

# Government Services Union



Summer 2021

Comrades, Sisters and Brothers,

There is little over a month left to go before GSU's triennial convention and, to those who are coming, I would like to thank you all for registering to attend. The union is nothing without its active members, and for us to continue as a thriving, democratic organization, we need people like you to provide their input and help us make decisions.

This, the 8th GSU Triennial Convention, will be our largest ever, with well over 100 delegates. Our delegates will come from across the country but as a change, they will be able to do so in their communities, participating as full delegates online. The profound changes that are reshaping the way that we work, and the way that we represent our members will be in full view at this convention. This virtual convention will be the first of its kind for our component and we are excited to experience these changes.

Our delegates, as you know, will elect representatives for the next two (2) years in office and decide on policy that will shape the direction of this union for the generations to come. For a union to remain vital, it needs the full participation of its members. To that end, we have added to this newsletter information to help you navigate the convention.

On page 2 we have information about the virtual platform that we will be using, on page 3 we have information about the rules of order for virtual meetings and the convention agenda. On page 3 as well, we have included information about nomination procedures and how you can become a candidate for office.

Finally, we have included information in this newsletter on GSU bursaries. I am happy to announce that we have extended the deadline for submission for bursaries so, if you know a promising student or member, please don't hesitate to encourage them to apply.

Also, don't forget to submit your union leave as soon as possible to your employer. If there are any issues with your Employer approving your union leave letter, please communicate directly with the National Office.

In solidarity,

Randy Howard  
GSU National President



## Virtual platform reminder

On Monday, October 4th, the virtual platform training will take place. This training will give delegates the tools to participate in our convention online and help us get ourselves ready. The following day, the first ever virtual GSU Convention will take place.

To help you get prepared, we have some important information regarding the upcoming Convention.

### ACCESSING THE VIRTUAL PLATFORM

On September 29<sup>th</sup>, you will receive an email which will provide you with a link to the virtual platform as well as your username and password for the site. More details will follow in September.

### TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS: REMINDER TO DOWNLOAD ZOOM AND CHROME

Prior to the Virtual Platform Training session, please ensure that you have the latest version of Zoom (<https://zoom.us/download>) installed on your computer (or device from which you'll be taking the training). We also recommend using the Chrome browser ([https://www.google.com/intl/en\\_ca/chrome/](https://www.google.com/intl/en_ca/chrome/)) For the Virtual Platform.

A desktop or laptop computer is the best way to get the most out of the virtual convention experience. If you do not have access to a desktop computer or laptop, a tablet or smart device may be used as well. However, tablets and smart devices are not the best option for convention delegates.

### TECHNOLOGY

For the best sound quality, we recommend using an external microphone and headphones when possible. Wired headsets are preferred, however Bluetooth headsets can work as well, just make sure the battery is fully charged.

If you have any accessibility concerns, please contact the National Office.

Please don't forget to test all technology (including camera/video, Wi-Fi, microphone, earbuds, etc.) before the convention.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact the National Office. For the latest information on the Convention, please visit our website [HERE](#).



## Procedures for nomination

While we will be accepting nominations from the floor during the Convention, as a response to the pandemic, nominations in advance of the Convention are strongly encouraged. We will be accepting nominations for National President, National Vice-President (Equity), National Vice-President, and Regional Vice-Presidents from all regions.

Attached to this document email, find the nomination form. Please be sure to fill in all sections, ensure they are signed, and specify the position that the nomination is for.

Any GSU member in good standing may be nominated for a position, subject to any qualifying requirements in By Law 8: Elections of National Officers regarding each position. Nominators and seconders must also be members in good standing and must clearly state their name and contact information on the nomination form. Although the member being nominated does not have to be at convention, the nominator and seconder must be delegates at convention.

### DECLARED CANDIDATES

Declared candidates are those who have filed their nomination papers, thereby officially declaring they are running for office. All declared candidates for the national officer positions are entitled to receive an electronic list of the names and email addresses of all registered delegates and registered observers with their corresponding local affiliation. All lists are to be provided in PDF format.

Declared candidates for national officer positions will also be able to participate in the all candidates Forum on Thursday, October 7<sup>th</sup>.

All declared candidates for positions elected in Regional Caucuses are entitled to receive an electronic list of the names and email addresses of registered delegates and registered observers for their region.

## Documents for the Convention

### NOMINATION FORMS

Nomination forms are available. You can find them [HERE](#) on the website or attached to this email. Please have these forms submitted by September 24<sup>th</sup>.

### RULES OF ORDER

The GSU has adapted rules of order from the PSAC for virtual conventions. We will be reviewing this information with the delegates ahead of the Convention during our virtual training session.

You can find the Rules of Order on our website ([Link](#)) – or attached to this email.

### AGENDA FOR THE CONVENTION

The agenda for Convention has been finalized, please review and add the information to your calendar.

You can find the agenda on our website ([Link](#)) – or attached to this email.

## GSU Bursaries 2021

### Reminder notice for the bursaries

#### Deadline Extended to September 30, 2021

Government Services Union offers three Bursaries to dependents of GSU members attending postsecondary educational institutions. The bursaries are worth \$1,000.00 each. Please refer to the criteria in the **A.F. Wood, Jim Williams and Bonnie Robichaud** Bursaries Application Package on how to apply for the bursaries.

Government Services Union also offers one bursary to a GSU member in good standing attending **part-time** or **full time** post-secondary education. The bursary is worth \$1,000.00. Please refer to the criteria in the **Bob Haywood Memorial Bursary** Application Package on how to apply for the bursary.

Completed application packages must be received in the GSU National Office by **September 30, 2021**. If you have any questions about these bursaries, please call the GSU National Office at 613-560-4395 or 1-888-220-2414.

You can find those forms here on the website ([link](#)).

### Contact us :

Phone number: [1-888-220-2414](tel:1-888-220-2414) or [613-560-4395](tel:613-560-4395)

Email: [info@gsu-ssg.com](mailto:info@gsu-ssg.com)