



Public Service Alliance of Canada Local 901

The Union of Teaching Assistants, Teaching Fellows, Postdoctoral Scholars, and Research Assistants at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario

www.psic901.org

Tuesday, March 24 2020

STATEMENT: AGM Cancellation, Queen's University and COVID-19

Since last week, a lot has changed on Queen's University campus. Undergraduate and Graduate courses have been moved online, facilities have closed, and students and members have left campus indefinitely. As a directly chartered local (DCL) of the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) we have a responsibility to our members to maintain safe, fair, and equitable labour practices. To do this, the PSAC National Board of Directors has mandated that locals suspend all in-person meetings, including our Annual General Meeting scheduled for March 31st. The motion passed at the National Board of Directors includes suspending all timelines contained in Local, Branch, DCL, Regional, and Component Bylaws regarding the scheduling of Annual General Meetings, Conventions, and the elections of Delegates to Component and PSAC Conventions, until May 1st 2020. Should this suspension require an extension, such extension shall be by motion of the National Board of Directors. In these unprecedented times, PSAC Local 901 will be following the directions of the PSAC National Board of Directors. This means that although Local 901 is governed by our own set of bylaws and policies, for the duration of this pandemic we will be seeking recommendations from PSAC National on how to govern our Local. Because of the unique business that arises at AGMs, elections, and committee meetings, all motions that require membership approval will be suspended until further notice. During this time, the PSAC Local 901 office will remain closed. Our Office Staff Manager Emily Boehmer will be working remotely and available via email at info@psac901.org.

PSAC Local 901 acknowledges the hardship graduate students are facing at this time. Most specifically, the burden of paying tuition for services that have been altered or unavailable because of COVID-19 and Queen's University policies. We are lobbying to suspend Spring/Summer 2020 graduate tuition. If you would like to participate in this movement, send a letter to the Provost and Vice-Principle (Academic) Mark Green [here: https://actionnetwork.org/letters/suspend-summer-tuition-for-graduate-students](https://actionnetwork.org/letters/suspend-summer-tuition-for-graduate-students)

If you have questions regarding your work as a Postdoctoral Scholar, Teaching Fellow, Teaching Assistant, or Research Assistant at Queen's University, we encourage you to join us on Friday, March 27th at 2:00pm via Zoom. Join the Q&A at <https://zoom.us/j/633449036>.

PSAC Local 901 will continue to monitor this situation closely and post statements and information as we receive it. In the interim, please keep updated regarding your union and COVID-19 online [here: http://psac901.org/covid-19-updates/](http://psac901.org/covid-19-updates/)

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have questions or concerns.

In solidarity,

Stéphanie McKnight (Stéfy)
President, PSAC Local 901
On behalf of the PSAC Local 901 Executive Committee