By-laws, Regulations  
and Policies

Government Services Union, PSAC

Local 20008

Amended as approved at the Annual General Meeting on February 10, 2015

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# By-law 1 - Name and Jurisdiction

**Section 1** – This Local shall be known as Vancouver Local 20008 of the Government Services Union (GSU), Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC).

**Section 2** – The jurisdiction of this Local shall be as determined from time to time by the National Council of the GSU, PSAC.

# By-law 2 - Objectives

**Section 1** – This Local shall protect, maintain and advance the interests of the members coming under its jurisdiction.

**Section 2** – This Local shall subscribe unconditionally to and accept as its governing documents, the Constitution of the PSAC, the By-Laws of the GSU, and these By-Laws.

# By-law 3 - Authority and Responsibilities

**Section 1** – The Local shall have the authority to deal with management representatives in their locality on matters affecting the interests of the membership. The Local shall also have the authority to initiate action on matters having broader effect than the interests of the Local membership, by submission in writing to the National Council or by resolution to the Triennial National Convention of the Union or to the relevant body of the PSAC.

**Section 2** – The Local may designate one of its elected officers as a full-time officer of the Local and may employ a person or persons to assist in carrying out the work of the Local. Any financial undertaking shall be the sole and exclusive responsibility of the Local.

**Section 3** – The Local may acquire such space and facilities as may be necessary for the conduct of the affairs of the Local. Any financial undertaking shall be the sole and exclusive responsibility of the Local.

**Section 4** – The Executive shall have the authority to establish any committee it deems necessary for the conduct of Local business.

**Section 5** – The Local may adopt regulations for the conduct of the affairs of the Local. Such regulations shall not in any way conflict with the provisions of the Constitution of the PSAC or of the GSU By-laws.

# By-law 4 - Membership

**Section 1 – Regular**: The Local shall be composed of all members of the GSU in its jurisdiction, as determined from time to time by the National Council.

**Section 2 – Associate:** The Local may retain as associate members former members of the Local whose employment has been terminated. Associate members shall not be eligible to hold elected office in the Union, shall have voice but no vote in meetings of the Local, but may be accorded such other privileges of membership for such length of time as may be provided by the Local.

**Section 3 – Honorary:** In accordance with the appropriate regulation, the Local may award an Honorary Membership to any person who is ineligible for Regular or Associate Membership and whose service to this Local is considered to merit such honor. An Honorary Member shall not be entitled to vote nor to hold office, but shall be entitled to all other rights and privileges of a Regular Member and shall be exempt from paying dues to this Local.

**Section 4 – Life:**

1. Awards of Life Membership in this Local may be given to any member whose exemplary service to this Local is considered to merit such honor. The Local may award this honor in accordance with the applicable regulation.
2. A Life Member who is eligible for Regular Membership shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges of a Regular Member and shall be exempt from paying dues to this Local.
3. A Life Member who is not eligible for Regular Membership shall not be entitled to vote at meetings, nor to hold elective office, nor to represent this Local as a voting delegate at any Convention of the PSAC, this Union or other Component of the PSAC, but shall be entitled to all other rights and privileges of a Regular member and shall not be required to pay dues.

**Section 5** – Upon applying for membership, each member is deemed to have agreed to abide by and to be bound by the provisions of the Constitution of the PSAC, the By-laws of the GSU, and these Local By-laws.

# By-law 5 - Membership dues

**Section 1** – Each member of this Local shall pay such dues as set by the Convention of the PSAC, by the Convention of the GSU and by this Local.

**Section 2** – The amount of Local membership dues for Regular Members shall be established by a two thirds (b) majority vote of the members present at the Annual General Meeting or a meeting called for the purpose of establishing dues.

**Section 3** – Associate, Life and Honorary Members of this Local shall be exempt from paying dues.

# By-law 6 - Executive Committee

**Section 1** – The Executive Committee of this Local shall consist of a President, three (3) Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer, Area Council Delegate(s) and an Equity Officer.

**Section 2** – The Immediate Past President shall be a member of the Executive Committee, for a period of one year after the election of his/her successor, with voice, but no vote as long as they remain a member in good-standing of the Local.

**Section 3** – The members of the Executive Committee, (except the Immediate Past-President,) shall be nominated and elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Local, and shall hold office until the date of the next Annual General Meeting.

**Section 4** – The Executive Committee shall conduct the business of the Local between general meetings.

**Section 5** – The Local Executive, in the absence of financial guidelines under the budget, has the authority to expend up to three hundred dollars ($300) for any one article without prior approval at a Special General Meeting or the Annual General Meeting, subject to filing a full report at the next general meeting. Total expenditures under this section are not to exceed ten percent (10%) of the current budget.

**Section 6** – If the office of Local President becomes vacant for any reason, the first elected Local Vice-President will fill the position, in accordance with Local By-law 7, Section 2 a.

If an elected officer other than Local President becomes vacant for any reason, the Local Executive Committee may appoint a replacement on an interim basis.

At the next General Membership Meeting, the Executive must conduct an election following the procedure outlined in the PSAC Rules of Order to fill the vacant position for the remainder of the original term of office.

# By-law 7 - Duties of Officers

**Section 1** – The **President** shall:

1. Convene and preside at all special and regular meetings of the Executive Committee and the Local;
2. Submit a written Activity Report to the Annual General Meeting of the Local covering the period between Annual General Meetings;
3. In consultation with the Local Executive, deal with local representatives of the employer on matters affecting the interests of the members of the local;
4. Attend the GSU Triennial Convention as a delegate from the local;
5. Perform other duties as may be assigned by the Executive Committee;
6. Appoint a Vice-President to oversee the Steward Network and be responsible for ensuring that all grievances and appeals are adequately represented;
7. Participate on Regional Consultation Committees if requested by the Regional Vice-President and if approved, by the GSU National President;
8. Participate on GSU Standing Committees if requested by the GSU National President.

**Section 2** – The **Vice-Presidents** shall:

1. Assist the President in his or her duties and replace the President when requested to do so, or in the case of absence, incapacity, resignation, or death;
2. Attend all meetings of the Executive Committee and of the Local;
3. Perform other duties as may be assigned by the Executive Committee.

**Section 3** – The **Secretary** shall:

1. Attend all meetings of the Local and Executive Committee;
2. Keep an accurate account of the proceedings of each meeting and distribute the minutes in a timely manner to the appropriate members and the GSU National Office;
3. Be responsible for maintaining proper files of documents and all correspondence;
4. Perform such other duties as pertain to the office or as are assigned by the Executive Committee.

**Section 4** – The **Treasurer** shall:

1. Be responsible for keeping a true account of the financial records of the Local;
2. Shall submit a financial statement to all regular and Executive meetings of the Local and shall submit an audited annual financial statement to the National President of GSU within thirty (30) days following the Local’s Annual General Meeting.
3. Collect all moneys payable to the Local and deposit such funds in a financial institution approved by the Executive Committee in the name of the Local;
4. Be responsible for the disbursement of funds payable by the Local in settlement of its just debts;
5. Attend all meetings of the Executive Committee and of the Local;
6. Perform other such duties as pertain to the Office or as are assigned by the Executive Committee;
7. Ensure that an up-to-date listing of all members is kept.

**Section 5** – The **Area Council Delegate(s)** shall:

1. Attend all meetings of the Area Council
2. Report to the Executive Committee

**Section 6** – The **Equity Officer** shall:

1. Attend all meetings of the Executive Committee and the Local.
2. Representing Local and Regional employer Employment Equity Committees.
3. Acting as a resource person within our Local to address equity issues.
4. Ensuring that equity issues from the Local are directed to the appropriate levels within the department.
5. Report to the Executive Committee.

**Section 7** – General

Any officer of the Local, on vacating an office, shall deliver all documents, moneys or other property of the Local to his or her successor or to the President.

# By-law 8 - Shop Stewards

**Section 1** – The Executive Committee shall arrange for the election or where necessary, the appointment of Shop Stewards.

**Section 2** – Upon his/her election or appointment, the steward must have, agree to complete, or upgrade to the latest PSAC sponsored Building Union Solidarity Training Course, as soon as possible.

# By-law 9 - Meetings

**Section 1** – Executive Committee Meetings

1. The Executive Committee shall endeavor to hold regular monthly meetings for the proper conduct of the Local’s affairs.
2. Executive Committee meetings will be open to the general membership. Notices of these meetings will be placed on bulletin boards and/or by e-mail advising the membership of the time and location of the meetings.
3. A quorum for Executive Committee meetings shall be a simple majority of elected officers.

**Section 2** – Membership Meetings

1. The governing body of the Local shall be the Annual General Meeting which shall be held in February of each year.
2. Members of the Local shall be given advance notice of the scheduled Annual General Membership Meeting which include the time location and proposed agenda at least thirty (30) days before the meeting to give them time to prepare motions and amendments to the By-laws if they wish.
3. Regular Membership Meetings may be held as determined by the Local Executive or by decision of the membership at the Annual General Meeting.
4. The agenda for the Annual General Meeting shall be presented by the Executive Committee and shall include but not be limited to the following:
5. Call to Order by the Chairperson
6. Roll Call of Officers
7. Minutes of Previous Annual General Meeting
8. Report of President
9. Report of Treasurer
10. Audited Financial Statements
11. Approval of Budget
12. Committee Reports
13. Amendments to By-Laws, if any
14. Nomination and Election of Officers
15. Nomination and Election of Area Council Delegate(s)
16. Nomination and Election of Auditors
17. Other Business
18. Adjournment
19. A quorum for any General Membership Meeting, including the Annual General Membership Meeting, shall be a majority of the Local Executive Committee and at least 12 members (The Local shall set a specific number or percentage or combination, as determined by the Local).
20. A Special Membership Meeting shall be called at the request of a majority of the Local Executive or at the written request of 25% of the membership or 30 members( whichever is less.). **General Membership will have access to any relevant meeting minutes prior to any call for special meeting request being accepted (within the 30 day specified period).** The Local Executive shall decide the time and place, but, it shall be held within a period of thirty (30) calendar days of the request. A special meeting shall deal only with the matters for which it was called unless the members present agree by a two-thirds majority to consider other matters of an urgent or necessary nature.

**Section 3** – Rules of Order: All Local meetings shall be governed by PSAC Rules of Order, as published by the PSAC.

# By-law 10 - Election of Officers

**Section 1** – Election of officers shall take place at the Annual General Meeting and will follow the procedure outlined in the PSAC Rules of Order.

**Section 2** – The election of the President, Vice-President(s), Equity Officer, Secretary, Treasurer and Area Council Delegate(s) shall proceed in that order.

**Section 3** – The oath of office shall be administered to all officers immediately before taking office.

**Section 4** – All officers shall take office at the end of the meeting at which they are elected.

# By-law 11 - Finances

**Section 1** – The fiscal year of the Local shall be January 1 to December 31.

**Section 2**

1. Three members of the Local Executive shall be designated as signing officers, two of whom shall sign all cheques. Unless extraordinary circumstances arise, the Treasurer will be one of the signees.
2. The GSU staff person assigned the responsibility of Signing Officer will be an additional signing authority on every GSU Local Bank Account.
3. No disbursements shall be made without authorization by a General Membership Meeting unless such disbursements are within budgetary limits or in accordance with financial guidelines established at a General Membership Meeting.

**Section 3**

1. Auditors shall be nominated and elected at the Annual General meeting. Auditors shall not hold Executive Office in the Local.
2. The Treasurer shall submit a financial statement to all regular Membership Meetings of the Local and shall submit an audited financial statement to the National President of GSU within thirty (30) days following the Local’s Annual General Membership Meeting.
3. The Auditors shall audit the Local’s financial statements prior to the next Annual General Membership Meeting in order to present their report.

**Section 4** – The Local shall not enter into any financial contractual understanding or agreement without prior approval of the National Council of the Union. However, any such undertaking shall be the sole and exclusive responsibility of the Local.

**Section 5** – A budget must be approved at the Annual General Meeting.

**Section 6** – Funds of the Local shall be held in a chartered bank or savings institution approved by the executive, in the name of the Local.

**Section 7** – A Petty Cash Fund in the amount of $25.00 shall be held by the Treasurer. Disbursements of funds shall be supported by receipts.

**Section 8 –** That the local dues be increased by $2.50/member/month. This money is to be set aside to build a Local Strike Fund

**Section 9** – The Local shall have a Conventions Fund and shall every year set aside funds ($2000 per year or the amount to be determined by the membership) in the Annual Budget for the expenses of Delegates and Observers to all conventions approved by the membership.

**Section 10** – The Local Executive may employ a person as indicated in GSU Local 20008 By-law 3, Section 2 Authority and Responsibilities, to ensure the information contained on the local web site can be updated on an as required basis with input from the local membership; with an upper limit not to exceed $1500.

# By-law 12 - Discipline

**Section 1** – Should the Local fail to carry out the responsibilities required by the By-laws, the provisions of the By-laws of the GSU shall be applied.

**Section 2** – Any member or group of members found guilty of engaging in acts detrimental to the Local as detailed in the By-laws of the GSU, shall be subject to the disciplinary actions detailed therein. Actions taken under this By-law shall follow the procedures set out in the appropriate PSAC Regulation.

# By-law 13 - By-laws and Amendments

**Section 1** – Any proposed changes to these By-laws shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary at least thirty (30) days prior to the date set for a General Meeting.  Proposed amendments must be detailed in the Notice of Meeting.

**Section 2** – Amendments to these By-laws shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members attending the meeting.

**Section 3** – Any amendment shall become operative immediately upon adoption, unless otherwise specified, and shall be circulated to the membership of the Local, with a copy to the National President, GSU. These By-laws and any amendments thereto shall be subject to approval by the National Council of the GSU.

# By-law 14 - Charter

The members of this Local shall be bound by these By-laws and being so bound shall be entitled to receive the Charter of the GSU

# By-law 15 - General

**Section 1** – Representation at National Conventions – The Local President shall be an automatic Delegate to the GSU convention.  All other delegates who the Local is entitled to send to National Conventions shall be elected at a general meeting of the Local.

**Section 2** – Representation to Area Council Delegates to the Area Council shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Local.

# By-law 16 - Participation

**Section 1** – Only members of the Local may participate at meetings of the Local or its subordinate bodies, except, that non-members may participate in an advisory capacity if specifically requested to do so by the chairperson or person in charge of the meeting.

**Section 2** – The services provided by the local shall be made available in accordance with GSU policies to all members of this Local.

REGULATIONS and POLICIES

## **Regulation One – Local Financial Accounting**

**BUDGETS**

1. The Local must submit an annual budget to the Annual General Meeting.
2. The Local budget should include, but is not limited to:
3. Meeting expenses
4. Provision for training (shop stewards, local officers etc.)
5. Delegates and/or observers to Conventions (GSU/PSAC/BC-FED/CLC)
6. Communication expenses (postage, notices, bulletins etc.)
7. Honoraria
8. Executive expenses
9. Area Council per capita
10. Local funds should not be used for social and/or recreational activities unless they have direct Local membership application.
11. The budget, once approved, becomes the official guidelines for the expenditure of Local funds.
12. Notwithstanding that authority to expend funds is given with authority to approval of the budget; all actual expenditures must be reported to the Local at its general meeting and supported by acceptable accounting documents.

**EXPENSES**

1. All expenses of the Local must be supported by receipts and accurate records kept for audit purposes.
2. Each member who completes any PSAC course shall receive from the Local, an amount equal to the PSAC per diem expense.