



Atlantic

Call for Applications to the PSAC Atlantic School
Building it stronger: A union school for movement builders
October 17-21, 2018
DoubleTree by Hilton, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia

What is the Atlantic School?

Are you a PSAC member interested in bringing your activism to the next level? Have you completed basic union training and want to advance your skills? Why not apply for the 2018 PSAC Atlantic School?

The Atlantic Regional School is the flagship of the region's education program. It brings together union activists from the four Atlantic Provinces with a foundation in union education to advance their skills in the company of the region's most activated members. The school's in-residence program is tailored to deliver advanced courses in both official languages, while immersing participants in union culture.

Our Theme

Building it stronger: A union school for movement builders

The 2018 Atlantic School will explore ways of building a union that can take on the challenges of the social, political and economic context in which we currently live and work. Our union is always being tested, whether it's by the Phoenix Pay System, by systems of oppression in our places of work or by barriers to member engagement. As union activists and officers, our job is to find new and strategic ways of rising to these challenges, of building on what unites us and of breaking down what divides us. The Atlantic School will offer ways of practising a kind of solidarity that members can truly engage with, a kind of solidarity that builds capacity, that works across diversity and that is based on the fact that our union and our movement are always stronger when our members work together.

What courses are being offered?

The Atlantic School will offer three courses that will build on the fundamental skills members have learned in our Basic Education Program, while tackling current issues facing PSAC.

1. Advanced Representation Training for Stewards (EN/FR)

This course is for stewards who are ready to advance their representation skills and take on more challenging cases. Participants will explore emerging trends in member grievances and will learn about the legal context in which they operate. The training will also focus on skills like note-taking, file-keeping and fact-finding, as well as problem solving and case analysis. The training will help stewards manage member expectations about the grievance process, and explore the steps and processes involved in filing a grievance and taking it to its final conclusion.

Prerequisites

Applicants must have a minimum of Talking Union Basics or Our Communities, Our Union, Our Rights: An introduction to the PSAC for Indigenous Members. They must also have taken the basic Grievance Handling course, or a Component equivalent to this course, and have some experience in representation.

2. Human Rights Activism (EN/FR)

This training will bring together activists with a deep and demonstrated commitment to human rights. Participants will examine the current climate for human rights in Canada and current issues affecting equity seeking groups. The course will also look at what it means to have an intersectional analysis of human rights and how to practise anti-oppression. Finally, the training will give participants tools and resources to assist them in their activism and help them develop a plan of action for advancing human rights in the union, the workplace and the community.

Prerequisites

Applicants must have a minimum of Talking Union Basics or Our Communities, Our Union, Our Rights: An introduction to the PSAC for Indigenous Members. They must also demonstrate a commitment to human rights in the union, the workplace or the community.

3. Advanced Union Elected Officer Training (EN)

This course will bring together members who hold elected positions in the union, whether at the local, component or regional level, to develop skills in leadership, effective communication and union building. Participants will explore the organizing model and how to apply it to encourage member engagement. Participants will also look at ways of sharing power and responsibility as elected officers. Finally, the course will provide strategies for having effective and difficult discussions with members, fellow union officers and management, and for working through conflict.

Prerequisites

Applicants must have a minimum of Talking Union Basics or Our Communities, Our Union, Our Rights: An introduction to the PSAC for Indigenous Members. They must also hold an office at the local, component or regional level.

Language

Activities in plenary will be conducted in both French and English and will be simultaneously translated. Three courses will be delivered in English. One course only will be delivered in French. However, we are promoting two courses in French and will deliver the course most in demand.

Selection Process

Participant selections will be made with a view to have equitable representation from Components, Directly Chartered Locals, and the Atlantic Region's four provinces. We also seek representation from the five equity-seeking groups (women, LGBTQ2+ members, racially visible members, members with disabilities and Indigenous members), from French-language speakers and from members who are young workers. Consideration is also given to past union, community and social justice activism.

School Schedule

Registration will take place on Wednesday, October 17, 2018 from 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. and again the next day, from 8 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.

The School will officially open with a plenary session followed by a meet and greet from 5 p.m. – 8 p.m., Wednesday, October 17. All participants are expected to attend. Courses will run during the days. Events will also be scheduled in the evenings. The Atlantic School will close at noon on Sunday, October 21.

Wednesday, October 17, 2018	Participants travel to the school
3 p.m. – 5 p.m.	Registration
5 p.m. – 8 p.m.	Opening and meet and greet
Thursday, October 18, 2018	Courses and evening activities
8 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.	Registration
Friday, October 19, 2018	Courses and evening activities
Saturday, October 20, 2018	Courses and evening activities
Sunday, October 21, 2018	Course wrap up and closing plenary
12 p.m.	Participants travel

Location

The DoubleTree by Hilton, located at 101 Wyse Rd, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia will be the home of the 2018 Atlantic School. The facility is newly renovated and unionized. Participants will have individual accommodations.

Meal and incidentals

Some meals will be provided at the Atlantic School. Meals not provided at the Atlantic School will be covered in accordance with PSAC rates. Meals and incidentals while participants are travelling to and from the school will be covered in accordance with PSAC rates.

Wages

Members who are accepted to the Atlantic School and are a Treasury Board member will need to request leave for union activity to attend the school. PSAC will provide you with a personalized letter supporting this leave. PSAC will be billed for your lost wages and you will experience no interruption in your regular pay.

Members who are accepted to the Atlantic School and who work for a separate employer or who are from a Directly Chartered local will need to request leave without pay from your employer. Your lost salary will be reimbursed by PSAC. If you are from a Directly Chartered Local with an arrangement whereby your employer bills the PSAC for participation in Union activities, this arrangement will be honoured.

Family Care

Costs incurred for family care while attending the Atlantic School will be reimbursed in accordance with the PSAC Family Care Policy which can be found here: <http://psacunion.ca/family-care-policy>

Transportation

Travel arrangements will be discussed with each participant in advance of the School. The most economical means of transportation will be explored with the assistance of your regional office.

Scent Free

All PSAC courses are scent-free and participants are asked to use unscented products. The PSAC Statement on Scent Free Environments is included for your reference in the application form.

How do I apply?

Please complete the attached application form and send it to the attention of Luc Richard at the PSAC's Halifax Regional Office.

Public Service Alliance of Canada Halifax Regional Office

c/o Luc Richard
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287 Lacewood Drive, Suite 301
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Email: atlanticschool@psac-afpc.com

Deadline for applications is June 7, 2018
Late applications will not be accepted.