



## MINUTES

Tuesday, March 3, 2015 – 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.  
Gatineau Regional Office – Philippe-Célestin Boardroom

**Present:** 13 members and André Poliquin (PSAC)

**Guests:** Diane Mitchell and Simone Powell from Solidarity Against Austerity (SAA) and Luc Carrière (PIPSC)

1. Welcoming remarks
2. Introductions
- 3. Approval of agenda**

**a. m/s/c**

4. Special Guests from Solidarity Against Austerity

Diane described the activities that the SAA movement is planning. There will be a march on May 1; the planning meeting is scheduled for this Saturday.

Simone described last year's march: from Place du Portage to Parliament, where they joined up with those marching from Ottawa. The event was very successful. SAA is expecting a lot of people this year and would like to create a solidarity movement with unions and community groups.

Discussion: SAA asked us to help promote the march (to draw more people) and to help with organization. CAPE and the Institute are already posting information on the Internet and on Facebook. SAA has just started organizing the march and would like to have some contacts at Place du Portage to help them. There were close to 80 people at Place du Portage last year.

Luc informed us there would be a BBQ at Place du Portage on May 1 starting at noon.

A member gave us some background on May 1.

5. 2015 elections

a. Work in the ridings

We need to start now by holding a small preliminary meeting to develop our message. We need to present the issues but not try to tell people whom to vote for. We should reach out to youth as well as community groups and organizations. Shopping malls can be expensive, and we do not have access to the Lac Leamy casino. Once the election period starts there will be a limit on spending. Voting takes place a minimum of 36 days after the election is called.

Organize community meetings. People feel more comfortable expressing their opinions outside work hours. We could target undecided voters and ridings where there is some weakness and work with the OAC to solidify our candidates and encourage our members to get out and vote.

Mark our availability on a calendar and organize ourselves into groups of two. Do some brainstorming. Invite people to hold discussions on Facebook.

Election debates at community centres. Invite neighbourhood associations. They are listed in the book for Gatineau. Retired teachers from AREQ. Blood drives. Association of retired public servants. Municipal councillors.

We could even host a late afternoon/early evening gathering with guests and have a question period. Seniors homes. Neighbourhood associations often go to visit seniors. We could have a presence at activities hosted by neighbourhood associations. We could contact media such as the CBC and Roch Cholette. Universities. The FTQ and the CSN. CLSCs and immigrant associations.

We need to decide on dates for our activities.

A member is willing to organize a candidates debate. This could take four to five weeks of preparation. Should we hold one in each of the three ridings? Neighbourhood associations are important. We need at least three volunteers to help. Possible dates: April 8, 15 and 22 in the evening.

Another member will contact seniors organizations.

We are asking for a meeting with the CSN on March 10 or 12.

March 17 is St. Patrick's Day (not a good day for activities).

Perhaps a late afternoon/early evening gathering on March 19; speak with people and listen to what they have to say.

We need to be careful not to become too scattered; we need to know what our objectives are and check on what other committees are doing.

b. Riding teams

We are looking at creating riding teams. We will need to see where we stand by the next meeting.

c. Report on planning meeting for CLC elections

There was a discussion of topical issues, including universal day care, sustainable pensions, good jobs and accessible centres. There needs to be a continued focus on the issues so that people can be engaged. Unionization has increased the number of good jobs. The omnibus bills and Bill C-51 could backfire on the Conservatives.

6. Political action

a. Video

We abandoned the idea of making a video to avoid scattering our energies. We can make one some other time.

b. Climate change march in Quebec City

A meeting will take place in Quebec City in late March, before the environment summit. We could organize an activity with the OAC and show that PSAC is standing up for the environment. There could be more than 350,000 people demonstrating at this event.

**Motion: That CRAPO charter a bus to go to the march in Quebec City.**

**m/s/c (1 abstention)**

7. Broadbent Institute Summit

The Progress Summit will be held at the Delta Ottawa on March 27 and 28. CRAPO can send five people. Three members are interested.

8. Other business

- a. A member described the situation for trans people and the fact that the government wants to take away their right to medication. A bill is already at first reading.

**Motion: That CRAPO support this cause.**

**m/s/c**

- b. A member informed us that a wall mural was being unveiled in the food court at Place du Portage on March 24 at noon. There will be a slam poet, and the bargaining team will be there as well.
- c. Another member gave us details concerning a video that was created for Women's Day. The video deals with the women's struggle that took place during the 1980s. The education committee has a copy of it that can be borrowed.

9. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.