

National Vice-President, Ontario Region – Report (December 2018)

By: Angelo Mele

Upon assuming the role of National Vice-President (NVP) for Ontario Region four months ago, there have been a number of activities that have marked my entry into this position. It is important to note, the chief objective in all activities I have embarked on has been twofold in nature: to foster increased engagement, while exercising judgement with the view of ensuring the interests of the Region are foremost in the various pursuits.

In maintaining my standing as Chair of the Ontario Regional Council's Bylaws Sub-Committee, I had convened two further meetings of the committee, on August 28, 2018 and September 12, 2018. The accomplishment of the work conducted in these sessions resulted in a proposed set of amendments to align with our National Bylaws, while also attempting to eliminate any redundancy that will correspondingly make our regional bylaws more succinct and concise. Most of the changes were approved by the delegates at the 2018 President's Conference in November. Additionally, our Committee was able to canvas and administer the Roy Page Scholarship for the first time since 2014, awarded to a first year post-secondary student whom is a child of a CEIU member, in accordance to our regional Regulations.

In chairing our 2018 Ontario President's Conference this past November, we were able to achieve the completion of all delineated business slated for the conference, which was a tremendous accomplishment for the Region.

I have also assumed the Chair position for the Ontario Regional Council's Structure and Orientation Sub-Committee, in which I have repurposed the committee's mandate to begin examining local mapping, with the aim of possible re-alignment and restructuring. In addition, I have proposed to shift the responsibility of the administration of the Roy Page Scholarship to this committee moving forward.

Insofar as local restructuring, there have been some challenges with regards to representational alignment in the various districts. There have been expressions of possible mergers from locals within the Region. To that end, I have had exploratory discussions with the affected local executives, as a means to facilitate these possible mergers, while still ensuring the requisite representation will take place in the interim period.

Another added function in my capacity as NVP for Ontario Region was being elected as Employee Co-Chair of the Regional Health and Safety Advisory Committee, and I have had several engagements with the Employer regarding the committee's composition, exploration of prospective changes to the expired Terms of Reference, working on collaborative communications to local health and safety committees pertaining to compliance standards and updated training requirements as per the Canada Labour Code, as well as a new information sharing strategy through region-wide emails: "Things to Know," and the establishment of a one-day joint training session with the Employer to be held in the new year.

I have also been a standard participant in the Regional Union Management Consultation Committee (RUMCC) meetings, raising concerns and advocating possible resolutions to such matters, as expressed by the Ontario Region members. Further to that, I am also a sitting member on the RUMCC Working Group which established a new Terms of Reference, and saw the inclusion of a greater number of CEIU representations in our composition at the RUMCC table, while also having ensured the practice and procedures in functionality of the committee are fair and transparent. I was also instrumental in having CEIU regain the Chair position at the RUMCC table, while also rebalancing the committee's composition to comply with the proper number of seats for each component, including facilitating the addition of a representative from another component to join our union team.

Throughout my tenure as NVP for Ontario Region thus far, I have also continued to represent members through various levels of outstanding grievances, staffing complaints, Code of Conduct investigations, while fielding other inquiries put forward by various locals.

Lastly, in the capacity of NVP Ontario Region, I attended my first Human Rights and Race Relations Conference for Ontario in September, in which I was able to introduce myself to the delegates and to hear their concerns for subsequent action at a later juncture. I also attended a number of General Membership Meetings, such as the ones in Richmond Hill and Mississauga. I will continue to work on behalf of the members to the utmost of my abilities to ultimately service the Ontario Region at large.

Respectfully,

Angelo Mele
CEIU National Vice-President, Ontario Region