

# *NewsRelease*



Public Service Alliance of Canada • Representing 150,000 workers

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 17, 2008

## **Arbitration set to begin for PSAC members at the House of Commons**

**OTTAWA** – On January 22 and 23, the PSAC’s contract dispute with the House of Commons is to be heard before the Public Service Labour Relations Board. Following unsuccessful negotiations between February and June 2007 and mediation in August, the Public Service Alliance of Canada submitted the dispute to the Board for arbitration.

According to Ed Cashman, the PSAC Regional Executive Vice-President for the National Capital Region, “the employer’s refusal to negotiate working conditions equivalent to those extended to other workers in the federal public sector is inexplicable. How can the management of the House of Commons, including Speaker Peter Milliken, refuse to establish clear, objective and transparent processes covering such basic conditions such as work scheduling and income security? We are hopeful that the arbitrator will agree with our arguments and take steps to ensure that the same basic conditions that are the norm in the both public and private sectors in Canada are established at the House.”

“What we are asking for is only fair”, added Gilles Lavigne, president of PSAC Local 70390. “These issues will not go away until they are resolved, ” he concluded. “This arbitration represents the next step in our members’ struggle to obtain fair working conditions at the House of Commons”, according to Cashman.

During negotiations, several MPs and at least one senator have publicly supported the Union’s efforts at the House of Commons and denounced working conditions currently in place for these workers.

PSAC has about 440 members at the House of Commons in four bargaining units, two of which are now completing the process leading to a new collective agreement. In addition to the Operational Group, the Reporting and Text Processing Group has 60 members that will also be going to arbitration.

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**Information:**

Pierre Lebel, Regional Representative, PSAC  
819-777-4647 or 613-293-4663