

POWERWORKS

Summer NEWSLETTER



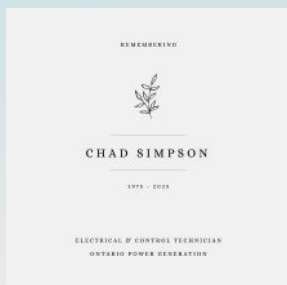
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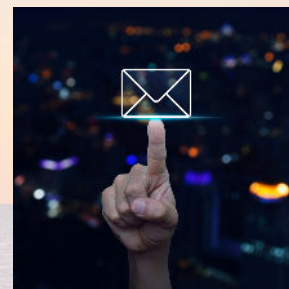
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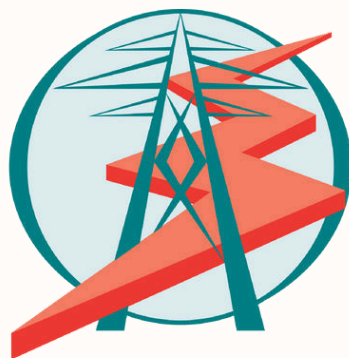
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**POWER
WORKERS'
UNION**

The People Who Help Keep The Lights **ON.**

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I would like to start by thanking the Members of the PWU for providing me with the opportunity to fulfill the roll of PWU President for the past five years.

It has been a busy five years. Society's norms were tested as we worked through a global pandemic. PWU Staff and Elected Representatives worked through the challenges the pandemic imposed and successfully ensured Members could remain working safely, while ensuring they were represented to the same high level to that which they have become accustomed to.

While the pandemic imposed changes to the operational norms of the PWU, we also continued to keep our eyes on the changes in the energy sector. We focused on the looming electricity shortage, as Canada followed the majority of nations favoring electrification as the solution to meet the CO2 net zero targets agreed to in the Paris Accord.



John Ives, John Sprackett and myself formed a lead team on the issue and developed a PWU plan that could provide a path to electrification. The first phase of the plan produced six opinion editorials that ensured politicians and the people they represented understood the magnitude of the problem and identified possible solutions. The opinion editorials drew a lot of attention from Federal and Provincial politicians, and they soon reached out to discuss our ideas. We had several meetings with Federal and Provincial politicians who listened to our thoughts on electrification and the electricity sector. I am proud to say that the PWU position to expand Nuclear baseload generation forms the foundation of the Ontario Government's plans as we move forward with electrification. This was achieved while we emphasized that all forms of electricity generation would need to be expanded upon to ensure an adequate supply of electricity beyond baseload.

Last year we entered the second phase, developing three additional opinion editorials and a series of discussion papers that promoted the necessity of investment into the transmission and distribution of the electricity system if electrification was to be a success. These opinion editorials and discussion papers generated the same response from the Provincial and Federal governments.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

CONTINUED



I would really like to take this opportunity to thank John Ives and John Sprackett for working with me on this issue over the past five years. It is a clear example of how the PWU can participate in discussions on Provincial and Federal levels ensuring our membership is being heard and the actions taken are in the public interest.

As I look forward to retirement, I will miss the fantastic people I have had the opportunity to work with and represent. The PWU is the best Union I know. The PWU Elected officials are compassionate and fierce when it comes to representing the members. These elected officials are supported by an incredible PWU Staff that ensure the elected official's priorities are supported with intelligent solutions.

*To the people who help keep the lights on...
Thanks.*



Jeff Parnell

President
Power Workers' Union



WE REMEMBER

REMEMBERING



MIGUEL ESCALANTE

1991 - 2025

DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM TECHNICIAN APPRENTICE
TORONTO HYDRO

WE REMEMBER

REMEMBERING



CHAD SIMPSON

1975 - 2025

ELECTRICAL & CONTROL TECHNICIAN
ONTARIO POWER GENERATION

WE REMEMBER

REMEMBERING



MIKHAIL GORDEYEV

1972 - 2025

DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM TECHNICIAN
TORONTO HYDRO



THOUGHTS ON A CAREER

CONTRIBUTED BY JOHN IVES

I first stepped through the doors at the PWU in 1995, about 50 years after the PWU was founded. The PWU was still mostly a single-employer union, Ontario Hydro, and was just starting to spread into local distribution companies. The last 30 years in Ontario's electrical industry have been transformational. I am proud and honoured to have been part of the transformation.



As the industry changed, so too did the PWU. It grew from a single, albeit significant, employer with a single collective agreement to a multi-employer organization with over 60 separate collective agreements that have to be policed and negotiated to ensure our Members receive the best possible collective agreements and standards of living.



Our internal structure also changed, from regional divisions to our current sectoral structure. As the electricity sector grows and changes, so too will the PWU's structure - to ensure Members continue to receive the representation they deserve and require.



The PWU has always understood the challenges of maintaining control of the work our members perform. Contracting out provisions will continue to remain essential to safeguard our work and to limit an employer's ability to use contractors. Hiring Hall agreements that protect the work and jurisdiction of the PWU, while providing the members who perform this work with stability, benefits and protection have been negotiated and will continue. These collective agreement provisions, and many others, continue to ensure PWU members work and help keep the lights on.



The ethos of the PWU is summed up in our tag line, "We Are The People Who Help Keep the Lights On." We don't do it alone, we are part of a team. The collective agreements we negotiate are among the most provident and comprehensive agreements in Canada and are the envy of many Unions. Our unique understanding and position in the sector is relied on by our Members, employers and the government to support Ontario's electricity sector.

THOUGHTS ON A CAREER

CONTINUED

“WE DON’T DO IT ALONE, WE ARE PART OF A TEAM.”

Our principles: create opportunities for sustainable, high-pay, high-skill jobs; ensure reliable, affordable, environmentally responsible electricity; build economic growth for Ontario’s communities; and, promote intelligent reform of Ontario’s energy policy, are supported by research and recognized across the province.

At the end of June the PWU will be electing a new President and three new Vice Presidents to guide the Union. The hallmark of the PWU is democracy, and in any democracy leaders are elected to represent the Union and decide the direction and path the Union will follow. From the Stewards and Health and Safety Representatives in the field, through the Principal and Chief Stewards and to the Vice Presidents and President, a strong and accountable Union relies on our democratic traditions. These traditions need your engagement and support.



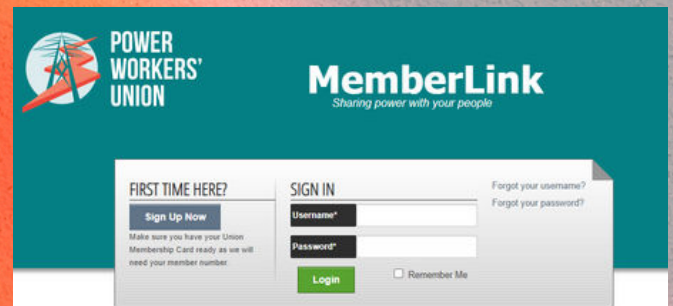
The next electricity sector transformation includes the potential for growth of the Union as the sector grows. There will be large increases needed in electricity generation, including new nuclear, hydroelectric, natural gas/hydrogen, and renewable generation. There will also be an increase in electricity transmission due to electrification and the need to be part of a new national electricity grid. The modernization of the electricity distribution system is also underway. The PWU is positioned to advise and help lead this electricity sector expansion. Your new Executive will continue to build on the past 80 years of work and leadership.



HAVE YOU ACCESSED THE PWU MEMBER PORTAL?

As PWU Members, you have access to an exclusive site that holds a ton of useful information.

If you haven't accessed the site before, you can register by clicking **Sign Up Now**.

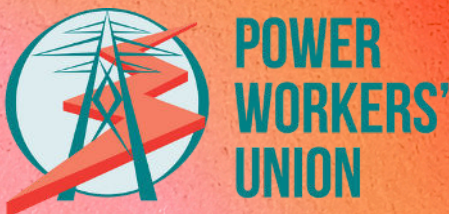


By signing up with your personal email, you are ensuring that you will receive the most current bulletins, emails, and most importantly, links to electronic ratification voting.

You can register for events here, and find all relevant bulletins archived here as well.

IF YOU HAVEN'T SIGNED UP YET, BE SURE TO DO SO AT:

[HTTPS://MEMBERS.PWU.CA](https://members.pwu.ca)



The People Who Help Keep The Lights **ON**.

if you have any issues signing up,
please reach out to **slafave@pwu.ca**
and she will be able to assist!

OEUHT 2024: A POWER PLAY FOR COMMUNITY AND CONNECTION

Each year, London, Ontario plays host to a highly anticipated event in the electricity sector: the Ontario Electricity Utilities Hockey Tournament (OEUHT). This year's tournament, held from April 4th to 6th at the Western Fair District Sports Centre, brought together more than 1000 participants, with 700 of these being members of the Power Workers' Union (PWU), for a weekend of camaraderie, competition, and community support.

With 60 teams competing across six divisions, the tournament has grown so significantly that organizers had to expand to a second venue - the Bostwick Community Centre in downtown London - to accommodate the action. Despite facing setbacks due to a late-March ice storm, which forced 12 teams to withdraw as they were busy restoring power across the province, the tournament remained a resounding success.



Colin Ruttan, a long-time participant, summed up the event's spirit: "The tournament is an awesome opportunity to reconnect with fellow players from across the province. Meet people that I've talked to for years on the phone but never met. Have some great fun playing some hockey and benefit a great youth charity in the process. Thank you to the PWU for your support and hopefully we can continue to grow this tournament and keep helping the benefactors."



The benefactor of this tournament being **KidSport London**, a local charity dedicated to ensuring no child is left on the sidelines due to financial barriers. Thanks to this year's event, **\$21,000** was raised—enough to support over 80 families and help kids across London access organized sport programs.

Behind the scenes, a great deal of planning goes into balancing the teams based on skill level, ensuring fair play and fun for all. Dave Fe Kelter, Executive Director of the London Sports Council and lead organizer, praised the dedication of participants and the ongoing support from the PWU.

Looking ahead, organizers are tentatively planning the 2025 tournament for March 27th to 29th - promising another exciting weekend of sport, solidarity, and giving back.





PLACE YOUR ORDER ONLINE



AND RECEIVE IT WITHN A WEEK!

----- **WWW.SHOPPWU.CA** -----

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



PWU ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT RAISES \$81,000 FOR THREE WORTHY CAUSES

On June 5th, the Power Workers' Union hosted its Annual Charity Golf Tournament at the Nottawasaga Inn and Conference Centre in Aliston. Over 205 players came out to enjoy 18 holes of golf, some friendly competition, and a day that started overcast but ended in beautiful sunshine.

This event is a key initiative for the PWU, helping to raise both awareness and critical funds for three meaningful organizations: the MS Society of Canada, Diabetes Canada, and the Ross Tilley Burn Unit at Sunnybrook Hospital.

The registration amount to participate in the tournament is \$250 and covers the cost to play which includes 18 holes of golf, a golf cart, lunch, and dinner—meaning no funds from registration go towards the funds raised from the tournament. The true fundraising power of the event comes from corporate sponsorships, a raffle draw, 50/50 tickets, and various golf contests throughout the day.



Thanks to the generosity of **19 sponsoring companies**, the tournament raised approximately **\$65,000** in corporate sponsorships. Participants contributed another **\$16,000** through the sales of the raffle, 50/50 draw and golf contests, bringing the total amount raised to an impressive **\$81,000**.

\$81,000



This means that the PWU will be able to donate a cheque to each of our three organizations for the amount of **\$27,000**. These cheques will be formally presented to the organizations during the Council of Chief Stewards meeting this fall in Niagara.

A heartfelt thank-you goes out to everyone who participated, donated, volunteered, and helped make the day such a success.

SEPTEMBER 1ST IS LABOUR DAY

Labour Day is quickly approaching!

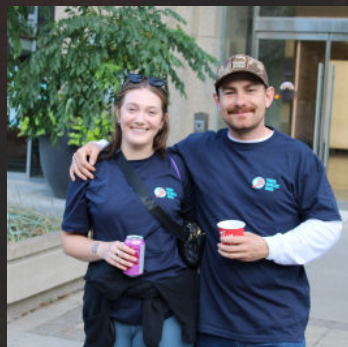
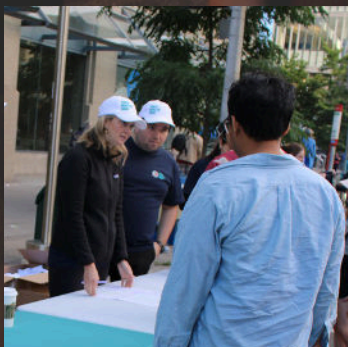
Every year on the first Monday of September, thousands of Unionists take to the streets all over Ontario to march in solidarity for workers rights and freedoms.

We invite you to join us downtown Toronto, where you'll receive a free t-shirt, hat and admission into the CNE for yourself and up to 10 family members.

**KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR OUR REGISTRATION BULLETIN
COMING OUT AT THE END OF JULY.**



HAPPY
LABOUR
DAY



PWU OBSERVES THE NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING

CONTINUED

Every year on April 28th, the Power Workers' Union solemnly remembers our co-workers, family members, and friends who have lost their lives, sustained life-altering injuries, or suffered illnesses due to workplace hazards. The National Day of Mourning is a time for reflection, respect, and recommitment to safety—for all workers, in every industry.

On this day, PWU Members pause from their work to come together in solidarity, reaffirming our shared responsibility to strengthen workplace health and safety measures.

We honour and remember the PWU and CUSW Members we've lost over the past ten years. Their names are etched into our collective memory:

- Mark Urbanowicz (PWU)
- James Baragar (PWU)
- Cole Timlin (PWU)
- Kurtis Cleaveley (PWU)
- Tyler Isaac (PWU)
- Nathan Reynolds (PWU)
- Miguel Escalante (PWU)
- Darcy Jansen (CUSW)
- Jeff Howes (CUSW)
- Kyle Shorrock (CUSW)
- Wayne Maschke (CUSW)



By speaking their names aloud, we ensure they are never forgotten.

The PWU remains committed to advocating for stronger protections under legislation, improved training and practices through Joint Health and Safety Committees and Representatives, and the active involvement of all members in identifying and reporting safety hazards, near misses, and deficiencies in planning. Only by working together can we hope to control—and ultimately eliminate—workplace hazards.



This work will not be complete until all preventable workplace injuries, illnesses, and fatalities are eradicated. On April 28th, we mourn those we have lost, reflect on the tragedies that could have been prevented, and recommit to building safer workplaces—not only physically, but psychologically as well. One injury, one illness, or one fatality is one too many.

This year, the PWU created a video message to mark the Day of Mourning. Tragically, shortly after filming, we were forced to add another name to our list—a stark reminder that our work is far from over. That list must one day be complete, unchanging, and final. Until then, we continue the fight for safer workplaces for all.

To view and share this year's message, visit:

[Power Workers' Union – National Day of Mourning Message](#)

RETIRING SOON?

CONSIDER JOINING THE PWU'S RETIRED WORKERS' CHAPTER (RWC)!

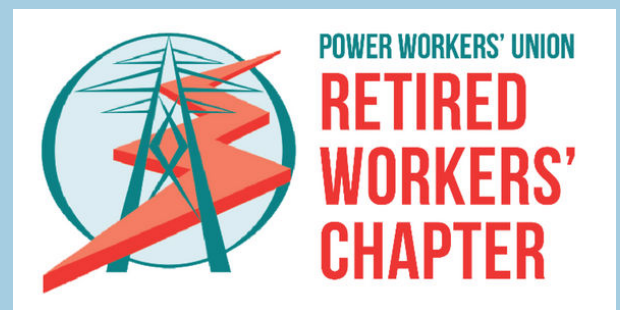


The RWC was formed in 1996 and is an independent organization from the PWU. It was formed to ensure that the PWU has access to the advice and experience of PWU retirees, while also working diligently to ensure that retirees' pensions, rights, and benefits (where applicable) are retained or improved and not reduced.

The RWC has a Constitution which outlines the rules of operation. The Chapter is administered by an Executive Board which meets semi-annually and an Executive Committee that meets four times per year. The day-to-day affairs are carried out by the President. Members pay annual dues (\$15.00/year) which cover the operation of the organization.

As a member of the RWC you would be entitled to a number of important benefits including:

- The ability to recommend changes to collective agreements that contain provisions affecting the livelihood and health of pensioners;
- The opportunity to connect with the RWC either by mail or by email at rwc@pwu.ca to raise concerns and questions;
- Automatic free enrolment in identity theft coverage arranged through the PWU;
- Regular information updates through the RWC newsletters and bulletins directed at the needs of pensioners;
- Invitations to regional meetings around the province where you can connect with other pensioners and meet RWC Executive Members;
- Invitations to events such as the PWU Labour Day Parade as well as other events from time to time.



The PWU Retired Workers' Chapter Executive.

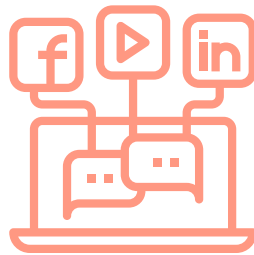
**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO JOIN THE RWC, VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:
[HTTPS://WWW.PWU-RWC.CA](https://www.pwu-rwc.ca)**

THANK YOU FOR READING

POWERWORKS - SUMMER NEWSLETTER - 2025



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