

Union of Taxation Employees Local 00013
Central Council Minutes
Wednesday, March 5, 2014 @ 5:30 pm

In Attendance:

	Presiding		Clerk
Linda Collins	President	Ryan Ward	Secretary
Robert Hamilton	Vice-President – TSO	Eric Range	Treasurer
Lloyd Brown	Director – TSO	John Woodburne	Director – TSO
Iain MacFarlane	Director – TCC	Ben Miller	Director – TCC
Patrick Tanedo	Director – TCC		

Absent

Sandra Cribar	Vice-President – TCC		
Kevin Dalton	Director – TSO	Frank DeBlasio	Director – TSO
Dian Wright	Director – TSO		

Special Guests

Robin Johnson	UTE Regional VP	Vona Martin	Steward
Manni Mifsud	Steward	Andria Cullen	Steward
Sebe Pulickunnel	Steward		

Call to Order

Linda Collins called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. It was prudent to have Robin Johnson attend tonight to get some speaking notes about how our staff members are feeling. There is only one thing on the agenda as new business which is a resolution that Ryan Ward and Veronica Eastman put forward and have a vote on it tonight.

Approval of Agenda

THAT the agenda be approved.

Moved: Robert Hamilton / Seconded: Iain MacFarlane / Carried

Approval of Past Minutes

THAT the minutes for February 11, 2014 be approved.

Moved: Ryan Ward / Seconded: Eric Range / Carried

Regional Executive Vice-President Report

Robin Johnson reported that:

We were in mediation last week and the mediation did not go well. There was nothing they were willing to offer us. The message they had for us is that we are already overpaid and we should give up our severance and not get anything for it. What they don't mention is that everyone else got something in return except for us. Every other bargaining unit got a 3-year contract and they are only offering us a 2-year contract.

The employer came in and their head negotiator talked to us like little children. We couldn't believe we were being talked to like that. They were really upset we didn't accept the agreement. They threatened us and said we would not get anymore and we need to take it. We knew they would file for a PIC. It is a public interest commission report. The PIC gets involved

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and they put in a negotiator or mediator. What comes out of the PIC is not binding. It is essentially non-binding arbitration.

Our goal was to get the flyer out to the membership before our employer got out their version. It will be out on infozone tomorrow. The employer's version is to get the membership angry with us. By having it be 18-months since our contract expired, people have made \$1,800 on their severance. We are the final group that have not given up severance. CBSA got \$1,200 for giving up their severance if they carried a firearm, \$900 if they didn't. There is no problem with giving up the severance but we are asking for them to give us something for it. That is the stage that we are at right now. PIPSC also received a 3-year contract.

We are pushing for a 3-year contract because they are really coming after our sick leave and there is a chance that the Harper government could be defeated in 2015. The only reason they want a 2-year deal is to take away our sick leave right away.

As soon as they file for the PIC, we will be putting out a new bargaining notice. It will explain what the process is. This should be within a week or two. The strategic bargaining committee has decided that we are going to do meetings with all Locals (through the PSAC). What the PSAC will be doing are sessions all over the GTA on specific dates, organized by Brenda Shillington (PSAC).

The way sick leave is going to be restructured is to give you 4 days with pay per year. Anything over that amount, you will only get a portion of salary. You will also have to pay your own short-term disability benefits. Any banked sick time would be taken away completely without benefit.

PSAC is starting a campaign at the end of 2014 to make sure that Stephen Harper doesn't get elected again. This is the primary plan for the PSAC. We could put 100-page ads in every major newspaper and think we are still overpaid and are lazy. Robin Benson went on the radio and said the average salary for a retired government worker is \$24,000 per year.

We will need to organize a communications committee to come up with ways to get the word out. It is going to get worse before it gets better. We are going to need to get more information out and plan more things. It will keep going until the employer sees the membership is behind us. A report had to be written by senior management as to what went on in all of the Locals on February 25 when everyone was asked to stand up at our desks.

PSAC will cover the cost for booking a room to have all our members meet in each office. The information will come out next week on Monday, March 10.

Concerning the 1% rollback. The court case that was heard by the Supreme Court of Ontario and there is information to say that we lost. It is now being appealed by the Supreme Court of Canada. The write-up says that due to the because of the economic situation at the time in 2009, it was reasonable that the rollback was warranted.

There has been no discussion about strike vote because we want to see what the arbitrator is going to come back with. We are not concerned about severance – we know it is gone. We only care about the 3-year deal. There is no way we will allow this to go forward without a 3-year

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deal. As soon as the other bargaining units have their contracts signed and they expire, Treasury Board wants to negotiate the next contract.

President's Report

There is no report at this meeting.

Vice-President's Reports

Vice-President – TSO Report

This report was deferred until the next meeting.

Vice-President – TCC Report

This report was deferred until the next meeting.

Treasurer's Report

This report was deferred until the next meeting.

Roundtable

Robert Hamilton: Get the message out about bookmarking the UTE and PSAC National web pages.

Lloyd Brown: Veronica Eastman attended the PSAC Black History Month celebration at the PSAC Boardroom.

John Woodburne: Congratulations to the PSAC bargaining team for their work and congratulations for Ryan Ward, Ben Miller and Dian Wright for getting out our information right away.

Patrick Tanedo: If someone puts something on social media that focuses on a work-related matter, what is our position on this? At least two of our members have posted negative comments about a work situation and information is going around the office. They have not yet been disciplined at all.

Robin Johnson requested that this be brought up at President's Conference because we have not yet provided an opinion about the reporting of issues regarding members comments on social media.

Linda Collins: Thank you for everything you have done over the last few months while I have been away. We will continue with the stewards meetings because it is important to mentor everyone because we have several people who are moving on soon and we need to get as many new stewards to run in the future for the executive.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.