

PSAC EDUCATION IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

2009 Course Descriptions

Alliance Facilitator Training Program (AFTP) (Four days)

This four-day course aims to develop confidence and abilities in facilitating union education in a variety of settings such as the workplace, Local meetings, PSAC-NCR and Component activities. Participants will learn about participatory education, learning needs, education objectives, using various participatory education methods and facilitating discussions. The perfect course for members who are prepared to lead meetings, discussions, and facilitate education sessions with members. **Members must have taken the TUB or equivalent.**

Building On-Line Communities (One day)

There is a whole new world of mobilizing possibilities out there! Find out how to make use of Facebook, YouTube and MySpace to reach out to members and allies. During this one-day course, members will learn how to expand their union networks, share information and devise mobilizing strategies using these new tools.

Dealing with Union Paperwork! Administrating a Local (Three hours)

A three hour workshop for local treasurers and secretaries who want an orientation to working with membership lists, preparing minutes and reports, preparing financial statements and dealing with union paperwork.

Exploring and Strengthening Links Amongst PSAC-NCR Francophone and Anglophone Identities (One day)

This one-day course will foster dialogue amongst members from these two communities, allow members to explore workplace and union experiences in relation to their linguistic identity and explore ways of strengthening links amongst union activists from these two linguistic groups in the PSAC-NCR. A great opportunity for members

prepared to engage in a facilitated learning on a sometimes challenging topic.

Grievance Handling for Stewards (Two days)

Attention all stewards! (Or, members who are thinking of becoming one...). This two-day grievance handling course will develop your knowledge, skills and confidence in effectively handling grievances at the workplace. You will spend time on the technical aspects of grievance handling such as identifying, investigating, drafting, and presenting grievances. **Members must have taken the TUB.**

Health and Safety Activism (Two days)

This two day course will support membership mobilization around health and safety issues. Participants will increase their knowledge about their workplace health and safety rights and will develop skills needed to defend these rights. Finally, participants will learn how to use health and safety as a membership organizing tool in the workplace.

Human Rights (Four days)

This four-day course is designed for union members interested in developing their skills, knowledge and attitudes to become human rights activists in their union, workplace and community.

Participants will be able to develop basic strategies and identify appropriate union and community resources to respond to discrimination, harassment and inequities in the workplace and in the union; develop a plan to apply the learning from the course to their work setting, union and community; and, network and work collaboratively with other human rights activists in the union/community and to share information and resources in their union and in their region. **Members must have taken the TUB or equivalent.**

If People Counted: Popular Economics (Four and a half days)

This advanced four and a half day course will strengthen members' capacity to decipher our economy and how it relates to unions and workers. We will cover issues such as paid and unpaid work; the

value of work; the role of money in an economy; wealth distribution, economic theory, how government budgets work; free trade; economics and equality and finally explore alternative economic models. **Members must have taken the TUB or equivalent.**

Pensions and Federal Public Sector Workers (One day)

This one-day course will provide an overview of the Federal Public Service Pension Plan. In addition to reviewing the plan and its governance, the course will allow members to explore the importance of universal public pensions programs such as the CPP and the QPP. Members will examine the impact of C-78 and explore how they can mobilize to protect their pensions.

Solidarity Night for Equity Allies (Three hours)

A union evening of workshops for all members who want to increase their awareness and understanding of human rights and who want to be better allies. Members will be able to choose from several workshop topics. This evening is open to all members.

Talking Union Basics (TUB) (Two days)

The TUB is the “cornerstone” of our PSAC Education Program and a pre-requisite for most of our other courses. This two-day course will introduce you to the PSAC, its structure, how to become involved and the fundamentals of trade union action. Emphasis is put on members’ rights in the workplace and in the union; on understanding and using the collective agreement and on union mechanisms to obtain and protect rights.

UNION DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (UDP) (16 days)

The Union Development Program is an intensive education program designed to develop the leadership skills of emerging union activists. The UDP includes three Levels of learning events with specific leadership assignments in between. The complete sixteen-day program takes place over a three to six month period.

Participants will gain knowledge about unions, the challenges we face and the important work we do; gain insight on the world that surrounds us and how we can help make it better for workers and their families; why activism is important - not just for unions but for communities; how one becomes an active force in a movement and how we can help develop union solidarity and a united membership. Time will be spent on: critical thinking; exploring current economic and political ideology; how social change happens; how to work with other activists, with members and allies; why solidarity should cross borders; why collective actions can move mountains and correct inequalities; why public speaking matters and finally, the nuts and bolts behind union actions and strategies. **Selection criteria will be outlined on the UDP application form.**

Women at Work (Four days)

This four-day course is open to women members of the PSAC and is meant to foster and promote women's equality. Participants will explore the current status of women in the workplace, the community, the home and the union. They will analyze the gains that have been made and increase their understanding of systemic and ideological obstacles to the full and equal participation of women. Participants will increase their capacity to be effective activists in support of women's equality in their union, in their workplaces and in their community. **Members must have taken the TUB or equivalent.**

WSIB Rights and Obligations (Four days)

Level I (Rights & Obligations) and Level II (Benefits & Representation)

During this four-day course, participants will review the statutory obligations of both workers and employers as mandated by the Workplace Safety & Insurance Act. In addition to the processing of claims, members will review the rights and obligations of injured workers. Members will also develop advocacy skills and knowledge required to represent injured workers in the initial steps of a worker's claim. Knowing how to work with claim files, communicate with physicians and Insurance Board staff and being aware of early and safe return to work and re-employment obligations are integral parts of this course. **Members must have taken the TUB or equivalent.**

