



Government Services Union

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NEWSLETTER 2019-3

GSU NATIONAL COUNCIL

National Officers

Randy Howard
President

Martine Babcook
Vice-President

Kelly Bush
Vice-President (Equity)

Bruce Roy
Vice-President

Regional VPs

Atlantic Region

Gary Byrne
Shanny Doucet
Anthony Drozdowski

Quebec Region

Mélanie Hamel
Michèle Parent

NCR

Kevin Hanson
Pascal Ladouceur
Nicole Rousseau

Ontario Region

Sue Soubra Boone

Western Region

Heather Rawlins (acting for
Robyn Thompson)
Larissa Williams

Pacific Region

Linda Harding
Reni Stein

Royal Canadian Mint

Jeannette Fillion

From GSU's President...

As we approach this holiday season, we would like to wish you and your families happy holidays. We have accomplished many good things throughout the year, and we want to highlight a few of these accomplishments.

GSU was successful in establishing a Workforce Adjustment Committee for our members working at the Cliff Heating Plant in Ottawa. Although unfortunate the members from Local 70023 will no longer be working in their positions on April 1st 2020; GSU is currently collaborating with the employer for our members' best interest. The Joint Workforce Adjustment Committee have been meeting with members and PSPC to ensure the GSU members obtain all their rights under the appendix.

We have also been successful in launching our new GSU Website with a fresh new look and information. We would ask if you have any suggestions or ideas for the website to send them to the National Office. This is your website and we want to provide you with the information and tools you need in supporting and representing GSU members.

Well we are celebrating the year with family and friends we need to acknowledge that we are without a collective agreement for our members under the PA, SV, TC and EB groups.

The Public Interest Commission will be meeting in December and January and if an agreement is not reached then it is important for our members to be prepared to mobilize. We need to show this government that we deserve a contract that will provide the financial means to support our families and we need to be compensated fairly and equitably for the damages caused by Pheonix.

In the new year, we want to remind you in September 2020, delegates will be attending the GSU Triennial Convention. We are encouraging all GSU Locals to elect delegates to convention as well as preparing resolutions to be presented at convention. The Triennial Convention is the governing body that directs the component for the next three years. Also, Locals are reminded to elect delegates to attend the PSAC Regional Conventions occurring in your regions.

The new year will be busy with collective bargaining and conventions and with the business of supporting and representing members.

I would like thank all the Local Officers, Regional Vice-Presidents and National Vice-Presidents for the work they are doing in supporting and representing GSU members. I would also like to thank the National Office staff for the work they do ensuring the smooth operation of the National Office

We want to wish you and your families happy holidays and a happy new year.

In Solidarity,



Eye on GSU

GSU Equity Committee Introduction

Members of GSU Equity Committee

Kelly Bush

National Vice-President – Equity

Shanny Doucet

Regional Vice-President – New-Brunswick & PEI

Michèle Parent

Regional Vice-President – Western Quebec

Sue Soubra Boone

Regional Vice-President – Ontario

Reni Stein

Regional Vice-President – B.C. & Yukon

Larissa Williams

Regional Vice-President – Manitoba & Saskatchewan

Mohammed Abo El Ella
Equity Officer – Manitoba & Saskatchewan

Kamla Ishmael

Member of Local 00027



Did you know that Government Services Union has an equity committee that represents members in all 6 regions and with all 3 employer groups? The equity committee has been part of GSU's structure since its inception 20 years ago. However, it has not always been a position chaired by a National Vice President. The position was merged into an NVP position in the 2011 convention. This change came about as a structure committee recommendation.

The committee now consists of the NVP-Equity as the chair and then there are regional and employer representation. So, there is a person from each region and the 3 employers (The Royal Canadian Mint, Shared Services Canada and Public Services Procurement Canada). Each member belongs to an equity group although it's not required. We have developed priorities for this term which involve informing our members about us and what we do, encouraging curiosity, questions and engagement. However, our big priority is getting at the table to develop the relationships with the employer to provide input into the employment equity plan, push the equity agenda and keep the conversation going through all levels of the organization with an equity lens. We are working to be the authority on equity issues so that if you or a member you know has a concern that they feel is equity related, they can come to us for advice and guidance or simply talk about it.

We meet annually and we are willing and able to discuss and share information. We are here to grow our network and while GSU can only support the members to attend these meetings, we can support the transfer of knowledge in our locals, regions, departments and throughout the broader labour movement. We are involved in our PSAC councils and committees.

We want to hear from you and would love to talk to you about what we do. Our picture with names are here, please if you see us, talk to us...we may not have all the answers but I bet we can find them!

On the Radar

Public Interest Commission (PIC) dates

The Labour Board has announced Public Interest Commission (PIC) hearing dates for PSAC's bargaining units representing federal government workers. Treasury Board GSU members fall under three units:

Program & Administration Services (PA)

Date: Dec 4-7

Operational Services (SV)

Date: Jan 22-24

Technical Services (TC)

Date: Dec 17-19

What is a Public Interest Commission (PIC)?

Once impasse is reached at the bargaining table, a PIC is established to help the parties reach an agreement.

The PIC is a panel of three people – a chairperson appointed by the Labour Board and nominees appointed by the union and management. The union and the employer submit briefs and explain their positions on the outstanding issues at a hearing with the PIC.

The PIC then issues a report with recommendations for settlement. The recommendations are not binding.

Once the PIC releases its reports the union's bargaining teams will meet to discuss the recommendations.

We expect the PIC reports to be issued in 2020.



What is new in the office?

A couple changes occurred at the GSU national office. First, GSU would like to congratulate Brother Craig Spencer from the representation team on his retirement. Speaking of the representation section, GSU would like to welcome its newest member, Brother Wael Afifi our new Senior Union representative.

GSU NATIONAL OFFICE

Randy Howard
National President

Maria Thomas
Executive Assistant to the National President

Wael Afifi
Senior Union Representative

Dominique Barrette
Executive Coordinator to the National President

Monique Desrosiers
Finance & Administration Officer

Stephanie Ehler
Union Representative

Paulette Michon-Hamelin
Union Representative

Logan Lafleur
Administrative Assistant to the National Office

Diane Rancourt
Administrative Assistant to the National Office

Neola Sanders
Administrative Assistant to the Union Representatives

Jennifer York
IT Assistant

GSU BURSARY WINNERS FOR 2019

Every year, three bursaries of \$1,000 are given to dependents of GSU members who are attending full time studies. This year we have also added the \$1,000 Bob Haywood bursary for a total of 4 Bursaries.

The **Bonnie Robichaud Bursary** has been awarded to Katelin Beliveau, daughter of Jackie Beliveau from Local 60018, Atlantic Region.

The **Jim Williams Memorial Bursary** has been awarded to **Dominik Drozdowski**, son of Anthony Drozdowski from Local 80052, Atlantic Region.

The **A.F. Wood Memorial Bursary** has been awarded to **Robert Greer**, son of Melody Greer from Local 90031, Atlantic Region.

The **Bob Haywood Memorial Bursary** has been awarded to **Taryn McLachlan**, from Local 80052, Atlantic Region.

Take Action, Get Involved



UPCOMING EVENTS

GSU office will be closed from December 24 to January 1st

January 2020

- 14 Local 80052 AGM
- 15 Local 30401 AGM
- 16 Local 70019 AGM
- 30 Local 70013 AGM

February 2020

- 18 Local 20001 AGM
- 19 Local 20008 AGM

March 2020

- 3 Local XPW75 AGM

April 2020

- 22-23 GSU National Council

September/October 2020

28-1st GSU Triennial Convention

Contact Us!

1-888-220-2414

info@gsu-ssg.com

2019 GSU Young Workers Summit

On November 5-7, 24 GSU young workers gathered in Ottawa for the 2019 GSU Young Workers Summit. The Summit was led by Bruce Roy – *National Vice-President*, Kevin Hanson – *RVP, NCR* and Larissa Williams – *RVP, Manitoba & Saskatchewan*, with the assistance of Dominique Barrette – *GSU Executive Coordinator* and Maria Thomas – *Executive Assistant to the National President*.



This one-time event, originating from a resolution that was adopted at the 2017 Convention, was the opportunity for the GSU to immerse itself in the reality of young workers and better understand what concerns them at work. The Summit generated several interesting discussions and some of the participants expressed the interest in getting involved with their Local.

Next steps will be for the participants to review the mandate and terms of reference that will be shared with them. Once finalized, it will be brought forward at the next GSU National Council in April in order to establish an official internal Young Workers Committee.

We Want to Hear from You!

Have a story idea or some suggestions? Contact Dominique Barrette, Executive Coordinator: barrettd@psac-afpc.com



HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON TO ALL GSU MEMBERS, OFFICERS AND STAFF!!

