



August 6, 2019

**TO:** Local Presidents, RVPs/NVPs/Branch Presidents, Atlantic Regional Council, Regional Committees

**FROM:** Colleen Coffey, Regional Executive Vice-President – Atlantic

**Re:** **CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: 2019 ATLANTIC REGIONAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE**

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Greetings,

We are thrilled to announce that the 12<sup>th</sup> PSAC Atlantic Regional Women's Conference will be held at Canadian Forces Bases Gagetown in Oromocto, New Brunswick from October 4 - 6, 2019.

The conference theme is ***Nevertheless, She Persisted***, after the expression that in 2017 became a rallying cry for feminist struggle everywhere and that captures our perseverance in the fight for women's rights.

This conference will endeavor to strengthen the PSAC Women's Program at the regional level by building stronger connections between the Regional Women's Committees, Regional Council Directors and local activists. The conference will also explore issues of sexual harassment and how to build a culture of consent in the labour movement.

We invite applications from women from all equity seeking groups and from trans women, cis women, genderqueer women and non-binary people who are significantly female-identified; from women from rural and urban areas, from different employer groups and PSAC structures; from women who are active in their union or in their community; and from women who are young workers and those who are not.

The conference is scheduled to begin Friday, October 4, 2019 with registration from 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM, followed by a meet and greet from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM.

Registration will commence again on Saturday, October 5, from 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM, with the conference opening at 9:00 AM. Saturday's session will run from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM and the Sunday session will run from 8:30 AM to the conference closing at 12:00 Noon.

### **CONFERENCE APPLICATION FORM**

Please find enclosed the application form. **The deadline to apply is Friday, September 6, 2019.**

**Please note:** The conference will be providing each member who is accepted to attend with a conference t-shirt. Please make sure to include your t-shirt size on your application form. The t-shirts are made a bit small, so you may wish to order a larger size than you normally would.

### **LOSS OF SALARY**

Locals are encouraged to approach their departmental managers to request paid leave to allow women to attend this conference as it will provide valuable educational opportunities. If participants are unable to obtain paid leave, loss of salary will be paid from Friday, October 4 to Sunday, October 6, 2019, for any hours that a participant was regularly scheduled to work.

### **ACCOMMODATION, MILEAGE AND MEALS**

Single room accommodation will be available to all participants at no cost. Breakfast, lunch and supper will be provided on Saturday, October 5, 2019. Breakfast will be provided on Sunday, October 6, 2019. This will give participants the opportunity to network and plan with friends and acquaintances. A meal allowance can be claimed for Friday and Sunday while participants are traveling to and from the conference.

Mileage will be reimbursed in accordance with the PSAC Travel Policy. Travel by air or any method other than a personal motor vehicle, will be arranged by the participant's Regional Office.

### **REGISTRATION FEE**

The registration fee for the conference is \$50.00 per participant. This fee will be recovered during the claim process and members will receive a receipt which can then be submitted to their local for reimbursement.

## **FAMILY CARE**

To improve access to conferences and training for members with family care responsibilities, PSAC reimburses family care costs in accordance with the PSAC Family Care Policy: <http://psacunion.ca/family-care-policy>

## **ACCESS**

The conference venue is accessible. If you have any special needs that require accommodation, please add this information to your application form under the "Access" section.

## **SMOKE-FREE**

The conference venue is strictly non-smoking and non-vaping throughout the buildings. However, there are a few designated smoking areas. There is also no candle burning permitted in the accommodation areas. Adherence to all rules regarding a smoke-free environment will be the responsibility of each individual participant.

## **SCENT-FREE**

To assist members with environmental sensitivities, we must insist on a scent-free environment during the conference. Please see our attached Scent-Free Policy.

For further information, please contact Mary MacNeil at the PSAC Halifax Regional Office at [macneim@psac-afpc.com](mailto:macneim@psac-afpc.com), 902-443-3541 or 1-800-839-6661.

In Solidarity



Colleen Coffey  
Regional Executive Vice President, Atlantic

Encl. (1)

CC: Seema Lamba, Human Rights Officer  
Kate Bradley, Administrative Assistant, Programs Branch

Chris Aylward, National President  
Mark Pecek, Director, Regional Offices Branch  
Anna Goguen, Regional Coordinator, Atlantic  
Mary MacNeil, Regional Representative  
Atlantic RO's

## PSAC STATEMENT ON SCENT-FREE ENVIRONMENTS

The Public Service Alliance of Canada is committed to ensuring that all members with disabilities are able to effectively participate in order to contribute to the organization's mandate.

In this regard, the PSAC recognizes that accessibility is an essential requirement for the participation of members with environmental disabilities. In consideration for the health of our members who may suffer from environmental disabilities, and with the goal of eliminating a contaminant from the air, **the PSAC requests that all participants attending any union function refrain from using scented products. These include scented perfumes, colognes, lotions, hairsprays, deodorants and other products promoted by the fragrance industry.**

A participant who notices a problem is encouraged to address the person in a cordial and respectful manner. Any unresolved issues may be brought to the attention of the organizers who may investigate and attempt to find a reasonable accommodation.

By working together, we can create healthier environments for ALL, and accommodate the needs of persons who have environmental disabilities.