

MEETINGS – MINUTES

January 27, 2011

Minutes of the meeting on voting on motions related to the Strike Fund of Local 70044, Public Service Alliance of Canada, taking place on Thursday 27 January 2011 from 12:00pm to 1:00pm, in the Regional Office, 200 Promenade du Portage, Gatineau.

1. **Welcome:** Jean-Pierre Ouellet, President of Local 70044, welcomed all members and introduced the members of the Local 70044 Executive. 40 members signed the Attendance Sheet for this meeting, hence there was quorum to hold the assembly. Mr. Ouellet presented the Agenda for this meeting (see annex), and the 4 motions on which the members would vote today concerning the Strike Fund. Mr. Ouellet explained that the members were invited to vote on these 4 motions to modify or not the by-law of the Strike Fund. Mr. Ouellet explained that, according to the Local 70044 Bylaw no. 4 – Membership Dues – Article 2, “The local may amend the Local membership dues by a two-third majority vote of those members present and voting at an annual, regular or special meeting of the Local, providing that thirty days notice of motion has been given and posted. Notice of change must be forwarded to the National Component office for implementation.”

Mr. Ouellet explained that this meeting was a follow up to Consultations held on December 15, 2010, where the members had presented 4 motions related to the Strike Fund. As discussed in the meeting held on December 15, 2010, Mr. Ouellet confirmed all 4 motions with the members whom had presented these motions prior to 21 December. Hence, the meeting held today 27 January 2011 respects the 30 days notice prior to the voting day, as per the By-Laws.

Mr. Ouellet invited the members to ask any questions related to these 4 motions or the Strike Fund in general. Several members of the Assembly asked clarification on the amount accumulated so far in the Strike Fund of Local 70044, compared to other Federal Departments. Louise Patrice, from PSAC, indicated that the Local 70044 current balance in the Strike Fund (\$465,356) is very good compared to other Departments (with DFAIT having a similar Strike Fund). Ms. Patrice mentioned that several Departments do not have Strike Fund, so the current Strike Fund was a clear advantage for Local 70044. There were several exchanges “crystal balling” the future political context of the Government of Canada (if elections, etc.), but Mr. Ouellet indicated that we cannot predict the future, but it is prudent to have a Strike Fund for Local 70044.

Richard Bennett, a previous Local 70044 Executive Member, indicated that initially the amount of \$7/month/member/ was based on accelerated needs at the time to create a Strike Fund.

2. **Voting on 4 motions related to the Strike Fund:** Mr. Ouellet asked the Assembly if all members agreed to vote on the motions in the order they were presented in the December 15, 2010 meeting, that is \$7, \$5, \$3, or \$0. Stephen Smith, current Treasurer of Local 70044, suggested to start with the motion on \$0 contribution to the Strike Fund. The Assembly agreed in majority with this suggestion.
Mr. Ouellet invited all members to vote by raising their hands on the first motion – a \$0 contribution i.e. stopping any contribution to the Strike Fund. Twenty-one members voted in favour. The two-third majority was not reached. The motion was rejected.
Mr. Ouellet invited all members to vote on the second motion – a \$3/month/member contribution to the Strike Fund. Thirty-one members voted in favour. The two-third majority was reached. A majority of members applauded. Mr. Ouellet confirmed that this motion was carried.
Mr. Ouellet explained the next steps. Following this meeting, Minutes would be prepared to reflect that this motion was carried. In a minimum of 30 days, Mr. Ouellet would call for another meeting to invite all members to approve the Minutes of the meeting held today 27 January 2011. Once

Minutes are approved, they will be sent to the National Element for action, concerning the implementation of the \$3/month/member 's contribution to the Strike Fund for Local 70044.

Mr. Ouellet confirmed that today's vote settles the contribution to the Strike Fund for the next 3 years.

3. **Presentation of Financial Statements for 2010, and Estimated Budget for 2011**: Mr. Ouellet invited Stephen Smith, Treasury for Local 70044 to present the financial statements of Local 70044 for the year 2010. Stephen Smith presented detailed Financial Statements (see annex attached). Several members asked questions on budget lines: Conferences/conventions, Training, Office Expenses, Donations and Professional Fees. The members were satisfied with Stephen Smith's explanations. Mr. Ouellet provided additional explanations. Mr. Smith then presented the Estimated Budget for 2011. Stephen Smith noted that some \$2 000 spent in 2010 have not yet been deducted by the National Component, hence a free balance of about this amount. This year's Salary re-imburement line item will be adjusted as these pending transactions are charged to our monthly Local dues rebates, and a note to this effect will be incorporated in this year's financial statements.

Mr. Ouellet invited the Assembly to vote on the Financial Statements for 2010. The majority of members approved the Financial Statements for 2010.

Mr. Ouellet then invited the Assembly to vote on the Estimated Budget for 2011. The majority of members approved the Budget for 2011.

4. **Upcoming Elections for Positions becoming available in Local 70044 Executive Committee**:

Mr. Ouellet informed the Assembly that Local 70044 By-Laws call for Elections every odd year to vote on positions becoming available in the Executive. Mr. Ouellet indicated that the following positions would be up for Elections at the next Assembly:

Odd years: First Vice-President, Treasurer, Human Rights Representative, Health and Safety Representative

5. **Conclusion**: JP Ouellet thanked all members for their participation. The meeting was closed at 1:00pm.