

POWERWORKS

winter NEWSLETTER



WITHIN

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE



03

PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE



07

BILL 124



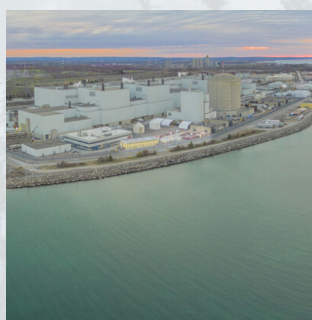
13

EASTERN ONTARIO
STORM



14

RECONCILIATION
HONOUR WALK



15

NUCLEAR ENERGY IS
ONTARIO'S BEST
OPTION FOR
ACHIEVING
NET-ZERO &
LONG-TERM
ECONOMIC
PROSPERITY



17

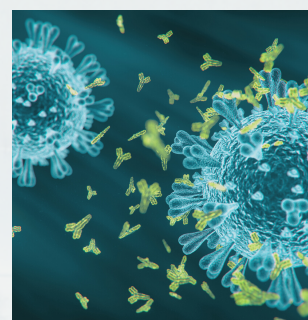
PWU SUMMER EVENTS



19

seventy sixth
**COUNCIL OF
CHIEF STEWARDS**

76TH COUNCIL OF
CHIEF STEWARDS



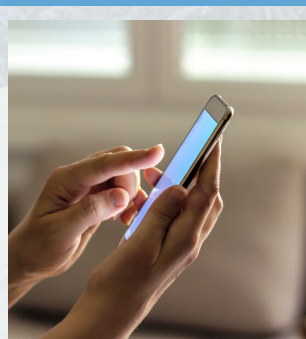
21

COVID-19 UPDATE



23

IN THE COMMUNITY



25

SOCIALS & CONTACT

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This past year has been a blur, leaving as quickly as it came. Looking back on what has been accomplished in 2022, I am proud of all the PWU members who have persevered through almost 3 years of a global pandemic and kept on generating, transmitting, and distributing reliable electricity to Ontario. We are indeed the people who help keep the lights on.

PWU Representatives and Staff continue to provide the excellent representation our members have come to expect and have effectively worked to ensure the voice of the PWU is the voice for all workers in the electricity sector.

Covid-19 is not going away anytime soon, and we are learning to carry on with our lives. Throughout the pandemic, the PWU Pandemic Team, with support from PWU Medical Consultant Dr. Bindu Kumar, have ensured that we are providing accurate, unbiased guidance to our membership in an effort to maximize our members' safety.

I look forward to 2023 and can't help but wonder what our jobs will be like without having to deal with a global pandemic.



STAFF CHANGES

Retirement announcements are always a double-edged sword for the PWU. We are, of course, happy for the individual as we wish them well in their transition to the period in their life when they can finally relax and enjoy themselves. The other side of the sword means we would like them to continue the excellent work they have done for the PWU. I would like to take this opportunity to let you know three valuable Staff Officers have announced their retirement in the very near future.

Barb Duncan, most recently the Hiring Hall Dispatcher, is retiring after thirty-four years with the PWU. Barb started working with the PWU in 1988 as an Administrative Assistant and became a Staff Officer in 2003.

Tom Nichols, a Health and Safety Staff Officer, is retiring after 12 years of ensuring PWU members can work in some of the electricity sector's safest workplaces. Prior to joining the PWU Staff, Tom was a Lineperson with Hydro One and was a Chief Steward.

Kim Wagget, a Sector One Staff Officer, has announced her retirement after 5 years with the PWU Staff. Kim, a former Chief Steward, worked at OPG in Darlington as an Office Support Representative First Line Managers Assistant (OSR FLMa) prior to joining the PWU Staff.

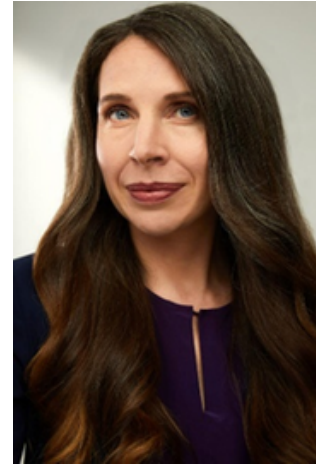
A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

CONTINUED

The Executive Board of the PWU has selected Jessica Latimer as Associate General Counsel for the Union.

Jessica is a respected member of the Bar of Ontario and has practiced labour law since 2011. Jessica has spent much of her time representing the PWU over the course of the last decade, much to the benefit of this Union.

Jessica will commence her new role on January 1st, 2023, and will become General Counsel to the Union when our current General Counsel, Chris Dassios, retires, which Chris has indicated will likely occur in 2024. Given Jessica's intimate knowledge of the legal affairs of the PWU, we anticipate a seamless transition of work from Chris to Jessica.



We look forward to Jessica joining the PWU family.

BARGAINING

This year was a very busy year with a lot of our larger employer contracts maturing in the same year. To add to the busy schedule, the negotiating teams have faced an unprecedented increase in the cost of living. This was fueled by a broken global supply chain, the hangover from the pandemic, the soaring cost of energy and a war in Ukraine. With inflation rates changing at such a quick pace, it left bargaining teams trying to hit a moving target making it extremely difficult for them to meet the changing needs of the membership at the bargaining table.

Three of the PWU's largest bargaining units, Bruce Power, Toronto Hydro, and Alectra have been able to reach agreement along with a number of smaller units. Talks continue with the PWU's largest bargaining unit, OPG, as the bargaining committee wrestles with the impending shutdown of the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station in 2025 and the Protecting a Sustainable Public Sector for Future Generations Act, 2019 (Bill 124). More on Bill 124 is written later in this newsletter.

Congratulations to the Sector Vice Presidents, the bargaining committees and all the associated staff on ensuring the membership is represented at the highest of standards by continuing to negotiate contracts that set the standard in the industry.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

The PWU is leading the conversation when it comes to the future of Ontario's energy policies. The PWU has authored more than 50 reports and submissions over the past 2 years, many of them being instrumental in changing government direction and policies that benefit PWU members and the people of Ontario.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

CONTINUED

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS CONTINUED

We continue to participate and lead the discussion on several influential panels and boards, including the NRCAN Working Committee exploring the use of nuclear power for hydrogen production, the Energy Xchange which provides advice to the Ontario Energy Board on energy policies, the Green Ribbon Panel which was developed to explore the opportunities of green energy in Ontario (with the primary focus being nuclear development), the Ivey Energy Centre at Western University as an advisory board member and Plug 'n Drive an organization promoting the development of infrastructure to support electric vehicles.

We continue to promote the need for the development of new nuclear power. It is finally starting to sink in with policy makers that Ontario is far behind in needed development of the electricity infrastructure and will soon find itself in a deficit of clean reliable base load energy. With the closure of Pickering in 2025, Ontario will find itself 3600 MW short of clean reliable base load generation. This shortage only gets exacerbated with load demands sharply increasing by 2030 with the continued strains added by electrification and population growth in Ontario. This clean reliable energy shortage will leave Ontario falling severely short of the Global plan of reducing carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions by 45 percent from 2010 levels by 2030, reaching net zero around 2050.

Working with our consultants, we have met with several influential Members of Parliament and leaders in the Energy Markets. There appear to be several alignments both politically and in the industry that have led the PWU to embark on a sustained campaign over the next year that will focus on the need for New Clean Energy Development in Ontario capable of providing base load electricity.

I know when I reflect on the year 2022, I will see it as a year of social change as we learned to live with pandemic pressures while pursuing a life of normalcy. I will also remember it as the year Chris Dassios, PWU General Counsel, took me aside and said “we have to talk”. Although I realize Chris’s announcement to retire comes with a two-year warning signal, it is still hard to fathom the PWU without Chris Dassios.

This year was also a year that we decided to maintain our strong roots at 244 Eglinton, as we made the commitment to reinvest in our building at a level that will ensure stability for years to come. I would like to thank PWU Chief Financial Officer Stephen D’Arcy for providing the knowledge and experience that ensures the building renovations go smoothly. Stephen has guided this process while continuing to remain steadfast in his regular duties and providing the members with the confidence that the organization’s financial interests remain under excellent stewardship.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Executive and Executive Board for all their outstanding work and support over the past year.



Jeff Parnell
President
Power Workers' Union

**AS THIS YEAR COMES TO A CLOSE, I WOULD LIKE TO WISH EVERYONE A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY
AS YOU ENJOY THIS TIME WITH YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS.**

WE REMEMBER



HOWARD PHORSON

12.5.1958 - 12.16.2022

AUTHORIZED NUCLEAR OPERATOR
EXECUTIVE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE
BRUCE TECHNOLOGY SKILLS TRAINING
CENTRE



BRUCE POWER & POWER WORKERS' UNION

*May the wind forever be beneath your wings.
Fly on.*



ONTARIO SUPREME COURT STRIKES DOWN BILL 124

In June of 2019, the Government of Ontario introduced the Protecting a Sustainable Public Sector for Future Generations Act, 2019, commonly known as Bill 124. This Act limits compensation increases for approximately 780,000 workers in the broader public sector to 1% per year for a three-year moderation period starting on the expiry of the collective agreement that was enforced as of June 5th, 2019.

The PWU, along with several other Unions filed a constitutional challenge seeking to have the Act struck down as it is a clear violation of the constitutionally protected right to collectively bargain. On November 29th, the Ontario Superior Court issued its 81-page decision on the challenge.

Within the decision, it was declared that “the Act to be void and of no effect” as it is indeed a violation of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Specifically, with respect to the Electricity Sector, the Court held that:

“On the record before me, there is no rational connection between the government’s objective and wages at OPG, the OEB, or the IESO, to all of whom the Act applies”.

While it is open to the Ontario government to appeal the decision, and Doug Ford has made his intent to do so clear, it is our view that the Ontario government has been told in no uncertain terms by a Court of competent jurisdiction that it has indeed violated the constitutional rights of its citizens.

The PWU plans on meeting with the IESO after all parties have had a chance to thoroughly review the decision, to discuss the impacts, and what our next steps will be. For now, the PWU will continue bargaining with their current collective agreements.

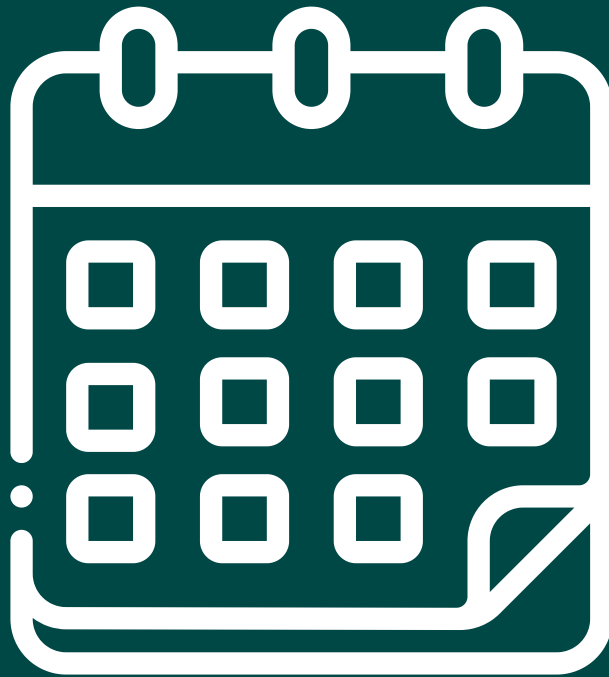
There is much more to come on this matter as the PWU works through the practical effects of this decision, but for now it is fair to say that it is good news for workers in Ontario and for PWU members.

This day also highlights the importance of having strong trade unions with the resources to vindicate constitutional rights before an independent judiciary.



IT IS GOOD NEWS FOR WORKERS IN ONTARIO AND FOR PWU MEMBERS.

PWU 2023 CALENDARS ARE IN!



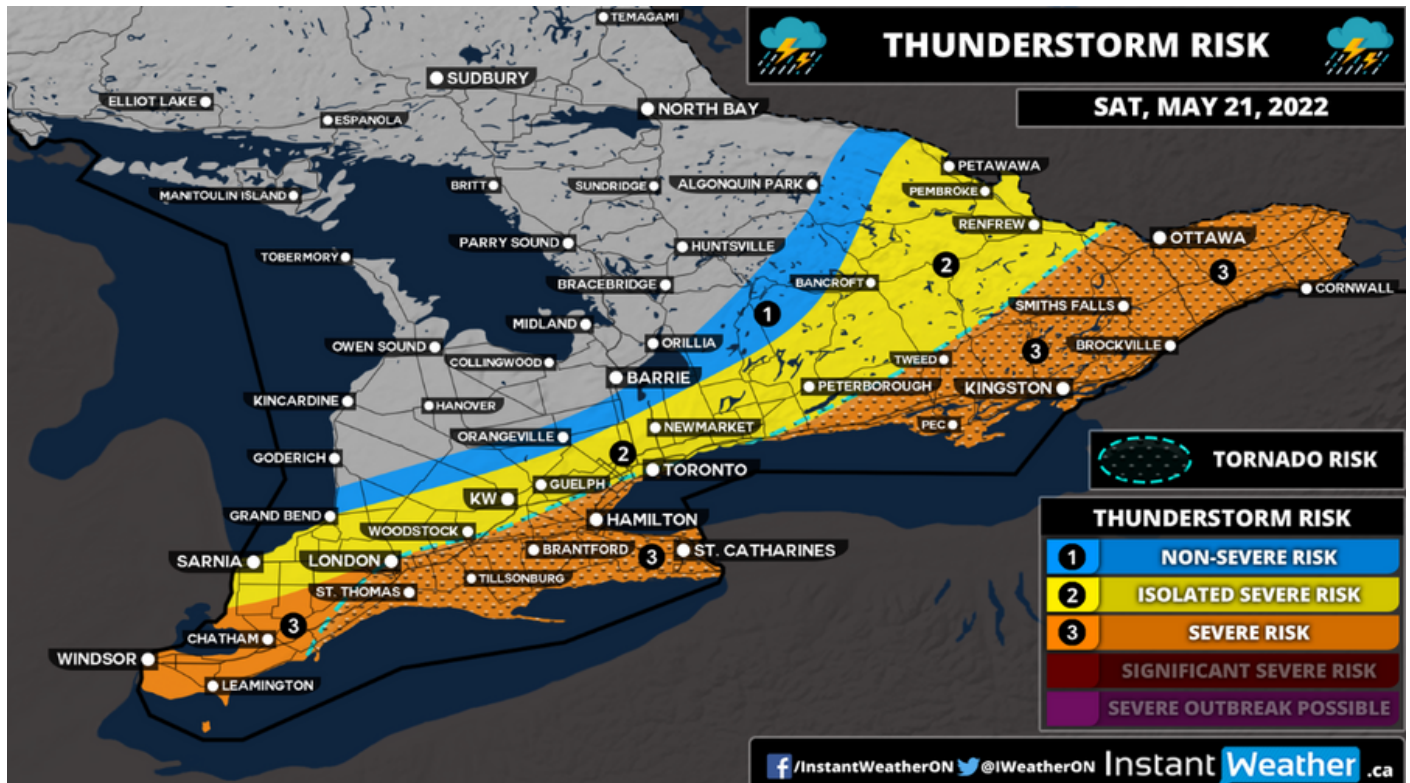
GET YOURS TODAY!

Reach out to your Chief Steward to request a Calendar. Should your Chief Steward not have any, they can request more by emailing communications@pwu.ca.



EASTERN ONTARIO STORM

In May of this year, a thunderstorm devastated much of Eastern Ontario. This thunderstorm spanned from Windsor, all the way to Cornwall, with the severity increasing as it traveled East.



Defined as the first Derecho in Canada in this century (the last one occurring in 1999), this storm had gusts of wind up to 190 km/hr, knocking powerlines and trees over in the blink of an eye. Tornadoes ravished towns such as Uxbridge and Ottawa, devastating vehicles, homes, churches, and other historical buildings.



A DERECHO, PRONOUNCED DEH-REY-CHO, IS A LONG-LIVED, FAST-MOVING THUNDERSTORM THAT CAUSES WIDESPREAD WIND DAMAGE.

EASTERN ONTARIO STORM

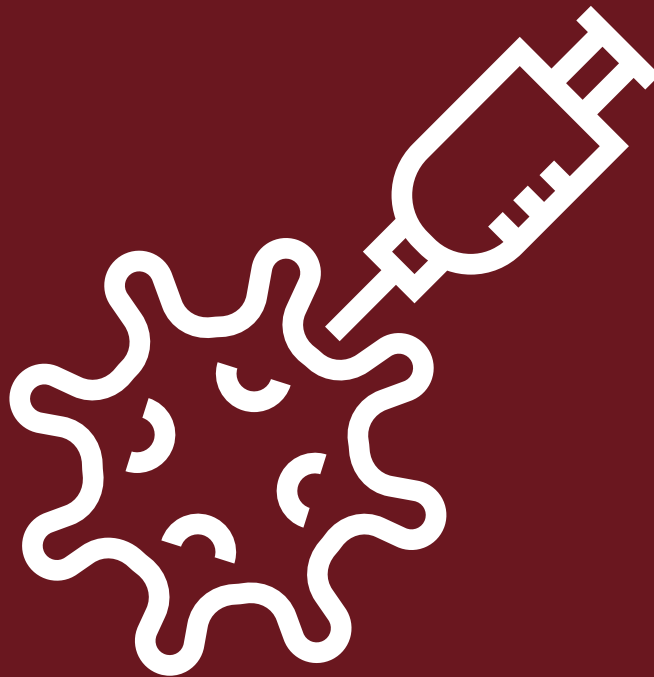
CONTINUED

Members of the Power Workers' Union worked long hours to ensure power could be restored to the 350,000 people who were without. Companies such as Hydro One placed their workers onto "Storm", essentially meaning they were on call during, as well as for weeks after the event, cleaning up debris. This weather event was also considered to be one of the most expensive storms in Ontario's history, costing the Insurance Bureau an estimated \$380 million dollars.

It is in times like these when everyone remembers the importance of having highly skilled workers to clean up debris, restore power and keep the lights on. A notion, we all as Power Workers remember day in and day out. Thank you to all the workers who put in the extra hours to ensure our communities were kept safe and returned to normal.



IT'S FLU SEASON



GET YOUR FLU SHOT!

Influenza kills hundreds of thousands of people a year, and although unassuming when compared to the COVID-19 virus and booster, it is important in keeping yourself as protected as possible.



PWU RECONCILIATION HONOUR WALK

In the early spring of 2022, the PWU's Indigenous Relations Committee began conceptualizing and planning their first ever PWU Reconciliation Honour Walk. The premise of this walk was to have PWU Members join together in-person to raise money and walk in honour of the victims and survivors of the Residential School System.

While organizing this event in the midst of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the PWU's Indigenous Relations Committee pivoted, making this event virtual as opposed to in-person. This meant PWU Members could walk in their individual communities and log their kilometres and fundraising online. The goal was to walk a collective 600 kilometres together. The amount of 600 has significance, as it is the number of kilometres Chanie Wenjack attempted to walk as he escaped from the Cecilia Jeffrey Residential School. Heartbreakingly, Chanie never made it home.



NYA:WEH TO THE OVER 300 INDIVIDUALS AND 11 SPONSORS THAT ASSISTED PWU TO RAISE \$40,000 FOR WCC! WE ARE HONOURED TO HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH PWU AND THEIR INDIGENOUS RELATIONS COMMITTEE ON THEIR FUNDRAISER AND HOST THEM ON SITE FOR A POWERFUL AND EMOTIONAL DAY.

All proceeds from this walk were donated to the Woodland Cultural Centre, formerly known as the Mohawk Institute Residential School, in Brantford, Ontario. This Centre is dedicated to the education, memorial, and historical significance of the Residential School system, particularly for those who survived and those who did not. Funds raised for the institute will be used to support the programs, museum, artifacts, library resources, and building maintenance.

At the conclusion of the event, the PWU's Indigenous Relations Committee, along with 11 sponsors and over 300 participants, were able to raise an astounding \$40,000.00 for the Woodland Cultural Centre. We are proud of the PWU's Indigenous Relations Committee for achieving such an incredible result in their inaugural year of this event and look forward to what they achieve in the future.



\$40,000.00 RAISED

PWU RECONCILIATION HONOUR WALK

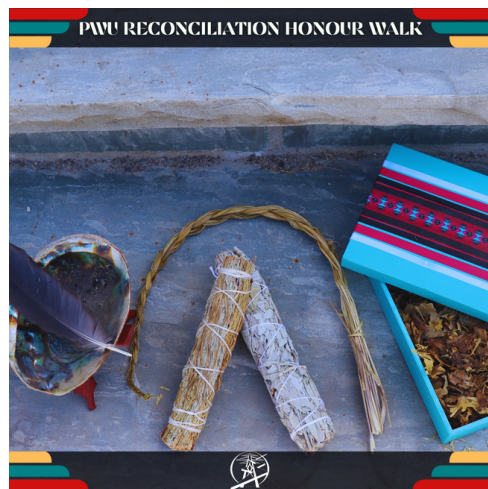
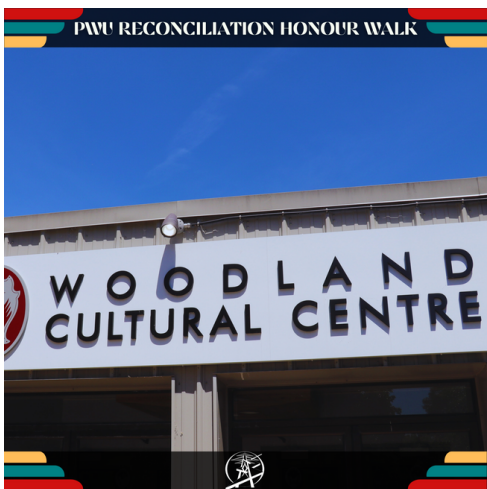
CONTINUED



I am not sure what forever changed me more from my visits at the Woodland Cultural Centre, the history, or the hope. This history is not only shared but it is felt deeply in your soul. The hope is so evident through the amazing, dedicated people at the centre working hard to educate and engage people on the Institute as well and strengthen Indigenous culture. I am proud to be a part of an organization that supports these efforts and encourages other organizations to not only support them financially but to coordinate a visit to the Woodland Cultural Center for their staff.
**Pam Rafeiro Ojibwe Curve Lake First Nation
Power Workers' Union Staff Officer
Indigenous Relations Committee**



Visiting the Woodland Cultural Centre is an experience I won't forget. To know the stories and horrors of the residential school system is one thing, but to stand within the walls they took place in is something I cannot put into words. I left feeling so many different emotions, but I am so glad I got the opportunity to visit and support the Woodland Cultural Centre and hear about all of the amazing work they are doing to learn, educate and reclaim the culture and teachings that the system has tried to erase. To turn a place that held so much pain into a place where survivors and their loved ones enjoy returning to is truly inspiring and a beautiful example of resiliency. Chi-Miigwetch for this experience.
**Kayla Roote Ojibwe from Saugeen First Nation
Power Workers' Union
Indigenous Relations Committee**



I found my visit to the Woodland Cultural Center to be nothing short of enlightening as far as what took place there and in many other places across Turtle Island. The museum and artifacts are history that we all should share in.
**Paul Robertson Algonquin First Nation
Power Workers' Union
Indigenous Relations Committee**

During the month of June, Union raised funds for the Woodland Cultural Center and we presented the funds raised to the Cultural Center in ceremony. On this day the Center staff took us on a tour around the building and as I walked around the grounds and building, I had very overwhelming feeling I got being in a spot where the horrendous crimes against Indigenous children. I try to understand how this could happen to any child in this world. The brave souls that endured the abuse over many years is heart breaking as I stood reflecting on how lucky I was and to be who I am, as I can practice my culture and traditions and pass it down to my children. As a proud Algonquin, I stood in front of this building with my regalia on, saying to myself they did not win we are still here as Indigenous people. Thank you to these brave souls for never giving up. Miigwetch.
**John Paul Kohoko Algonquin of Pikwakanagan First Nation
Power Workers' Union
Indigenous Relations Committee**

NUCLEAR ENERGY IS ONTARIO'S BEST OPTION FOR ACHIEVING NET-ZERO AND LONG-TERM ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

Remarks made by the UN Secretary-General at the recent Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27) underscore the importance of Ontario acting sooner than later to invest in new nuclear energy. Despite decades of climate talks, the Secretary-General lamented the lack of progress on saving the planet from excessive warming from greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and that the world is “on a highway to hell with its foot on the accelerator”.

Getting to Net Zero carbon emissions by 2050 means a massive transition from fossil fuels to non-emitting energy sources. Recently, Ontario appointed an Electrification and Energy Transition Panel that will advise the government on the highest value short, medium, and long-term opportunities i.e., to create jobs, affordable energy rates, and an attractive economic investment environment. The Panel will also identify opportunities to improve Ontario's long-term energy planning process, including better coordination between the fuels and electricity sectors. Their work will be informed by two reports, to be completed by the end of 2022 – an independent, Cost-Effective Energy Pathways Study and another by the Independent Electricity System Operator on achievable pathways to decarbonization. This advice is intended to help guide government decisions going forward.

There is already ample evidence pointing to Ontario's best option for achieving long-term, low-carbon energy security and enhanced economic competitiveness – build more nuclear reactors. A look back over the last sixty years shows that besides providing safe, reliable, affordable low-carbon electricity, Canada's successful CANDU nuclear technology has contributed substantial environmental and economic benefits.

As the IESO's Gas Phase Out Report notes, Ontario currently has one of the cleanest electricity systems in the world. This is primarily due to the 24/7 baseload energy produced by the province's nuclear fleet. Our challenge is to maintain that performance and improve it even further as demand for low-carbon electricity rises faster than ever before, and while low-carbon assets like the 3,000 MW Pickering Nuclear Generating Station are retired.



NUCLEAR ENERGY IS ONTARIO'S BEST OPTION FOR ACHIEVING NET-ZERO AND LONG-TERM ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

CONTINUED

Building new nuclear reactors in Ontario is a cost-effective investment compared to other low-carbon energy resources. The International Energy Agency's 2020 Report, Projected Costs of Generating Electricity (produced every five years) indicated that nuclear remains the dispatchable low-carbon technology with the lowest expected costs in 2025, comparable to large reservoir hydro plants. Also, Canada's nuclear sector is governed by a robust regulatory framework that, unlike other energy sources, includes a well-funded, safe, and secure waste management plan.

This "Ontario-centric" industry generates about \$6 billion (B) annually in revenues and supports more than 200 supply chain companies and about 76,000 direct and indirect jobs. The uranium comes from Saskatchewan. Investments in new reactors will stimulate continued growth in broader societal benefits including the production of more life-saving medical isotopes; "friend-shoring" foreign diplomacy; and the production of low-carbon hydrogen.

Climate change is no longer an emerging issue, it is a pressing global challenge. Around the world, efforts to address and adapt to the environmental, societal, and economic impacts of our changing climate are driving an intense competition for low-carbon energy security. Canada, the United States, and the United Kingdom have already committed to phasing out natural gas generation by 2035. While fossil fuels are expected to remain in the global supply mix until 2050, the policy field is rapidly changing to help accelerate a low-carbon energy transition before this date.

Today, the environmental and economic benefits of nuclear energy are recognized around the world. Governments and financial investors are supporting nuclear investments with green bonds and tax credits. For example, recently, Canada announced tax credits for the new 300 MW small modular reactor at Darlington and the Canada Infrastructure Bank announced a \$1B investment in the project.

Ontario's low-carbon nuclear energy foundation has been stimulating economic growth for decades - well before climate change became the issue it is today. It's a solid, proven domestic technology with assets, infrastructure and expertise worth leveraging to ensure long-term, low-carbon energy security and economic growth and competitiveness for Ontario. Ontario needs to move quickly to develop new large-scale nuclear generation to power a timely transition to Net Zero.



**NEW CLOTHES,
NEW DESIGNS,
NEW COLOURS.**

WWW.SHOPPWU.CA

FEBRUARY 2022

ALL NEW, ALL YOURS.

**CANADIAN, UNION-MADE, SOLD AT COST
\$5.00 FLAT RATE SHIPPING ALL OVER ONTARIO**



PWU SUMMER EVENTS

This year marked the first year back since the COVID-19 pandemic for the PWU to resume its usual Summer events which include the Annual PWU Charity Golf Tournament and the Toronto Labour Day Parade.

PWU ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Back in April, the PWU sent out the Registration for this year's Annual Charity Golf Tournament. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the PWU had hosted its largest tournament to date, with approximately 600 Members, spanning across two golf courses. This year, considering the pandemic and virality of the virus, the PWU downsized and kept the registration for the tournament to 288 people.

We filled all spots of the tournament very quickly, as this is an event many of our Members look forward to every year and have missed since its hiatus. Unfortunately, due to the Eastern Ontario Storm, upwards of 10 foursomes had to cancel last minute and were refunded due to being on "Storm", continuing to clean up debris.

All in all, it was a successful day, we heard resounding feedback from participants that they were glad to see the tournament back, and were able to donate \$2,500 to each organization of our three charities: Diabetes Canada, Sunnybrook's Ross Tilley Burn Unit and the MS Society.



PWU SUMMER EVENTS

CONTINUED

LABOUR DAY

Each year on the first weekend in September, labourers from around the province walk in their communities as an act of solidarity for the Labour Movement. More specifically in Toronto, an estimated 25,000 proud unionized brothers and sisters walk the streets towards the Canadian National Exhibition (CNE) in a historic Canadian tradition. Labour Day itself is a day to be celebrated, recognizing the hard work of Unions that ensure workers are treated fairly, paid well, protected against unsafe work, and have great benefits.

This year, OPSEU Local 546 was on strike, a bargaining unit includes TSSA workers, the workers who help test and make sure the rides at the CNE are safe. In years past, if a Union is on strike, we all come together in some form to show solidarity- and sometimes this means the Toronto Labour Day Parade changes. However, the TSSA workers were in full support of the Toronto Labour Day Parade moving forward as is, understanding its significance for the Labour movement as a whole. This subsided fears of “crossing picket lines” as they halted their protests for the day and took action in other ways through signed petitions and social media posts.

With all things moving forward, the PWU provided a t-shirt, hat, Admission to the CNE, and a lunch fare of \$25.00 to the first 500 Members and families who registered for the parade. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and inclement weather, only about 250 Members were able to make it out. We hope next year we will be further removed from the COVID-19 pandemic and can have a better representation of the PWU. Thank you to all those who participated.



SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN THE WORKPLACE HAS INCREASED.

Sexual violence is any sexual act that is physical or psychological in nature, that is committed, threatened, or attempted against a person without the person's consent.



IT IS NOT AN INTERPRETATION.

POWER WORKERS' UNION

Women's Committee



76TH COUNCIL OF CHIEF STEWARDS

For the past 76 years, the PWU has held an Annual Council of Chief Stewards (Council). This Council is much like a conference, conducted over two days and is attended by representatives of each Sector Unit. The main objective of this meeting is to discuss the past year, address any issues or concerns, and create steps to move forward. This is the only place where amendments can be brought forth, discussed, then voted on and if passed, enshrined into the PWU Constitution.

Council also provides a space for us to bring speakers in to educate and in some cases, train those in attendance. This year, we organized Harassment training for all attendees, brought to us by Labour Lawyer Nene Jones. We also listened to Marc Brouillette and Laura Rees from the Council of Clean and Reliable Energy speak with us about Canada's Energy Vision, which includes principled approaches to our low-carbon energy infrastructure to achieve Net-Zero. We also had the privilege of listening to a panel from past PWU President Don Mackinnon, PWU Legal Counsel Chris Dassios, and PWU Consultant John Sprackett, all moderated by PWU Lawyer John Monger. This panel discussed the PWU's efforts and history of protecting our members work and jurisdiction using the collective agreement and different agreements.



From left to right:
Marc Brouillette, Laura Rees, Jeff Parnell



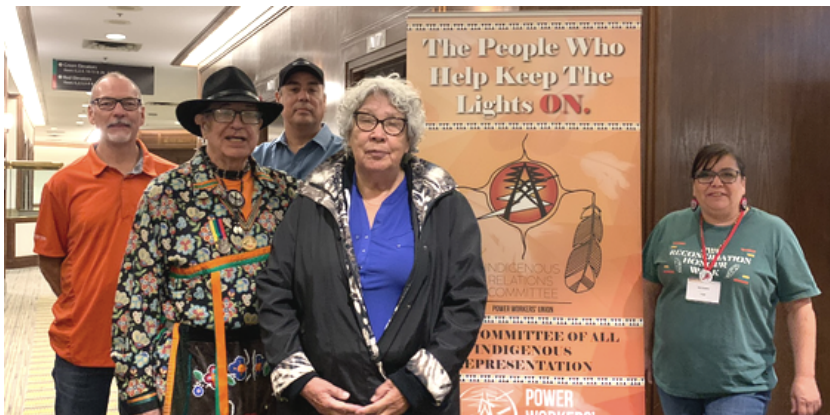
From left to right:
John Sprackett, Don MacKinnon, Chris Dassios, John Monger and Jeff Parnell



From left to right:
John Sprackett, Don MacKinnon

76TH COUNCIL OF CHIEF STEWARDS

With the increased awareness around Indigenous Relations, and the PWU's commitment to Reconciliation, this year the PWU hosted Gary Soult an Ojibway Elder for the Mississauga's of the Credit First nation to speak and open Council. He performed a smudge, and sang a song and prayer for us, as we paid our respects to the land on which we were meeting.



At every Council, we also take an opportunity to recognize those who have made great contributions to their communities and workplaces. We do this through two awards, the PWU Community Volunteer Award and the PWU Health & Safety Activist Awards. PWU Members have a chance from March through to July to nominate someone from their Sector for this award. Below are this year's winners.

PWU HEALTH & SAFETY ACTIVIST AWARD

- Sector 1: Chris Gray
- Sector 2: Paul Maher
- Sector 3: Adam Melen
- Sector 4: Mardina Held
- RWC: Yvan Gagnon



From left to right:
Adam Melen, Mardina Held, Yvan Gagnon
Not pictured: Chris Gray and Paul Maher

PWU COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER AWARDS

- Sector 1: Melissa Courcelle
- Sector 2: Jordan Douglas
- Sector 3: Andrea Katona-Smith
- Sector 4: Barbara McCormick
- RWC: John Inch



From left to right:
Melissa Courcelle, Jordan Douglas, Andrea Katona-Smith, Barbara McCormick, John Inch

COVID-19 UPDATE

To believe we are still talking about the COVID-19 pandemic seems almost allegorical, and looking back at 2020, we're sure no one (except the experts and doctors) could have predicted how long this disease would linger for.

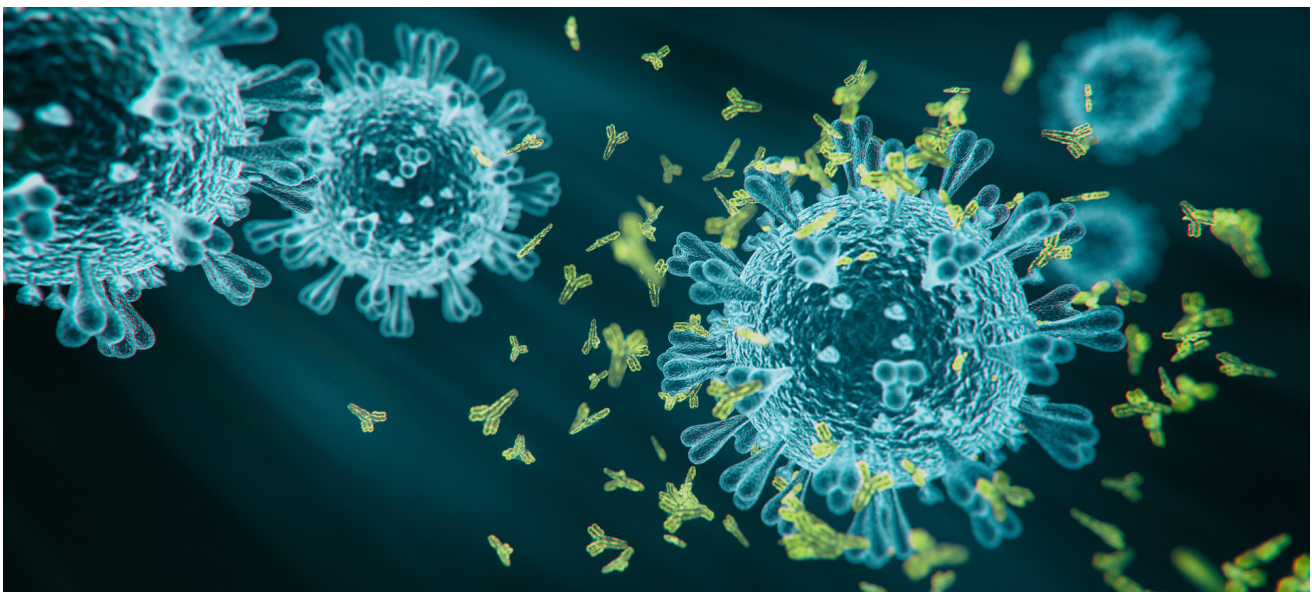
After going through lockdown after lockdown, Ontario (and much of the rest of the world) is in a much different space. The resounding mentality is "learning to live with COVID-19", trying to manage the virus and its effects for the long term.

Although it feels like we are progressing past the worst of the pandemic, the winter season always proves difficult for respiratory illness. This winter season, in particular, the province has experienced an increase in other viruses such as Influenza and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV). Influenza, a virus that is responsible for an average of 3,500 deaths per year is on the rise. We ask PWU Members to consider getting their annual flu-shot too as a form of extra protection this holiday season. Another virus that is very prevalent in communities right now is RSV. RSV affects the elderly and young much more considerably, so please consider masking around those who are within these age groups or are with people who may be immunocompromised.

If you feel unwell by any means, do your best to self-isolate until you are feeling better. Continue to self-screen and monitor symptoms, trying to minimize the spread of all viruses this holiday season.

As always, the PWU's stance on the pandemic is protecting workers as much as we can, without impeding on their rights. We ask Members to mask where necessary, be considerate of others, and think about getting your COVID-19 boosters as they become available.

SELF-SCREEN, MASK, SOCIAL DISTANCE, AND ALWAYS WASH YOUR HANDS!



HOW TO PROPERLY WEAR YOUR MASK

Should you wish to wear your mask, follow these simple tips to ensure you are doing so properly.



Wash your hands before and after touching the mask.



Touch only the bands or ties when putting on and taking off your mask.



Make sure the mask fits to cover your nose, mouth and chin. If you adjust the mask to cover those areas.



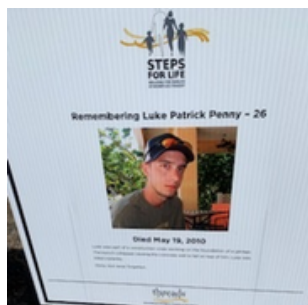
Nose is still visible.



Nose and mouth are covered.

IN THE COMMUNITY

THREADS OF LIFE: STEPS FOR LIFE



This year, in the leadup to the April 28th Day of Mourning and as part of Safety and Health Week, the PWU Staff Union participated in the Steps for Life Fundraising initiative for Threads of Life. PWU Staff was able to raise just over \$2,500 for this very important and heartfelt cause.



Threads of Life brings hope and healing to Canadian families who have been affected by a workplace fatality, life-altering injury or occupational disease. Their Canada-wide Volunteer Family Guides program is committed to helping others living with the consequences of workplace fatality, life-altering injury, or occupational disease.



Before the walk began Marleen Pitruzzella, this year's guest speaker took the microphone and shared her story as the participants gathered in front of her. Marleen told us how her family was introduced to Threads of Life through workplace tragedy on July 13, 2009. She spoke about the day a police officer arrived at their family home and knocked on the front door. She recalled the feelings she felt as a young girl when the officer told her and her mom that her father had been killed while at work on a construction site. She shared how it has been for her to grow up, and live on without her father. She talked openly about the many moments in her life when she wondered what he would have done or wanted her to do when she was faced with a challenge in her own life.

Marleen Pitruzzella stands with Steps for Life organizers, Dr. Joel Moody Chief Prevention Officer (CPO), Enzo Garitano from the Infrastructure Health & Safety Association (IHSA) and cuts the ribbon beginning the 5-kilometre walk.

Marleen and her family are just one of the far too many families affected by workplace tragedy. Along the walk, there were placards, memorializing the many victims of workplace tragedies. This is a cause very close to the PWU's heart, and one we will continue to support.



IN THE COMMUNITY

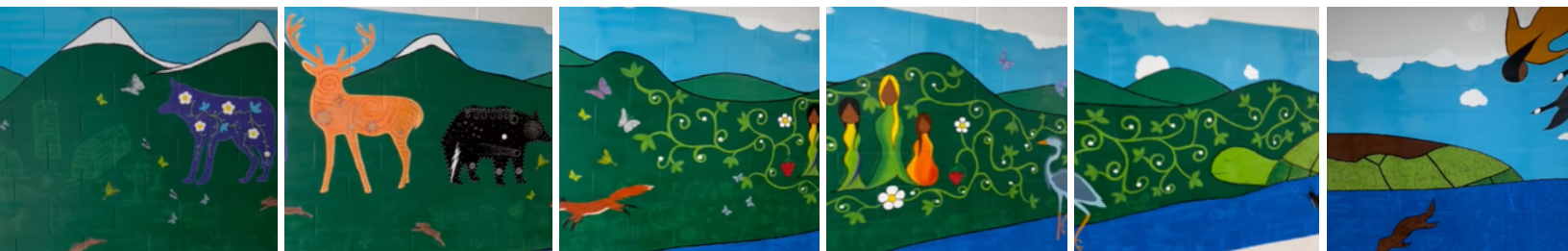
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

In June of this year, two representatives from the PWU were able to participate in a Habitat for Humanity build in Oshawa, organized by Women in Nuclear. Kim Wagget (Sector 1 Staff Officer) and Jordan Andrews (Communications Staff Officer) lent their “leaves room for improvement” house-building skills for the day, working in the hot summer heat. Habitat for Humanity uses donations and fundraisers to help build affordable homes for families going through difficult times. At this build, they heard from one of the families that were moving into the home they were building, which was very touching. The PWU was able to make a donation for this build, and we look forward to contributing to communities in a similar way again.



PWU INDIGENOUS ART IN NAPANEE

Chief Steward Kevin Borges brought to the Executive Committee, an opportunity to provide funding for an art project at Southview Public School in Napanee, Ontario. This project consisted of students working directly with Members of the local Indigenous Community to create two beautiful murals that spanned across hallways. The PWU had the privilege to join Kevin Borges, as well as PWU Indigenous Relations Committee Member John Paul-Kohoko at the unveiling ceremony, where it was presented and showcased. Some of these images can be seen below.



THANK YOU FOR READING

POWERWORKS - WINTER NEWSLETTER - 2022



FOLLOW US ON OUR SOCIALS



FACEBOOK [PWU Connects](#)

INSTAGRAM [@PWUConnects](#)

TWITTER [@PWUConnects](#)

YOUTUBE [Power Workers' Union](#)

CREATED BY

COMMUNICATIONS STAFF OFFICER Jordan Andrews

COMMUNICATIONS SR. ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Laura Barber

CONTRIBUTORS

Chris Dassios, John Ives, Jeff Parnell, Laura Nussey

PHOTOGRAPHS

Canva Creative Commons Images, Communications Department

RESOURCES

Canva Creative Commons Images, Communications Department

DATE OF ISSUANCE

DECEMBER, 20, 2022