

# **RACIALLY VISIBLE ACTION COMMITTEE**

## **ACTIVITIES REPORT**

FOR

**Sep 01 – Dec 31, 2015**

This report covers from Sep 01 to Dec 31.

RVAC remains committed to supporting all racially visible members who come to us; we are working with members to ensure they exercise their rights and consider all options available to them during this period of uncertainty in the Federal Public Service. We continue to push for information on the impact and seek out resources that can help our members to cope. We are also committed to lending community outreach whenever we can.

RVAC members were front and center in the bid to find a new and reasonable employer; we Door knocked, phone canvass, we talked to members, communities, family, friends, we were part of the history. We did our part in ensuring that Public services are important to all of us and it is our collective best interest to make it an election issue especially at a time when it was being destroyed.

RVAC members attended the 2015 Labour Day Parade strong and proud to be union. We gave a donation towards the sponsorship of an Eritrean family of five from Sudan who arrived in Ottawa in late September. The family is sponsored by the Anglican Church. The Committee is now looking into how we can help with the sponsorship of a Syrian family as well as a family from Darfur.

We have received a Thank You letter from WaterAid, formerly known as WaterCan expressing their appreciation for our donations over the years. They have advised that our assistance have gone to saving lives and providing a brighter future by supplying safe water and basic sanitation.

Members of RVAC attended the OFL Workers of Colour Symposium in Toronto just ahead of the 15<sup>th</sup> Biannual Convention. One of our members, Sister Sandra Griffith-Bonaparte ran for the position of Executive Vice-President of the Ontario federation of Labour (OFL). We also attended the Coalition of Black Trade Unionist (CBTU) Annual Awards dinner and fundraiser. It is hoped that we will someday get an Ottawa Chapter.

The PSAC National Human Rights Committee met for three days in November; discussions included the first Regional conference for racialized members tentatively booked for October 2016. We have encouraged members to complete the PSAC Survey which will assist the union in structuring the conference. We have purchased fridge magnets in order to promote the committee.

We also had members at the 2015 Union School participating in different courses but also to check out the piloting of the new Discrimination course. We feel confident that it will assist activist in representing racialized members facing discrimination in the workplace.

Respectful Submitted by: Zelma Buckley and Carl Laguerre

Racially Visible Action Committee of PSAC Co-Chairs

December 2015.