

NewsRelease



Public Service Alliance of Canada | Representing 160,000 workers

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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On Earth Day, PSAC distributes 'seeds of discontent'

OTTAWA – In celebration of Earth Day, the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) in the National Capital Region is distributing 10,000 packets of sunflower seeds bearing the message *Seeds of Discontent! Negotiate* on April 21 and 22.

For Ed Cashman, the PSAC Regional Executive Vice-President for the NCR, the seed packets are an environmentally-friendly gesture to protest the slow pace of progress in the union's negotiations with the federal government.

"The federal government has an obligation to provide its employees with fair and reasonable collective agreements," Cashman said. "So far, the government has demonstrated very little willingness to seriously engage in an effective negotiation process."

Negotiations between the PSAC and Treasury Board for over 100,000 workers began almost a year ago and the parties are not yet close to a settlement, according to Cashman.

"By distributing these 'seeds of discontent', we want to express our members' frustration and impatience with the government's lack of commitment to its employees," he said. Cashman hopes that progress at the bargaining table will grow faster than the sunflowers.

In order to reduce its use of paper, the environmentally-conscious union is also electronically distributing its most recent bargaining flyer (http://www.psc.com/bargaining/units/treasury_board/index-e.shtml)

Cashman believes the current negotiations represent a good opportunity for the union to convince the government to reduce the contracting out and privatization of services delivered by the federal public sector.

"Our members have a strong tradition of delivering first class public services to Canadians," Cashman said. "We are ready to fight to ensure that Canadians continue to receive quality public services."

In the National Capital Region, more than 50,000 public sector workers will be affected by the outcome of the negotiations between the PSAC and the federal government and several of its agencies.

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