

## **Recap of the APS National Council & Annual Assembly**

Last weekend were held our National Council and Annual Assembly in Gatineau, Quebec. The National Council covered mainly the revision of our by-laws and the renewal of our collective agreement, while the Annual Assembly witnessed the outcome of our first ever electronic vote.

### **Elections**

David MacFarlane of Edmonton and Rémy Parent of Ottawa had the honour of unveiling the results of our union's first ever electronic vote. On the ballot was a proposal to accept the financial statements from the 2011-2012 year, as well as the nominees for the National Secretary General position. The results were as follows:

- 98% voted in favour of accepting the financial statements and the nomination of the accounting firm of external auditors.
- The race for National Secretary General saw 109 votes for Yves Ledoux and 108 votes for Emilio D'Orazio.

Stéphane Desautels, the Montreal local President, stood up to express his wish to count on Emilio's expertise for the upcoming contract negotiations. For his part, Mario Poudrier delivered a warm, heartfelt homage to his former Secretary General after congratulating Yves Ledoux on his new role. New recruits were also introduced to replace officers that have left the corporation: Rémy Parent has replaced Luc Lajoie in Ottawa and Martine Flipot has replaced Sylvie Létourneau in Montreal.

In addition to the new voices of Rémy and Martine we welcomed other newcomers to this National Council: John Beach, Jennifer Ostler and Robert Chen from Toronto, Isabelle Benoît from Montreal and Lance Wuckert from Winnipeg.

### **By-laws**

On Saturday morning Robert Dury, our main legal advisor, presented the proposed modifications to elevate the quality and content of existing by-laws. A multitude of changes were submitted and under the expert guidance of Robert each of the approximately thirty modifications were examined point-by-point.

The final word on these changes, however, belongs to voting members. The National Executive will be submitting to voting members a final version of the updated by-laws which require a majority vote of greater than 66% to be adopted. The project should be completed before the end of the calendar year.

### **Collective Agreement**

The other major topic of the weekend concerned renewal of the collective agreement. The discussion was moderated by Mario Poudrier who kicked off the proceedings by showing an

analysis of the trends revealed by surveys conducted on our website. They revealed a clear dissatisfaction within our membership with the current compensation system.

Stéphane Desautels, supported by the other delegates, has put forward a recommendation that APS engage a vendor to conduct a scientific survey as a supplementary consultation tool to gauge the concerns of our membership ahead of the collective agreement negotiations with CBC. The current collective agreement expires on June 30, 2013.

The immediate next-steps awaiting us are the nomination of the Negotiation Committee followed by the preparation of the mandate of union demands.

### **Varia**

Jennifer Ostler from Toronto came to Gatineau with a solid proposal to increase supplementary benefits of employees on parental leave. This was the last topic ending a long day of discussions over changes to our by-laws and the renewal of our collective agreement. She has been encouraged by the delegates to continue her research which will include a comparison of CBC SUB benefits against those of other public service and government unions.

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Please send your questions and/or comments about the by-laws or collective agreement negotiations to [aps@apscbcsrc.org](mailto:aps@apscbcsrc.org).