

**Report of the
Regional Executive Vice President
National Capital Region
June 2015**

Our presence in the Region

Part 1: Activities and regional priorities

- Regional Council – activities, successes and objectives
 - Regional Council was held on January 26, 2015. Delegates were informed and updated on mobilizing activities in the NCR as well as the Regional Action Plan (under the National Action Plan).
 - The Regional Council Executive reviewed the previous year's actions, as well as planned for the upcoming activities that will take place this year, notably in regard to political action, for which two ridings, Ottawa-Orleans, and Ottawa West-Nepean will be targeted. With the resignation of cabinet minister John Baird, Ottawa West Nepean has become a more interesting target. Regional Council Executive meets every two months on the first Monday.

Committees and Area Councils - activities, successes and objectives

- Mobilizing activities are being held in support of collective bargaining for the 5 Treasury Board units. Marches are being held on the 19th of each month between the Place du Portage and Terrasses de la Chaudière complexes, as well as a march that takes place at Tunney's Pasture. Elsewhere in the NCR, activities are being held with the participation of specific Locals.

Regional Offices

- The Pat McGrath Boardroom was officially inaugurated on March 12, with a moving testimonial to Sister Pat, with her family as well as Component President Brother John MacLennan present.
- Regional zone meetings providing updates on collective bargaining, as well as activities in support of all units in bargaining continue to be well organized and appreciated by the members.
- Pierre Parker, Regional Coordinator, has accepted a pre-retirement assignment. Several Regional Representatives are retiring as well. Staff actions to replace these individuals are underway.

Regional communications tools (Web sites, etc.)

- The Web site now constitutes the main medium for communications with members. Emails are sent to personal email addresses that members provide directly on the solidarity campaign cards they fill out.
- 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, etc.
- The REVP Newsletter now has more than 11,000 subscribers.
- The PSAC-NCR Facebook site now has more than 4,300 Likes.

Collective Bargaining

- The 5 Treasury Board units met in January (4th session), March (5th session) and May (6th session). The good news is that the Employer has agreed to implementing the National Standard on Psychological Health and Wellbeing in the Workplace. The bad news is that the Employer has decided to impose its Short-term Disability Plan even by legislative

means if it has to. PSAC members have clearly indicated their response in various ways, categorically stating NO!

Strikes, mobilization (including Area Council lobbying)

a) Sick leave:

- The Treasury Board proposal to PSAC on a short term disability plan has mobilized our members against it, with many if not most incensed with the Employer about it. Needless to say mobilizing our members will be a fait accompli thanks to the Employer's actions.
- Negotiations: clearly, with negotiations completely undermined by an Employer that does not respect our collective bargaining rights guaranteed under the Charter, it is becoming more than apparent that there needs to be a political answer, and mobilizing our members to vote on October 19 has become the highest priority.

Political Action

- It has become more than apparent that with less than several months before the general election, informing our members on this government's actions and mobilizing them to vote is crucial. Mobilizing members to get rid of the Conservative government is the goal!
- Town Halls will be organized in Ottawa West Nepean and Ottawa-Orleans.
- It is also apparent in the NCR that most members know what needs to be done. Massive demonstrations will not replace the most important mobilization that must take place : voting on October 19!

Organizing

- A review of some possible organizing initiatives is underway.

Equity

- I attended and participated in the PSAC Anti-racism Working Group that is currently drafting an anti-racism policy for implementation within the PSAC.

Education

- The education schedule for the spring session was posted on the NCR website in early May. The Union Development Program participants will soon be starting their 3rd module, and the program is going well. The CLC political action training was a success with more than 250 participants in the NCR.

Health and Safety

- Health and Safety will take on a new and important priority with the agreement to implement the National Standard on Psychological Health and Wellbeing in the Workplace.

Part 2: National portfolios

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

Part 3: REVP Activities

- The REVP participated and attended many activities in Locals, regional meetings, conference calls, and other activities to inform and mobilize our activists as well as our members on the possible effects of privatizing our sick leave regime, the attacks on our collective bargaining rights and, the importance of getting out the vote.

- 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.

Part 4: Activities scheduled

- Anti-racism Working Group, May 7
- Chris Hedges Event (Moderator) May 13
- Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity (Keynote) Toronto, May 14.
- UCTE Golf Tournament, May 21.
- UCTE Public Sector Locals Conference, May 22.
- AEC, NBoD, June 1 – 5.
- Orleans Town Hall, June 11.
- Hill Times Public Service Debate, June 10
- OFL Executive Board, June 15-16.
- NDP Ottawa-Vanier Nomination Meeting, Chair, June 18.
- Boycott National Public Service Week speech, June 19
- Canadian Association of Statutory Human Rights Agencies, Panelist, Winnipeg, June 23-24.
- AEC, June 29-30.

Part 5: Local Development and Stewards Initiatives

- Having received the mandate from the National President to jointly head this portfolio with REVP Magali Picard, we are finalizing logistics for the fall 2015 regional conferences.

Part 6: Leave and attendance

- The full accounting of leave taken for the period has been submitted to the National President.
- All overtime request for certain weekend activities have been submitted.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Rousseau
NCR REVP