to May 2015, and then raises it to \$32,560 by May 2017. In addition, the researchers won bereavement leave, sick leave, vacation days and academic freedom protections.

Solidarity activities

- PSAC-NCR, with support from the Education Committee, is now co-sponsoring 'Reignite Learning', a discussion series on public interest issues originally started by CAPE. The goal is to make Reignite an important forum for PSAC and CAPE members to discuss public policy matters.
- OAC members and the REVP participated in the Fight for \$15 and Fairness rally on April 15, 2016.

Education

- Participation levels in the NCR education courses in Winter 2016 were very good overall, especially with the basic courses. Courses included Harassment Awareness and Advocacy, Grievance Handling, Understanding and Interpreting the Collective Agreement, Health and Safety Basics, New Local Officers Training and Talking Union Basics.

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 & 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, 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 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

- Alliance Executive Committee meeting, Ottawa, January 11-12
- National Joint Council (NJC) Joint Employment Equity (JEEC) meeting, Jan. 13
- TB Mobilization Committee meeting, Ottawa, January 14
- Grand Opening of Occupational Health Clinics of Ontario Workers, Ottawa, January 21
- OFL anti-austerity rally, Ottawa, January 22
- Meeting with Councillor George Darouze (regarding OLG lockout), Ottawa, January 25
- NCR Regional Council, Ottawa, January 30
- Ottawa-Vanier NDP AGM, Ottawa, February 4
- Meeting with NCR Liberal Members of Parliament, Ottawa, February 5
- NCRC Executive, February 8
- Alliance Executive Committee meeting, Ottawa, February 8-9
- NJC JEEC, February 17
- IDRC first Annual General Meeting, Ottawa, February 18
- Alliance Executive Committee meeting, Ottawa, February 22
- NBOD meeting, Ottawa, February 23-26

- National Joint Council, Ottawa, March 2
- Visit to Queen's Park with OLG workers, Toronto, March 9
- Union Development Program, Québec City, March 13
- Alliance Executive Committee meeting, Ottawa, March 14-15
- Budget day media scrums, Ottawa, March 22
- Picketing of MPP offices with OLG workers, Ottawa, March 29
- UDP, Halifax, April 3
- NCRC Executive, April 4
- NJC JEEC, April 6
- NDP Convention, April 7 - 10
- AEC, April 12
- NJC Joint Employment Equity Committee, April 13
- Treasury Board Bargaining Webinar, April 20
- National Day of Mourning, April 28

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Rousseau
NCR REVP