

RACIALLY VISIBLE ACTION COMMITTEE

ACTIVITIES REPORT

FOR

April 1 – July 31, 2016

This report covers the period from Apr 1 to Jul 31, 2016.

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 again hosted the annual Health Seminar on Saturday April 16 at 233 Gilmour. This year there were some very practical organizations giving presentations on topics such as: kidney disease, the travel agency syndrome, the frailty paradox, losing your independence and addressing the question “are you ready?”. This event was presented by a number of community organizations and attracted over 80 participants. The turnout has again proven to us that hosting this event is very useful to our community and is an activity that RVAC should absolutely continue to be involved in.

In May, a number of RVAC members attended the Regional Health and Safety Conference. Unfortunately, we lost our dear sister Dianne Brown on the first day of the conference after a very courageous battle with cancer. Sister Dianne was a long-time friend and ally of RVAC and a member of MDAC. The two committees joined together in partnership with her family to ensure that she had a fitting send-off. Sister Dianne was also a member of the Council’s Executive and a champion for health and safety. She leaves behind a son with whom we keep in close contact.

We continue to support and promote union education and activities. A number of RVAC Sisters attended the Regional Women’s Conference held in June. We also

attended the June 20 rally in support of our bargaining teams and a number of us also participated with our locals in the Day of Action on June 8.

The Steering Committee for the Regional Conference for Racially Visible Members met in early March to start the planning for the NCR Conference. Members are very excited about our first conference and have really started to come out in bigger numbers to the monthly meetings. We have had three more meetings including one via teleconference. We would like our conference to be a success with relevant speakers and the capacity to reach out and interact with racially visible members from across the region. We will continue to work throughout the summer to what needs to be done.

RVAC will be participating in the JAM Day activities and will again be partnering with MDAC to share a tent and promote the PSAC as a partner in the community.

We had the unfortunate opportunity of submitting a media release expressing our condolences to the family of Mr. Abdirahma Abdi, a 37-year-old mentally ill man from the black community who was beaten to death by the police during a violent arrest on July 24. The community is outraged at this senseless loss of life at the hands of the police who are supposed to protect us. Citizens in the black community are very concerned.

Respectful submitted by: Zelma Buckley and Antoine Moïse

Racially Visible Action Committee of PSAC Co-Chairs

July 31, 2016