



Government Services Union

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NEWSLETTER 2020-01

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From GSU's President...

Comrades, Sisters and Brothers,

The lives of Canadians have been turned upside down by the global COVID-19 pandemic for more than two months now. In no time, you had to adapt to a new reality, some confined at home, while others continue to go to work, but in a very different environment.

Since the beginning of this unprecedented situation, GSU has been in constant communication with the various employers to ensure that the concerns of GSU members are heard and addressed immediately. So far, I must admit that in most cases, the various employers have collaborated very well with GSU. We have made the employers aware that the unknown of this pandemic creates its share of mental health issues among our members.

The path to a return to normalcy will be long and arduous and there will be a before and after pandemic. Not only will workplaces as we know them will never be the same, but the way we work will also have to adapt to new realities.



No matter what the future brings, GSU will continue to put the health and safety of our members at the heart of its priorities.

I would like to recognize the work of GSU elected officers who help and support our members every day. Despite the circumstances, you continue to defend the rights of our members with conviction.

Finally, thank you, GSU members, for your resilience. I am confident that this crisis will make GSU stronger.

Take care of yourself and your loved ones. Together we will persevere.

In Solidarity.

Randy Howard
GSU National President



Useful Resources

Mental health resources

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

TBS directive in link with COVID-19

<https://www.canada.ca/en/government/publicservice/covid-19.html>

On the Radar

GSU and COVID-19

Within weeks, nearly every aspect of Canadians' lives changed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As days went by, streets were empty, events were being canceled, parks, restaurants, businesses in general were closing, people were staying at home, unable to visit family or friends. Running errands became a stressful situation, online shopping and curbside pick-up became the new "norm". Our borders have closed, employees have been asked to work from home, others are deemed essential and therefore must report to work, putting themselves at risk daily. Our childhood heroes as we know them have all disappeared temporarily as all our frontline workers have become the heroes! People are noticing that most work can be done from home, the people who are too often left in the shadow are the ones out there working for us every day.

COVID-19 has brought a lot of disruption for our members as well. Some of our members performing critical work, such as pay and pension, continue to report to work, while others have been teleworking since March. In some cases, members unable to perform work can use code 699 – Other Leave with Pay*.

Since the beginning of this pandemic, GSU has been in daily contact with the different employers. While the discussions first focused more on how to prevent the spread of the virus within the workplace and what measures to take, over the past few weeks, the impact of this crisis on members' mental health has been at the core of GSU's concerns.

The workplaces as we know them will never be the same. As the employers are getting ready for a gradual reopening and return to work, GSU members will have to adapt to new environments and protocols. This can potentially bring more stress in our members' lives and GSU will ensure that employers are mindful of the impact of this new reality on members' mental health and that measures are put in place to alleviate any add-on stress.

As members' health and safety are GSU's top priority, we will continue to collaborate with the three employers to ensure that they too, put the members first.

**for PSPC and SSC members.*

Conventions 2020

In normal circumstances, all PSAC Components and Regions would have had their Triennial Convention in 2020. However, with everything that has been going on since mid-March 2020 regarding COVID-19, PSAC had to make important decisions in regards to these events.

After considering different options, PSAC's National Board of Directors* decided to postpone all Conventions. **This is the first time in PSAC history that such a decision had to be made.** This means that all PSAC Regional Conventions, as well as Components' Conventions will be held in 2021. It also means that PSAC National Convention scheduled for 2021, will also have to be postponed a year and will now be held in 2022.

Finding a new date for GSU's Triennial Convention was not easy as all 2020 canceled events are being rescheduled in 2021. That said we are happy to inform that **GSU 8th Triennial Convention will take place from October 5th to October 7th** at the Delta Hotel in Ottawa. Convention is where National council is elected and where delegates vote on resolutions and a new budget.

To learn more about GSU Convention, visit our website:
<https://gsu-ssg.com/en/gsu/governance-of-gsu/triennial-national-convention/gsu-2020-convention>

GSU BURSARY 2020 Applications are now open!

Every year, the Government Services Union offers three bursaries to dependents of GSU members attending post-secondary educational institutions: The *A.F. Wood Bursary*, the *Jim Williams Bursary* and the *Bonnie Robichaud Bursary*.

Each bursary is worth \$1,000

Since 2019, the Government Services Union also offers one bursary to a GSU member in good standing attending part-time or full-time post-secondary education, the *Bob Haywood Memorial Bursary*.

The bursary is worth \$1,000

To learn more, go to:

<https://gsu-ssg.com/en/gsu/gsu-bursary-and-awards/gsu-bursary>



What is new in the office?

As of June 15th, our Executive Coordinator, Sister Barrette, will be starting her maternity leave! GSU is going through a staffing process to find someone to replace her.

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
Finance and Administrative Assistant

Diane Rancourt
Communication and Administrative Assistant

Neola Sanders
Administrative Assistant to the Union Representatives

Jennifer York
IT Assistant

Take Action, Get Involved



UPCOMING EVENTS

Currently, all events scheduled for the Summer and Fall of 2020 have been canceled or postponed to 2021.

October 2021

5 - 7 GSU Triennial
Convention

Want to get involved in your Union?

Here's different ways to do so!

Learn about your Union and who your Local representatives are

This is the starting point – learning about GSU and getting to know your Local representatives will help you better understand how everything works!

Help out your Local

Locals are always on the lookout for help on the field, whether to share information, mobilize members or organize social events.

Attend your Local Annual General Meeting

Attending your Local AGM is a great way to learn more about the business of your Local. It is also the occasion for you to exercise your rights as a member by voting for your Local representatives, budget of the Local and other resolutions.

Become a Shop Steward for your Local

Shop Stewards are usually the first point of contact for a member who is experiencing issues in the workplace. They are the presence at work, defending the collective agreement and members' rights. Locals are never short of shop stewards.

Join a regional PSAC Committees

Each PSAC Regions have multiple committees that you can join. For some of them, you must be part of a specific demographic group, others are open to everyone. Contact your PSAC regional office for more information.

We Want to Hear from You!

Have a story idea or some suggestions? Contact Diane Rancourt, Communication and Administrative Assistant: rancourtd@psac-afpc.com

Contact Us!

1-888-220-2414

info@gsu-ssg.com