

Treasury Board changes compensatory leave cash out



This year, employees must request the cash out.

Treasury Board has issued an information bulletin to departments regarding the automatic cash out of compensatory leave. Departments are directed to temporarily change the process so that employees must request the cash out. If they do not ask for the cash out, the compensatory leave credits will remain in their leave bank and be useable until September 30, 2018.

The change is another result of the flawed Phoenix pay system that cannot cope with a large automatic payout at this time. PSAC is continuing to work with the government to address Phoenix problems. Extending access to compensatory leave over a longer period of time is necessary to prevent further problems with pay.

Normally, any banked compensatory leave credits would automatically be cashed out as of September 30 each year.



Labour Day - A message from your National President

On this labour day, on behalf of our union's 180,000 members, I send solidarity to our PSAC sisters and brothers on strike at the Winnipeg Airport. These workers have been out on the picket line since July 24, fighting back against contracting out.

I remind all members to respect the picket line at the Winnipeg airport – friends don't let friends cross picket lines. Please visit our website to find out how else you can support these PSAC members.

Over a year and a half after its launch, the Phoenix pay system continues to plague federal public service workers. PSAC's priority remains doing

everything in our power to get our members paid correctly and on time. Sadly, there is no single solution to the problem that is Phoenix. We understand that this is both frustrating and unsatisfactory. However, we continue to push the government to take steps to both fix Phoenix and to better mitigate the problems until we get there.

Most recently, PSAC was able to negotiate new measures to attract and retain compensation advisors. Rebuilding the compensation expertise lost when the last government eliminated hundreds of compensation advisor positions is crucial to fixing this mess.

Finally, this labour day, Canada's labour movement is kicking off a campaign called Pharmacare: A Plan for Everyone.

Canada's unions have fought hard to win health insurance coverage for our members. But we're not stopping there. We know that too many Canadians can't afford to fill their prescriptions. No one should have to choose between paying for groceries or paying for the medication they need. An annual investment of \$1 billion by the federal government will mean Canadians save \$7.3 billion a year on prescription drugs.

I encourage all PSAC members to visit the campaign website at aplanforeveryone.ca

Sign the petition. Share it on social media with your friends, family, and coworkers. So we can finally win universal prescription drug coverage for all Canadian workers, no matter where they live, where they work, or how much they make.

In solidarity,

Robyn Benson



Winnipeg Airport Workers Continue the Struggle

Since July 24, PSAC/UCTE workers have been on strike to stop the Winnipeg Airports Authority from contracting out their employees' work. They are on the line to protect their jobs. The union's negotiating team has attempted to re-start a meaningful negotiation but the Airport has doubled down on their efforts.

This strike looks like it could stretch out because of the employer's poor decision-making, so our members will need your support. Contracting out won't fly!

We want to thank everyone who has respected the picket line to date, and call on your continued solidarity to pass on the message to others to do the same as the strike continues. Also, please consider making a donation to the strike fund. Make cheques payable to UCTE 50600 (Strike Fund in the memo field) and mail or drop them off at PSAC Regional Office, 460 – 175 Hargrave Street, Winnipeg, MB R3C 3R8.



Tell us what you think about language testing and training

PSAC is inviting you to take a short survey about language training and testing within the federal public service. The survey is short with 10 multiple choice questions and a space for other comments. Participation is voluntary and all answers are anonymous.

The survey is open to employees in the federal public service, including the following PSAC bargaining units:

- Program Administration
- Operational Services
- Technical Services
- Education and Library Science
- Canada Border Service Agency
- Canadian Food Inspection Agency
- Communications Security Establishment of Canada
- Office of the Auditor General of Canada

The deadline to answer the survey is Friday, September 15. Please do not complete it more than once.

The survey is being conducted by the Official Languages Committee of the National Joint Council (NJC) which will be using the responses to prepare a report with recommendations later this fall. PSAC is one of 18 public service bargaining agents in the NJC.



PSAC is taking action

We want you to know that our union is doing everything in its power to ensure the new pay system is fixed so you get paid on time.

Following the court action taken by PSAC, along with 12 other unions, the court obliged the government to provide better access to help for Phoenix affected employees on disability, maternity, and parental leave.

As a result, federal public service workers who are transitioning to maternity, parental or disability leave, and are not receiving benefit payments due to Phoenix, are entitled to a priority payment if normal wait times for processing these payments have been exceeded.

These workers are entitled to 66% of the total income they would otherwise receive, not only the top up portion.

If you are in this situation, send the following letter with the appropriate information included in an email to your manager and copy us at info@psacunion.ca.



Get your union news – online and screen-friendly

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>