

Report of the National Vice President—Ontario Region
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE MEETING
SEPTEMBER/2019

This year Ontario hosted our Annual Presidents Conference in the beautiful Niagara region within arm's reach of the world's famous Niagara Horseshoe Falls. We had a record number of attendees with over a 30% increase from Presidents Conferences for at least the past 8 years. The Service Canada ADM attended our conference and responded to several questions from the delegates. We were also glad to have the attendance of Sisters Crystal Warner and Lynda McLellan. Also in attendance were Brothers Eddy Bourque; Marco Angeli and Sebastian Rodrigues.

Over the last year the Ontario Regional Council has been very diligent in improving our communications with our members and I would like to thank them for all the hard work we've accomplished. We have been and will continue to distribute our meeting minutes and information to Local Executives as timely as possible.

Our District Representatives have successfully encouraged and revived several locals that had been inactive for many years. They also listened to our members' urgent requests for training and hosted several training sessions for locals who requested it.

On the Union-Management consultation front, I believe we have accomplished several collaborative initiatives:

- A direct contact line to the Director General's office where NVPs can bring up members' pay issues to be actioned by the DG Advisors directly;
- Armed Intruders training sessions being offered across all Service Canada Centers;
- RUMCC meeting minutes are translated and posted on the iService Agora within two months of being approved by RUMCC members. These minutes can be found at:
http://dialogue/grp/GC-CdG/RUMCC_CRCPS_3/Forms/Public.aspx
- Discussions with Senior management at ESDC regarding CEIU's ongoing concerns for the safety and security issues of our Front-End & Outreach

workers and their long standing CSO, Citizen Services Officer, job description issues;

- Collaborative messages encouraging employees to complete the Mental Health surveys so data can be reflected as accurately as possible;
- Ongoing joint messages which re-emphasize the importance of LUMCC meetings at the local level;
- Continuous discussions on the importance of providing employees adequate time to complete their trainings sessions;
- Ongoing conversations on ways to better our members' health & safety concerns in their workplaces

Besides having our monthly RUMCC meetings with Service Canada senior management, the ORC members and the two Regional NVPs are also meeting the IRCC senior management in Ontario on a quarterly basis.

On June 21-23, 2019, we held the Ontario IRCC/IRB conference in the Hilton Markham Hotel. It was attended by two IRB locals in Toronto; IRCC locals and locals that have combined ESDC & IRCC members. The IRB NVP, Brother Marco Angeli and HR/RR NVP, Brother Sebastian Rodrigues also attended this conference.

I am very thankful to the dedication and activism of our members, Local Executives, District and Departmental Representatives who have helped us throughout the year to bring members' concerns and workplace issues to our attention. Our Union is strong because of members' involvement, volunteerism and contributions.

Attending local membership meetings has always been one of my priorities as these are excellent opportunities to meet members at various locals, and hear about their workplace issues directly.

Engaging and empowering our members are paramount in building our members' trust and faith in our Union. I want to ensure that new executives are at minimum given access to basic union training sessions to enable them to function efficiently and to be able to assist and advocate for our members in their respective workplaces.

This year the Ontario Women's Committee will be holding their Women Empowerment Training Weekend on 4-6/Oct/2019. The CEIU NEVP, Sister Crystal Warner, and PSAC Ontario REVP, Sister Sharon DeSousa, will be attending this empowerment training weekend as speakers.

In the Spring, the Ontario Women's Committee was happy to provide two Scholarships to two qualified women to enable them to attend the CLC Summer School that was held July 14-19, 2019 in Cornwall, Ontario. A Scholarship fund of \$2,000.00 was given to each successful Sister.

The Ontario Differently Abled Committee (DAC) is working on creating educational pamphlets on the subject of visible and invisible disabilities. The goal is to complete these materials by October to coincide with the October Disability Month.

In May 2002, the Government of Canada officially declared May as Asian Heritage Month. Asian Heritage Month offers all Canadians an opportunity to learn more about the history of Asian Canadians and to celebrate their contributions to the growth and prosperity of Canada.

The Ontario Racial Visible Action Committee members visited many locals and delivered sessions about Asian Heritage Month awareness. They visited an IRCC local in Etobicoke, a Service Canada Call Center in Cornwall, Temporary Foreign Workers local at Richmond Hills, and an IRB local at Downtown Toronto. They received very warm welcomes from all the locals they visited. It was truly rewarding and encouraging.

Friends & Colleagues, as a regional National Vice President I am honored and very grateful to our members for their activism and continuous supports to CEIU as a Union.

"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

~Edmund Burke

In Solidarity,

Nicole Ma

Nicole Ma
National Vice President, Ontario Region