

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

Our presence in the Region

Part 1: Activities and regional priorities

- Regional Council – activities, successes and objectives
 - Regional Council AGM was held on June 13 and 14, 2015. Delegates were informed and updated on mobilizing activities in the NCR as well as the Regional Action Plan.
 - Elections were held for the Treasurer position, 5 member at-large and alternate positions, as well as a Separate Employer representative.
 - The Regional Council Executive worked on planning for the summer mobilization activities including every 19th of the month, as well as member BBQs and gatherings, often in collaboration with the two other major federal public service unions, PIPSC and CAPE. Election planning was finalized in conjunction with both Area Councils. The plans to work the two targeted ridings of Ottawa West Nepean and Ottawa-Orleans were finalized.

Committees and Area Councils - activities, successes and objectives

- Mobilizing activities were held in support of collective bargaining rights and protecting public services, as well as getting rid of the Harper government. Marches were held on the 19th of each month between the Place du Portage and Terrasses de la Chaudière complexes. A very successful BBQ was held at the Natural Resources complex for all Locals in the Booth Street area, and a get out the vote BBQ was held at Tunney's Pasture, gathering over 2000 attendees, a major success, in collaboration with PIPSC and CAPE. .

Regional Offices

- 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.
- The competition for the position of Regional Coordinator closed on August 23, 2015, and it is expected that the position should be filled by the end of September. All Regional Representative staffing actions have been completed.

Regional communications tools (Web sites, etc.)

- The Web site continues to be the main medium for communications with members as well as emails sent to personal email addresses that members provide directly.
- 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 close to 12,000 subscribers.
- The PSAC-NCR Facebook site now has more than 5,000 Likes.

Collective Bargaining

- The 5 Treasury Board units met for the last time in June. PSAC as well as other bargaining agents have decided to attack the Employer's threat to impose changes to sick leave provisions through Bill C-59. The Federal Court granted PSAC an injunction that forces the Employer to provide notice of any changes during the writ period and prior to the hearing date of October 29. This is a small but important victory!

Strikes, mobilization (including Area Council lobbying)

a) Sick leave:

- Our members are pumped and mobilized in support of our collective agreements, and especially provisions regarding sick leave. To date, only the NDP has provided firm commitments on sick leave, and this is clearly an election issue in the NCR.

Political Action

- It has become more than apparent that with less than several weeks before the general election, informing our members on this government's actions and mobilizing them to vote has been critical to the success that both opposition parties are experiencing in what will have been the longest election campaign since the early 20th century. If mobilizing members to get rid of the Conservative government was the goal, we have succeeded in that regard!
- Town Halls were held in both Ottawa West Nepean and Ottawa-Orleans, and by the polls, both ridings should see a defeat of the Conservative incumbents! In fact, at time of writing, three additional ridings (Glengarry-Prescott-Russel, Nepean and Kanata-Carleton) in the NCR are now toss-ups, instead of Tory blue certainties.
- It is also apparent in the NCR that most members know what needs to be done. Though tempting, spending resources on massive demonstrations will not replace the most important mobilization that must take place: voting on October 19!

Organizing

- Organizing review continues, with some interesting prospects possibly coming to fruition by the end of this year.

Equity

- The anti-racism policy for implementation within the PSAC has been completed and will probably be presented to the NBoD at its next meeting.

Education

- The education schedule for the spring session was posted on the NCR website in early September. The Union Development Program participants will have graduated by the time this report is read, so please join me in congratulating all sisters and brothers who did the hard work required! A stewards training forum will be held in late October, and Union School will be held in early December.

Health and Safety

- Follow up to the committee work that will soon start on the National Standard on Psychological Health and Safety in the Workplace, within the context of the current round of bargaining, will be crucial in achieving effective and proper implementation of the standard. The Health and Safety Committee will play a key role in the NCR on this issue in getting information out to the membership.

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

- 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 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.

Part 4: Activities scheduled

- Pension Trustee training, Vancouver, July 15-17.
- Roundtable with ILO leadership, Ottawa, July 22.
- Screening of the movie "Selma" in Dundonald Park, July 24.
- Pride Parade, Montréal, August 16.
- PSAC-PIPSC-CAPE Pride event, Gatineau, August 19.
- Pride Parade, Ottawa, August 19.
- Black Votes Matter Symposium, Ottawa, August 29.
- Labour Day Parade, Ottawa, September 7.
- NBoD Strategy Retreat, Montebello, September 8-11.
- AEC, Ottawa, September 12, 14-15.
- BBQ Tunneys Pasture, September 16.
- Harperman Rally, Ottawa, September 17.
- Unifor Taxi Rally, Ottawa, September 18.
- PSAC Supervisor Health&Safety Awareness Training, Ottawa, September 21.
- ASDEQ Conference with Tom Mulcair, Ottawa, September 22.
- Take Back the Night, Ottawa, September 24.
- Executive Board Meeting, OFL, Toronto, September 29.
- Annual breakfast for Centraide Outaouais campaign, October 1.
- AEC, Ottawa, October 5-6.
- Mental Health training forum, October 8-9.
- Unfair Labour Practice hearing, Ottawa, October 12-16.
- FEDERAL ELECTIONS! October 19.
- NCR Stewards Training, October 21-22.
- UDP French presentation, Ottawa, October 25.
- AEC, Ottawa, October 26.

- NBoD, Ottawa, October 27-30.

Part 5: Local Development and Stewards Initiatives

- Work continues on these initiatives, especially in regard to 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