

Inter-government framework agreement on child care not good enough



PSAC's national campaign for a high-quality universal child care system is even more pressing with today's release of the federal-provincial-territorial framework agreement on early learning and child care.

"We have to continue to push, working with the entire child care movement and sector, because what was announced today is not good enough and does not live up to the Liberal Party's electoral promise to negotiate a framework agreement to make high quality affordable child care for all a reality," said PSAC National President Robyn Benson.

The framework agreement states that the first three-year transfer of federal funds to the provinces and territories for child care must focus on helping parents with the highest need, rather than help all families. Further the long-term objectives of the ten-year framework leave out a commitment to building a universally accessible system.

"There is a high need for affordable, inclusive, high-quality child care across the country, and PSAC has heard this time and time again from our members who are parents. So, it is frustrating that the framework agreement does not take a comprehensive approach to building a system that will respond to those universal needs," said Benson.

PSAC is encouraging all members to keep up the pressure so that the framework is adjusted in the future and that federal funding for child care is increased significantly.



Victory! Trans human rights to finally be protected under federal laws

PSAC celebrates the news that the Senate has finally adopted Bill C-16, which will enshrine trans rights into Canadian law. Bill C-16 finally passed the Senate on June 15, after passing the House of Commons in October 2016.

“This represents a huge step forward in defense of trans peoples’ right to work in an environment where they are respected and protected against prejudice and hate,” said Robyn Benson, PSAC National President.

Bill C-16 adds gender identity and gender expression as prohibited grounds of discrimination under the Canadian Human Rights Act. It also adds gender identity and gender expression to the list of distinguishing characteristics of “identifiable groups” protected by the hate speech provisions in the Criminal Code.

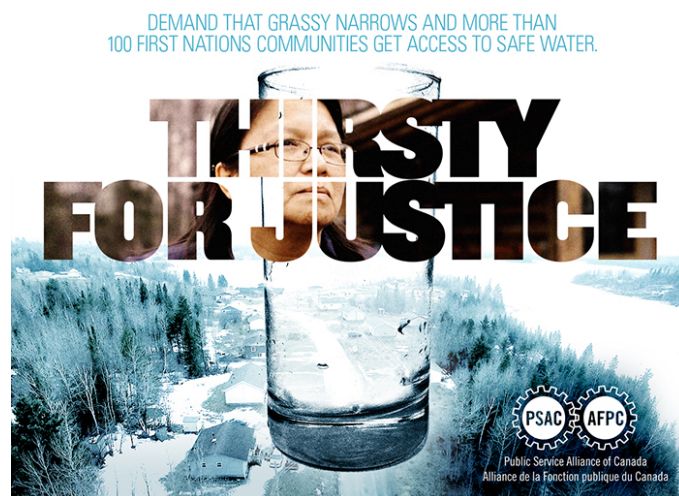
Years in the making

Trans Canadians and allies have spent decades campaigning for federal human rights protection. Bill C-16 was the latest bill in this fight. A virtually identical private Member’s bill, C-279, almost became law in the previous Parliament.

Bill C-16 will strengthen existing human rights protection

This new law will make it explicitly unlawful for federally-regulated employers and service providers to discriminate against or harass a person, on the basis of their gender identity or gender expression. Ten of the 13 provincial and territorial jurisdictions already have similar legislation in place.

This law will strengthen existing human rights protections for trans people. The bill will also undoubtedly give Canada’s trans people better protection from hate crimes and help ensure their dignity and equality in the community.



National Aboriginal Day: Setting the stage for a different narrative

“When the school is on the reserve the child lives with its parents, who are savages; he is surrounded by savages. [...] Indian children should be withdrawn as much as possible from the parental influence.”

Canada’s first prime minister Sir John A. Macdonald, in 1883

This summer, Canadians across the country will celebrate the 150th anniversary of Confederation. Publicly funded festivities will be held in every province and territory. Indigenous People of Turtle Island, however, will have quite a different perspective of this anniversary.

For most Indigenous People, Canada Day serves as a reminder of 150 years of colonialism, Indian Residential Schools, treaties not honoured, and the Indian Act. On June 21, National Aboriginal Day, let's set the stage for a different narrative.

As a step in the continuing effort towards reconciliation, PSAC has partnered with the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN). We have signed on as a major sponsor of National Aboriginal Day Live, where events are planned for eight cities: Halifax, Montréal, Ottawa, Toronto, Winnipeg, Yellowknife, Edmonton and Vancouver. These events will feature some of the biggest names in Indigenous music and television, including JUNO Award winners and on-the-rise artists. Talent from all genres, regions and nations, will be showcased, ensuring the recognition and inclusion of all First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.

Thirsty for Justice

As part of our partnership agreement, APTN will be airing a 30-second version of our Thirsty for Justice campaign video that will be seen by hundreds of thousands of Canadians. This video highlights the appalling issue of unsafe drinking water in First Nations communities. At any given time, there are more than 120 First Nation communities living under boil water advisories.

One hundred and fifty years is a long time to wait for justice. Each of us has a role to play in correcting the wrongs of the past.

Chief Commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Murray Sinclair had this to say when their final report was issued:

"We did not deliver the final report to government. We recognized that government was going to be slow to respond [...] but we're not writing it for them, we are writing it for the rest of society, it's up to society to step up and take the actions that are needed."

We encourage all PSAC members to attend events marking National Aboriginal Day and to learn more about Indigenous history.



Three years without a contract: FB group to take message to Cabinet this summer

As of today, it's been three years since our contract expired.

We have taken the government to court. We have taken the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) before the Public Service Labour Relations and Employment Board (PSLREB). Union members have picketed their workplaces – from Sarnia to Dorval Airport in Montreal, to PIA in Toronto, to downtown Vancouver. We have filed for a Public Interest Commission (PIC). Now is the time for us to take our message to MPs.

PSAC and CIU are organizing to take our message about the need for parity with other law enforcement agencies to cabinet ministers and other MPs this summer. Lobbying teams are being organized

across the country. Other activities in support of our efforts to achieve a fair contract are also being organized.

CIU National President Jean-Pierre Fortin and PSAC National President Robyn Benson have met with the Minister of Public Safety and the President of Treasury Board. Now it's time that MPs hear directly from union members in their constituencies about the challenges they face day in and day out as law enforcement personnel.

PSAC and CIU are also working together to further promote the work that we do to keep Canadians safe. These initiatives will also roll out over the course of the summer.

Stay tuned for more information.

Bargaining process and the PIC

Our FB bargaining team broke off talks earlier this year after having made no progress in negotiations on our key priorities. Meanwhile, CBSA and Treasury Board continued to push for concessions.

Our Team proceeded to the next step in the process provided for under the law – filing for a Public Interest Commission (PIC). The PIC has now been established and the dates for our hearing are confirmed for October 17 & 18, and November 2, 6 & 23, 2017.

We will keep you update as things progress. Stay informed: sign up for bargaining updates and make sure your membership information is up to date.

Please contact your CIU Branch President with any questions.



PSAC 2017 scholarship program now open

The program consists of 14 scholarships for dependent children of PSAC members and 3 scholarships for PSAC members who will be attending university, college or a recognized institute of higher learning on a full-time basis.

Applications are due June 23, 2017 and scholarships will be granted in the fall for the 2017-2018 academic year.



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Published three times per year, 180,000 of our members received the winter edition of PSAC's newsletter Our Union Voice.

This format also allows for local printing and a PDF download, in order to share with colleagues, friends and family.

<https://psacafpc.ca/2oyqzjW>