

PSAC Young Workers Committee Report

Reporting Period: January 1, 2021 to November 6, 2021

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The PSAC-NCR Young Workers C PSAC-NCR Young Workers Committee (YWC) has worked hard to support important items raised by young workers who attended the committee meetings throughout the year. Over the course of the past almost 11 months, the committee has continued to support our members, and our partners through our dedicated commitment to a stronger, healthier, safer work force in these unprecedented times. While the pandemic has raged on in many parts of the country, here in the NCR we have been lucky in our numbers and the YWC has taken advantage of that whenever possible in a safe way in order to be present in our community, both that of PSAC and the communities in which our members live. This year, our focus has been community involvement, universal childcare, and creating a stronger Young Workers presence across the union and in the workplace.

At the beginning of the pandemic, the YWC began meeting in a safe and virtual space for our regular monthly meetings. For the first half of the year that was largely still the case, and continues to be the case today, however outside of regular monthly meetings, we have found ways to support our community in safe manners. Throughout the summer, the YWC participated in our second annual harvest at the Ottawa Food Bank Harvest Farm. Members of our committee were there on two separate occasions to gather and process fruits and vegetables for the Ottawa Food Bank and its partners. By volunteering at the farm, we helped to feeds families in need with fresh, organic, and healthy produce. This is a new tradition for us and one that we aim to maintain. It is not only a great opportunity to get outside and be in the same physical space again, in a safe way, but it provides all of us an opportunity to give back to our communities in which we live. We as a committee are always trying to come up with innovative solutions to the problems we face.

In addition to helping out at the farm in-person, our members also participated in special events and rallies in support of our communities and partners at large. Early in the spring some of our members were able to attend a rally at Lansdowne in support of Child Care Now Ottawa (CCNO), a partner organization of the YWC, to bring attention to the need for universal childcare and better wages and working conditions (such as less precarious work environments) for Early Childhood Educators and childcare providers. The issues of precarious work is something that the YWC has been rallying against for over two years now and working alongside out partners, like CCNO is just one of the ways we have done

that. To note, while precarious work within childcare is something that continues to be a cause we the YWC fight against as it affects many of our young families, the idea of precarious work is something that can and does affect members of all our committees in the NCR. Some of our members were also in attendance at a recent Horizon Ottawa rally in late October where we represented CCNO but also wore our PSAC YWC hats as well.

Not only have our members participated in rallies and events alongside our partners like CCNO and Horizon Ottawa, we have also gone out in strength to support our Indigenous brothers and sisters as we marched from the PSAC building to Parliament Hill on September 30 in solidarity. We also intend to be present at various Remembrance Day ceremonies as well.

Over the past year, we have also grown our presence across the Union as we have turned out for the PSAC-NCR Regional Convention in early spring and the GSU Nationals in October. At the GSU Convention we were able to use our high voting numbers to help pass many resolutions that make for more inclusion of young workers across Canada and at future conferences as well. We also have all our members that serve on multiple committees within the PSAC to bring our presence to the forefront. We are not yet considered an equity group but we are the only group that can theoretically inclusively encompass all other equity groups within our membership. As young workers we have the ability to bridge gaps where others may not be able to.

We also plan on volunteering and/or donating financially to a cause of our choosing over the holidays as well. That will be determined at our next monthly meeting in early December.

Finally, we have had a new log for us designed and will be using it on merchandise for our committee members and to help with recruitments as well. We also will be getting promotional material made with our new logo to us at possible future events when COVID-19 restrictions ease up or at outdoor gatherings.

As our committee membership and presence continues to grow, we the YWC look forward to continuing to be involved, learning, and aligning our priorities with our colleagues of all ages and diversities across PSAC and the communities in which we live. We look forward to the year ahead where we will have more community actions and support of our brothers and sisters across all sectors of PSAC and the NCR.

Sincerely,

PSAC-NCR Young Workers Committee