

OAC Chairs Annual Report

The past year has been an active one for the Ottawa Area Council, with the current government and groups like the Canadian Independent Business Associations constant attacks on public servants, meant we had to be more visible and strategic in our activities. Our council needed to encourage more involvement of the regional membership and collaborate with other unions and the community.

OAC saw an increase of active members in the past year as a result of our campaign to reach out to locals and component RVPs to recruit delegates. Although this increase helped us to achieve our mandate to promote national and regional campaigns we still have not achieved 100% participation. This will continue to be an ongoing challenge to get all to become involved.

One way we hope to improve the council is to collaborate with other committees on political actions with in there mandates. The Ottawa Area Council has allocated funding access for other committees to apply for a political event or action organized and run by them. It was decided to do this so we can expand our number of event or actions and access and mobilize more members in these groups.

An important improvement over the past year was to become more involved in the broader labour movement in the region. We have been attending and supporting joint community and labour activist groups that have been created in this region and have formed and good working relationship with other unions like: CUPE, the Students Federation of Ottawa-u and Carleton-U, ACORN, OSSTF, ODLG, CAW, CUPW. This alliance with other unions and community groups as proven to be valuable when we have held actions and they show up to support.

In the past year the Ottawa Area Council has organized a number of events to support the current national campaign "We are All Affected". A major one was on September 15th 2012 when we held a BBQ at Confederation Park. The attendance was not what we expected but for those who attended it was a great experience and we did get to talk to many non public servants about the campaign. Another event was the "We are All Affected" employer BBQ campaign. Our van with PA system and guest speaker crashing BBQ's to explain about the cuts to Public Services and it's affects to all Canadians was a hit. Our most recent event was a food drive in Pierre Pollieviers Nepean – Carleton riding where its food bank was in need of food to meet its increase in demand. The Ottawa Area Council did a door to door collection and ran advertising in local media to support them and they were flooded with donations. This was our way of giving back to a community where most would not expect a need but due to the current government we are seeing more of a need.

So has you can see 2013 looks like we have our work cut our for the council but I know with the continued commitment of our current delegates and the support to come from all the NCR members we will continue to do what's needed to ensure that our members rights are respected.

In Solidarity

David Lanthier