



UNION OF GRADUATE STUDENT WORKERS
PSAC Directly Chartered Local 60550
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Chief Steward's Report – General Membership Meeting November 7, 2018

This report marks my eighth month as Acting Chief Steward, a position I assumed when our previous Chief Steward moved away last April, and I will be stepping down rather than seeking election for the position of Chief Steward. I will discuss the duties I performed while holding this position.

I participated in the Talking Union Basics training and the Grievance Handling Training courses offered by the Public Service Alliance of Canada, in an effort to better represent the UGSW membership. During this time, I identified an oversight in the Grievance Procedure section of our Collective Agreement, Article 19.11, which was later amended by the Joint Union Management Committee to better reflect the proper grievance procedure.

I assisted in this fall orientation week and have been working to shore up full registration of our members by reaching out to people to sign their membership cards and offering assistance whenever it was desired. I have also been working to re-establish our stewards' network, which essentially reset at the beginning of the year – many departments, however, remain to have their information or shop steward positions filled. I otherwise met with members to provide consultation on their rights and responsibilities as members of the Union and to assure them that, in the event of contravention of their rights, we provide options, representation, and resources towards possible recourse and resolution.

I have attended every UGSW executive meeting and, during the summer, filled in as an alternate at a Joint Union Management Committee meeting, while more recently I sat as an alternate at a meeting for the Joint Working Group on No Harassment, No Discrimination, and Whistleblower Protection. I have likewise performed a number of administrative tasks, particularly in relation to tracking instances of late pay and fluctuating hours among our membership.

As a final note, it is my sincere hope that someone comes forward to fill the position of Chief Steward. It is an important role in the union that helps contribute to the better representation of the membership and the overall workings of the Union. I have learned important lessons during my time as Acting Chief Steward and have seen first hand how necessary it is to have a well-organized and robust union to ensure the rights of student workers are taken seriously and respected.

In solidarity,

Perry Reimer