

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.psac901.org

Wednesday, May 6, 2020

## **RE: STATEMENT COVID-19 and 901 Update**

COVID-19 continues to affect our community and members globally. Queen's University has yet to share a plan regarding undergraduate and graduate student courses for the fall semester. As of now, the University remains closed, and we continue to monitor the situation and are working from home.

The PSAC National Board of Directors has mandated that all Locals suspend in-person meetings, elections, and annual general meetings until September 1, 2020. The motion passed at the National Board of Directors includes suspending all timelines contained in Local Bylaws. This means that the current Executive Committee will remain in their elected roles until September 1. Our physical office remains closed during this time, though our Office Staff Manager Emily Boehmer will continue to work remotely and is available via email at info@psac901.org.

Your Executive Committee will continue to work to uphold the collective agreement during this time. We will be working together to share information remotely. Regardless of what decision Queen's University makes for the Fall regarding in-person classes, your collective agreement remains in effect. We will be sharing more information about Postdoctoral Scholars bargaining in the near future.

PSAC Local 901 continues to work with and support students advocating for the suspension of summer tuition. In March, the SGPS endorsed our letter campaign. Since the campaign began, more than 1200 letters have been sent to Vice-Provost Academic Mark Green, as well as personal letters from students and faculty supporting the campaign.

PSAC Local 901 will continue to monitor this situation closely and post statements and information as we receive it. Please keep updated regarding your union and COVID-19 online <u>here</u>.

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