



Association des professionnels et superviseurs
Association of Professionals and Supervisors

NEWSLETTER

November 2007

The National Council meeting

The last weekend of October saw APS delegates congregate from all regions of the country to undertake the yearly gathering of the minds provided for in our Rules and Regulations.

For the benefit of our new members, our Association ensures the participation of all members, regardless of their work locations, by organizing the event based on regional representation. The smallest locations have a voice as much as the large centres such as Montreal and Toronto. This year's prize for The Small and Beautiful went to Yellowknife for sending our only APS member at the location, Jeff Gardiner.

The National Council met with delegates from the Atlantic Region (the Maritime Provinces), the West (provinces from Manitoba to B.C.) as well as the three main centres, Ottawa, Montreal and Toronto. The group met in Bromont, outside the Montreal area, for strategic discussions covering many current issues and the pending Negotiations in 2008 between APS and CBC.

There was also the Annual General Assembly as well as to one of the two compulsory face-to-face meetings of the National Executive Committee (the other meeting is held through video/telephone conference).

Focus on the collective agreement

The topic receiving the most attention at this year's event was undoubtedly the renewal of the collective agreement between APS and the Corporation. The delegates coming to Bromont had been asked to consult their colleagues by our national President, Mario Poudrier, who was seeking to submit to the group an aggressive early negotiation proposal to start long before the contract expiry date in June 2008.

To insure efficient delivery of the process, professor Gregor Murray was given the task to animate the debates in order to bring to light the meaningful topics to be covered in the renewal of the agreement. Gregor was no stranger to APS; he had participated in the celebration of our tenth anniversary by presenting a remarkable outline for the future development of organizations such as ours. His participation method had particularly delighted attending delegates. It was then natural to bring back the Director of Inter-University Research Centre on labour and globalization (CRIMT, attached to the School of Industrial Relations at the University of Montreal) to underscore our delegates' priorities in matters of working conditions.

At the end of the process, 10 priorities were consigned to guide the work of the Negotiation Committee. The Council then kicked off the afternoon with the Regional Roundtable where the representatives made sure that each local agenda was brought to national attention. Donald LeBlanc presented for the Atlantic Region, Michael Ho for the West, Stéphane Desautels for Montreal, Andy Libby for Toronto and Roger Chartrand for Ottawa. There were many concrete examples of problems affecting the daily working lives of our members. At the end of the roundtable it became evident that the National Negotiating Committee will have their hands full.

Activity reports

The National Council is also the body receiving the activity reports from the different areas of responsibilities at the national level. Reports are presented for Finance, Membership, Current Affairs, Marginal Benefits, and National Joint Committees. Emilio D'orazio took this year's crown for the heftiest report as he had the task of covering the enormous file on the pension fund surplus battle, which is still brewing. The question is still not resolved and we are participating fully through our representatives at the CCSB (the National Joint Committee on Benefits regrouping all of the unions and management). Emilio will continue to represent us with the support of our members. The other presentations made by Hervé Lamarre, (finance) Gisèle Perron (membership), Claude Beausoleil (current affairs) and Mario Poudrier (National Joint Committees) met the challenge at hand resulting from Emilio's report which was to complete proceedings to beat the dinner deadline. Although the meeting went into overtime, most of extenuated participants made it to dinner.

Annual General Assembly and National Executive

Sundays are devoted to the General Assembly of members as well as to the meeting of the National Executive committee. Our participation mode insures that the decisions of the Association are submitted to each and everyone of our participating members (those that have sent in their application forms with payment of the entrance fee). The Annual General Assembly of Members is opened to the attendance of all members, but the decisions can only be ratified by postal votes, thus guaranteeing total countrywide participation. The two proposals submitted this year by our National Treasurer, Hervé Lamarre, were the object of a massive approval with only one dissenting vote, a first in our history. The votes concerned the approval of our financial statements and the nomination of our external auditor.

Although the National Executive Council concerns its members only, Mario Poudrier invited all interested delegates to attend the meeting if they wished to do so as observers. A good many of the members in attendance took up the invitation and the meeting went on its way under the sign of participation and consultation in keeping with the traits characterizing the rest of the weekend.

We want to thank Gisèle Perron who was responsible for the organization of the event. She did a fabulous job putting the event together and all attending delegates were pleased with the results.
