

Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) Government Services Union (GSU)
National Vice-President (NVP) Report

Kevin Hanson | July 2022 – September 2022

With the summer months blowing by so quickly, I had the opportunity to sit back and take some well needed vacation time off. Union work can take its toll on it's elected leaders, so it is really important to use those vacation benefits that unions have fought for throughout the years!

At the start of summer, I thought it would be a good idea to have virtual GSU committee meetings with committee participants, to close any loops on items discussed throughout the earlier months, and wish everyone a wonderful summer. However, the Young Workers committee did decide to meet in the summer for an in-person meeting, since participants needed to be selected for the GSU Young Workers conference. The committee also worked on developing the conference agenda, and worked on other logistics needed to make the conference a success. I took the summer months to review the items discussed in the Education, Local Development and Young Workers Committees and I was able to help the committee develop several resolutions that we believe will help GSU remain on a successful course. I look to National Council for their support on these resolutions.

I continue to mentor and educate GSU elected leaders at all levels when the opportunity arises, and continue to fulfill the SSC portfolio assigned to me by the National President. On a number of occasions, I have raised issues up the SSC chain of command, like the firewall issue that seemed to have prevented our members from communicating with their managers and supervisors from their personal email accounts. I have also set up meetings with the various new players in the Labour Relations team, and have invited the Regional and Local level union representatives to these meetings. I was also able to organize and facilitate a meeting between the SSC Ombuds and the Regional and Local representative, who represent the vast majority of our SSC members, and the meeting was well received.

I continue to participate in the various committees I am a part of at SSC, but most of them took a break over the summer months. One committee that I am heavily involved in that did not take time off, is the SSC Bill C-65 working group, which is a sub-committee from the SSC NHSPC. I was selected as the employee co-chair of the committee and have been able to flag issues regarding the violence and harassment prevention policy that SSC is trying to implement. I have also been able to work with the GSU National Office to help develop a way for us to vet harassment investigators, that the employer wants us to approve at the NHSPC level. I will continue to vet these investigators with the questionnaire provided by the PSAC, prior to approving any investigators within the NHSPC at SSC.

I also want to thank the National President for bringing me in as a technical advisor for two separate PSAC NBOD meetings, where I had the opportunity to learn more about how the PSAC governing body works, and had a chance to fill in for the National President while he had to step away for a few hours to chair a Phoenix Committee meeting. It was a great mentoring opportunity!

It has been a wonderful summer, and I want to take the time to encourage those who have not yet found time to relax and recharge their mental health, to do so moving into the fall. Afterall, it is really important to find time for your friends and family but it is most important to find time for yourself. Nothing beats some well-deserved self-care. Keep up the great work everyone!

Sincerely,

Kevin Hanson

National Vice-President (NVP) of the Government Services Union (GSU)