

# GOVERNMENT SERVICES UNION



GSU Newsletter  
Autumn 2020

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## From Randy Howard, National President

2020 has been a turbulent year. Every member of our union has had to make changes both at work and at home. I salute all of you taking care of children or elderly parents as you represent GSU members.

This past summer, our PSAC negotiating team reached an agreement for our sisters and brothers in the PA, SV and TC groups. Our members had been without a contract for 2 years, we can now enjoy the security that comes with the protection of a collective agreement.

But this pandemic has shown that the union movement isn't just about getting fair pay; it is about ensuring that the lives of workers are considered by employers. We



have been meeting with employers throughout this pandemic to ensure that the safety of our members is at the top of any discussion of a return to work.

Similarly, across this country, there are new demands for accountability and inclusion in the workplace. The Black Lives Matter protests are a reminder that we still need to work for a society free from discrimination. The GSU will continue to speak up for its members in cases of discrimination and we will continue to fight against systemic racism.

Our work at the GSU continues amidst many changes. The PSAC has relaxed reporting requirements for locals. While this means that Local AGMs can be delayed, we continue to develop ways of holding AGMs online. We want to ensure that Locals have what they need during this pandemic.

The GSU National Office continues to function, although we are all working from home. There is no set date for a return to the office but rest assured that the work is being done.

I would like to thank the Staff of the GSU and our elected officials for the work you do during these unprecedented times. This is a union and we will get through this by working together.

Thank you all,

**Randy Howard**  
GSU National President

### **NATIONAL COUNCIL**

#### National Officers

**Randy Howard**  
President

**Martine Babcock**  
Vice-President

**Kelly Bush**  
Vice-President (Equity)

**Bruce Roy**  
Vice-President

#### Regional Vice-Presidents

**Atlantic**  
**Shanny Doucet**  
**Anthony Drozdowski**  
**Leanne Moss**

**Quebec**  
**Mélanie Hamel**  
**Michèle Parent**

**NCR**  
**Kevin Hanson**  
**Pascal Ladouceur**  
**Paul Paquette**  
**Nicole Rousseau**

**Ontario**  
**Sue Soubra Boone**  
**Azra Jusuf**

**Western**  
**Heather Rawlins**  
(acting)  
**Larissa Williams**

**Pacific**  
**Linda Harding**  
**Reni Stein**  
**Royal Canadian Mint**  
**Jeannette Fillion**

## The Pandemic and your Health

As the COVID-19 pandemic grows, our lives keep changing. For many, that means being on the front lines, or juggling childcare and work so you can continue providing important services to Canadians from your workplace or home. GSU is working to protect your health and safety and get you the support you need.

People may be struggling with these new measures and this new "normal". If you feel stressed and overwhelmed, know that there are places you can reach out to for help. Here are some resources that may assist you.

<http://psacunion.ca/covid-19-mental-health-resources-cope>

For government employees: contact the 24-7:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/environmental-workplace-health/occupational-health-safety/employee-assistance-services/employee-assistance-program.html> (Employee Assistance Program EAP)

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/environmental-workplace-health/occupational-health-safety/employee-assistance-services/specialized-organizational-services.html> (Specialized Organizational Service SOS).

## Update on Collective Bargaining

The Government Services Union is proud to represent more than 9000 members across the country—workers at PSPC, SSC as well as the RCM. Our Brothers and Sisters in the PA, TC and SV groups recently had to vote on their tentative Collective Agreement. This past month, members in the PA, SV & TC groups voted in favor of their tentative agreements.

This new collective agreement covers 2018-21 and provides for fair wages, no concessions and improved working conditions.

### Next Steps

In the coming weeks, PSAC will meet with Treasury Board representatives in order to sign the new collective agreement. Except for monetary provisions, which are retroactive, new contract terms come into effect on the date of signing.

The employer then has 180 days from the signing of the contract to implement wage increases, wage adjustments and allowances. As explained in the ratification kits, PSAC has negotiated a \$500 lump sum payment into all contracts.



## 2021 GSU Triennial National Convention

Covid 19 has delayed our convention, but we are making plans for it to take place in a safe and secure environment.

In a little over a year, over 100 GSU elected delegates will attend the GSU Triennial Convention to set the guiding principles for the Union. The Triennial National Convention is the supreme governing body of GSU. Every three years, delegates from Locals across the country come together for this gathering. Delegates elect our national officers as well as the Regional Vice-presidents, and vote on resolutions to democratically set the priorities and direction of the union and guide the work of leaders in the interest of every GSU member. This is the GSU's 8th Triennial Convention.

You can consult minutes of the last GSU Convention on GSU website at: <https://gsu-ssg.com/en/gsu/governance-of-gsu/triennial-national-convention>

Your local will provide you with more information.

### GSU NATIONAL OFFICE

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National President

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Executive Assistant to the National President

*Wael Afifi*  
Senior Union Representative

*Jason Manchester*  
Executive Coordinator to the National President

*Monique Desrosiers*  
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*Stephanie Ehler*  
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