



OTTAWA AREA COUNCIL



SEPT-DEC 2023



Meetings

During the reporting period there were two Council meetings



Planning

OAC Delegates approved spending to support regional education and training opportunities that better prepare members for mobilization and outreach



Events

We participated in the Climate Justice Rally on November 4th and hosted a Know Your Rights workshop on November 30th



Looking Ahead

The OAC's AGM is scheduled for March 13th 2024! To learn more about the Council, email us at oac-cro@psac-afpc.com

Meetings

September 13th 2023 – Council Meeting

Presentation: Brea Baresinkoff - 2nd National Vice President CIU and member of FB bargaining Team.

Call for support to attend Rally for CIU Bargaining.

Presentation: Resolutions Committee

Result: 3 resolutions sent up to National Convention – *see October OAC Report to NCRC for details.*

Motions presented and passed:

OAC involvement in Capital Pride - Revised

Be it resolved that OAC delegates approve the donation of \$500, an amount previously approved for spending related to Capital Pride, to Kind Space in support of their contributions to the March for Trans Rights on Friday August 25th.

OAC Donation to support Centretown Community Health Centre Programming

Be it resolved that OAC delegates approve the donation of \$500 to the Centretown Community Health Centre Fundraiser in support of their Trans Health Clinic and Racialized 2SLGBTQIA+ Newcomers program.

November 8th 2023 – Council Meeting

Presentation: Steve Colterman - National Vice-President GSU

Fairness for Gatineau campaign: Some members from East and West Gatineau who must do their 2 days in the office are wondering if it is possible to get locations in Masson/Buckingham areas and in the Aylmer Sector. The current locations are far and inconvenient for members in the listed areas.

- Would have to be a grassroots campaign
- Looking to see if there's interest in people joining from these areas in Gatineau (both members of PSAC and others unions) and providing ideas to make this happen
- Can work individually with people outside of OAC if there is interest

Work on Fairness for Gatineau is ongoing and members of the NCRC are encouraged to reach out to Steve at colters@psac-afpc.com

National Convention Election: Chaired by OAC Director Will Tait

Results:

OAC Delegate to 2024 PSAC National Convention: Ruth Lau MacDonald

OAC 1st alternate delegate to Convention: Jean Michel Riel

OAC 2nd alternate delegate to Convention: Luke Periard

Motions presented and passed:

OAC Budgeting for training and workshops

Be it resolved that OAC delegates approve spending up to \$3,000 to provide Mental Health First Aid and First Aid training to members of the NCR.

Be it further resolved that OAC delegates approve spending up to \$3,00 to provide anti-racism/anti-oppression training in collaboration with other regional committees.

Donation to Local Organization

Be it resolved that the Ottawa Area Council donates \$1500 to Minwaashin Lodge.

Year to Date: Donations	
IBEW 363	\$835.17
Kind Space Ottawa	\$500
Centretown Community Health Centre	\$500
Minwaashin Lodge	\$1500

Ongoing Work and OAC Priorities

NCR Marshalling and Mobilization Readiness

OAC Directors are developing a webpage for the PSAC NCR website about safety at protests, rallies and/or picket lines. Funding approved by OAC delegates will prioritize First Aid training for members interested in marshalling/organizing direct action events in the NCR to ensure the safety and wellbeing of attendees.

Climate Justice

OAC Directors contributed to the planning and leadership of Ottawa’s Power Up Day of Action on November 4th. The OAC hopes that members interested in working on Climate Change/Just Transition files will reach out to the OAC so we can continue to collaborate with organizations like the Council of Canadians and gain momentum for future work within our union spaces.

Education and Skills Building

OAC Executives continues to explore skills-based learning opportunities for members. OAC delegates approved spending to organize anti-racism/anti-oppression training for the NCR and talks with IAC and RVAC leaders are being planned so that this learning opportunity aligns with regional priorities and issues. This learning opportunity will be shared regionally once planned and scheduled.

Canada Life

With Canada Life's ongoing mismanagement of the Public Service Health Care Plan and its profound impacts on PSAC members, the OAC is working in collaboration with the NCR-REVP's office to establish a member-focused working group that will organize on this issue.

Telework, Hybrid Work Arrangements and Duty to Accommodate

OAC delegates have established a sub-committee to focus on the government's 'Return to Work' policy and the impacts members are experiencing. Taking into consideration the distinct processes and needs associated with Hybrid work, Telework and the Duty to Accommodate, members have created a space to come together – we hope that this will result in member-led actions or the development of resources that all members can use in advocating for safe and respectful working conditions.

Member Engagement at National Convention (May 26-31 2024)

With the 2024 PSAC National Triennial Convention quickly approaching, the OAC is exploring opportunities for member engagement and networking while leaders from across the country are in the NCR. Ideas thus far include: accessibility guides for downtown (including restaurant recommendations for food restrictions) and tabling at the Shaw Centre to discuss current issues and the upcoming federal election.



OTTAWA AREA COUNCIL



JUNE-SEPT 2023



Meetings

During the reporting period there were three Council meetings and one meeting of the Executive



Planning

Our work was broken out into 4 categories: Lobbying Elected Officials, Resolutions to PSAC National Triennial Convention, Member mobilization and Direct action, Community engagement and Events



Events

We hosted two events: Hot Dogs on the Hill and Labour Day! We also supported other community events including Capital Pride



Looking Ahead

The OAC has exciting plans for the remainder of the 2023-24 term. Reach out to us if you'd like to collaborate, register as a delegate, or exchange ideas!
oac-cro@psac-afpc.com

Meetings

June 14th 2023 – OAC Executive Meeting

OAC Executive met discuss priorities for the 2023-24 term of office. Strong focus on member engagement, leveraging connections from the strike, long-term strategy planning for the Council, and greater collaboration across regional committees.

July 12th 2023 – Council Meeting

Motions presented and passed:

Post-Strike Event on Parliament Hill – “Hotdogs on the Hill”

BE IT RESOLVED that OAC delegates approve spending up to \$2,000.00, including but not limited to promotion materials, digital advertising, equipment rental, and the purchase of food, for an event at Parliament Hill on Saturday August 12th.

OAC Involvement at Capital Pride

BE IT RESOLVED that OAC delegates approve spending up to \$500 to print and distribute resources during the PSAC-NCR’s participation in Capital Pride on August 27th.

Funding for OAC Education and Workshops Portfolio

BE IT RESOLVED that OAC delegates approve spending up to \$3,000 for Education and Workshops in the NCR, including but not limited to History Walking Tours, Speaker Series events and printed materials.

Labour Day 2023

BE IT RESOLVED that OAC delegates approve spending up to \$3,000 for Labour Day activities, including but not limited to promotion materials, digital advertising, equipment rental, and the purchase of food.

Issues Raised:

The next Federal election and being prepared for it.

Arrears appearing on Members pay cheques with no real explanation:

<https://psacunion.ca/membership-dues-faq>

The difficulties members are having with the switch to Canada Life Insurance. Public Service Health Care Plan: Transition Update: <https://psacunion.ca/public-service-health-care-plan-transition-update>

August 9th 2023 - Council Meeting

Presentation: The Canadian Labour Congress passed a resolution at the 2023 Convention calling on all affiliates to organize “flying squads” – dedicated groups organized to defend queer and trans workers facing homophobic and transphobic hate protests/attacks. Community Solidarity Ottawa (CSO) joined the OAC to discuss the role of these flying squads in labour organizations across Ottawa and their importance to labour activism in the region.

The OAC Executive is keen to work with CSO to address these issues in the NCR and one of our Directors will be working with the Chair as well as Regional Office Staff to develop a PSAC flying squad with complementary Safety and Marshalling Training for members.

Motions presented and passed:

BE IT RESOLVED that OAC delegates approve the donation of all unused funds from the \$2,000.00 budget for the event at Parliament Hill on Saturday August 12th to support IBEW 636 Hydro Ottawa Workers who are on strike without strike pay.

September 13th 2023 – Council Meeting

Presentation: Brea Baresinkoff - 2nd National Vice President CIU and member of FB bargaining Team.

Call for support to attend Rally for CIU Bargaining.

Presentation: Resolutions Committee

Result: 3 resolutions sent up to National Convention

OAC-001 - Mental Health Support

ORIGINATOR: AU Local 70075

LANGUAGE OF ORIGIN: English (word count 117)

WHEREAS Since the beginning of Covid-19, stewards and local executive members have witnessed increased instances of members experiencing mental health challenges in the workplace. They want to help, however they are ill equipped to handle navigating these situations to best serve members;

WHEREAS Stewards and local executive members are experiencing difficulties with their own mental health and are at further risk of burnout because of the lack of support and education available on these topics;

BE IT RESOLVED That PSAC in this coming cycle provide mental health support educational materials for the purpose of aiding shop stewards and local executive members to maintain their own mental health and to be able assist members experiencing mental health challenges.

OAC-002 - Mental Health Support Study for Union Activists

ORIGINATOR: GSU Local 70055 and GSU NVP Kevin Hanson

LANGUAGE OF ORIGIN: English (word count 106)

WHEREAS Union activism comes with mental health risks and challenges, and;

WHEREAS Limited support is provided to Union Activists when their roles and responsibilities lead to mental health depletion, and;

WHEREAS The Union loses activists as a result of mental health injuries and challenges;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT PSAC mandates and funds a third-party institute to conduct a study on how the Union can better support the mental health for its activists at the start of the 2025-2027 cycle, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT A Mental Health for Activists Action Plan be developed and implemented by the PSAC at the end of the 2025-2027 cycle.

OAC-003 - PSAC Membership Lists

ORIGINATOR: CEIU 70702 – CEIU 70708 and NVP CEIU Daniel Carriere

LANGUAGE OF ORIGIN: English (word count 148)

WHEREAS there have been continuous issues with the accuracy of PSAC membership lists.

WHEREAS the responsibility for maintaining, updating membership lists has been relegated to Locals who are volunteers. Locals do not have the resources to assume this responsibility.

WHEREAS there is no leave provision in collective agreements to undertake this work and members cannot access employer data systems.

WHEREAS the requirement to share members' employment and contact information is between bargaining agents and employers.

BE IT RESOLVED that the responsibility for the accuracy and updating membership lists and assigning the members to the correct local be of the PSAC.

BE IT RESOLVED that PSAC dedicate the necessary resources to do this work within one year.

BE IT RESOLVED that PSAC explore other systems for data keeping instead of "Unionware" if it's needed.

BE IT RESOLVED that the cost of this resolution be taken from the unrestricted funds.

Motions presented and passed:

OAC involvement in Capital Pride - Revised

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OAC Donation to support Centretown Community Health Centre Programming

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Finances

Events			
Hot Dogs on the Hill		Labour Day 2023	
Budget	\$2,000	Budget	\$3,000
Spent	\$1,164.83	Spent	\$973.19
Total	+ \$835.17*	Total	+ \$2,026.81

**To be donated to IBEW 636*

Donations	
IBEW 363	\$835.17
Kind Space Ottawa	\$500
Centretown Community Health Centre	\$500

Outstanding & Invoiced Amounts	
Motion: December 14 th 2022 Be it resolved that the Ottawa Area Council make a \$250 donation to the Odawa Native Friendship Centre, 815 St. Laurent Blvd.	\$250
Peoples’ History Walking Tours	\$1,250

Upcoming Activities and Priorities

Climate Justice

OAC Directors have begun work related to climate justice and political action. On November 4th there will be projects across Canada as part of the Power Up Day of Action – the OAC is working in collaboration with the Council of Canadians and other community groups to support this event and gain momentum for future work within our union spaces.

Education and Skills Building

OAC Executives have started to explore skills-based learning opportunities for members. Potential offerings include: safety marshalling, first aid, mental health first aid. These opportunities will be announced over the coming months.

OAC Executives have also started to look at learning opportunities hosted by local, provincial, and national organizations. This includes Fly Squad training with Community Solidarity Ottawa and a learning session on the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms hosted by the Canadian Civil Liberties Association. These opportunities will also be shared regionally.