

# **GSU National Council Special Meeting Conference Call**

**Monday, August 23, 2010 - 1:00 pm (Ottawa Time)**

## **Minutes of meeting**

### **1) Call to Order**

President Mark Brunell called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm.

He called the roll of officers present, as follows:

#### **Present:**

- Brunell, Mark, in person
- Alarie, Pierre, by phone
- Cameron, Bob, by phone
- Charron, Daniel, in person
- Ford, Randy, by phone
- Fortin, Jean-Paul, by phone
- Gale, Jack, by phone
- Lackie, Donna, in person
- Little, Michelle, by phone
- Sauv e, Alex, in person
- Thomson, Dave, by phone

#### **Absent:**

- Cunning, David
- Le Blanc, Ron
- Mongeon, Martine
- Spencer, Robert
- Sylvestre, Mitch
- Robinson, Phil
- Walsh, Bill,

#### **Staff:**

- Griffin, Laura, in person
- Michon-Hamelin, Paulette, in person
- Spencer, Craig, in person
- West, Howie, PSAC, in person

### **2) Transformation of Pay – Government Announcement**

M. Brunell reviewed the Government's surprise announcement of Thurs. Aug 19 to consolidate all Compensation Advisor positions within PWGSC and to relocate that work to a new centre of expertise in Miramichi, New Brunswick.

Copies of the slide deck and a Question and Answer document had been sent to the National Council and all Local Presidents on August 19, 2010. M. Brunell committed to also distribute the PSAC media release and any other relevant documents that may arrive.

M. Brunell reported that the Prime Minister's announcement was a complete surprise to GSU and the PSAC. He had received a phone call late on Wednesday to advise him about the consolidation but not about the relocation.

This is entirely a political decision and “cabinet secrecy” has been used to explain the complete lack of consultation.

The Pay Consolidation Project will create a Centre of Expertise in Miramichi, New Brunswick for the pay administration services of about 40 government departments. The first phase will involve all departments using PeopleSoft and will cover about five years. The second phase will involve the remaining departments. There are about 1,500 to 1,700 HR Compensation Advisors across the country. The departments using PeopleSoft involve about 1,000 employees and the project will reduce that number to about 550 jobs in Miramichi.

The government has promised there will be no layoffs and no lost employment, and no forced relocations. Employees will be relocated if they wish to be. Alternate employment will be found for those who don't.

We don't have the exact number of PWGSC employees involved, but since PWGSC does not use PeopleSoft it is not in the first phase of the project.

#### Discussion

- Have been advised that the employees in Matane will be taken care of.
- It will be a Workforce adjustment issue when it begins.
- All participants at the meeting agreed that the employer was irresponsible for not briefing the employees involved at the earliest possible point.
- Managers learned of it at the same time employees did

M. Brunell closed by saying that in the short term the GSU message is that we want to protect our members rights and interests. We will protect the Collective Agreement. We will demand our employees be treated with more respect.

### **3) Bargaining Demands – Treasury Board Units**

J. Gale reported on the GSU Bargaining Committee representatives. Jason Boyce has resigned from the PA table in the NCR. We are working on a replacement for him. Louis Cotte in Quebec has been replaced by Marc Robidoux. There are five empty seats which we cannot fill now.

J. Gale reminded NC Officers that the deadline for bargaining demands is August 31 and there has only been 1 demand received so far in the GSU National Office. He asked RVPs to contact their Locals to push for bargaining demands. The Bargaining committee will meet on September 7 to review and finalize the demands.

M. Brunell asked RVPs to ensure Locals with members with disabilities who almost lost their parking to submit demands on that topic.

### **4) PSST Representation**

M. Brunell said that there appeared to be confusion about who provides representation for members at Public Service Staffing Tribunals. He reminded the Council that three GSU Conventions have made the decision that this issue is the responsibility of Locals. GSU, in extraordinary circumstances has provided assistance, in some cases. He has

directed GSU Staff to ensure that parties are aware of the costs when referring PSST cases to Locals.

M. Brunell stated that the National council meeting in September will deal with a motion to establish a protocol and guidelines to clarify the PSST process for Locals.

### **5) Donations**

M. Brunell reported that the budget line item for Donations is now over budget. However, as there is a surplus overall in the budget it is possible to find donations funds for worthy causes.

M / S / D. Charron / B. Cameron

That GSU donate \$1,000.00 to Pakistan Flood Relief through the PSAC Social Justice Fund.

Carried Recorded Vote #1

M / S / A. Sauv  / M. Little

That GSU donate \$100.00 to the "Rock the Public Service" event in the national capital region on September 25, 2010.

Lost Recorded Vote #2

D. Charron noted that he will ask the GSU Standing Finance Committee to develop some guidelines for GSU Donations.

### **6) Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at about 2:40 pm

<b>Legend / Légende:</b> 1. Yes / Pour 2. No / Contre 3 Abstain / Abstention 4. Absent / Absent-e	<b>Donation – Pakistan Flood</b>	<b>Donation – Rock the Public Service</b>
<b>Vote Number</b>	1	2
Alarie, P.	3	2
Cameron, B.	1	2
Charron, D.	1	1
Cunning, D.	4	4
Ford, R.	1	2
Fortin, J.-P.	2	2
Gale, J.	1	2
Lackie, D.	1	2
Le Blanc, R.	4	4
Little, M.	1	1
Mongeon, M.	4	4
Robinson, P.	4	4
Sauvé, A.	1	1
Spencer, R.	4	4
Sylvestre, M.	4	4
Thomson, D.	1	2
Walsh, B.	4	4
Brunell, M.	1	2