

POWERWORKS

Winter NEWSLETTER



WITHIN

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE



03

PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE



05

IN MEMORIAM



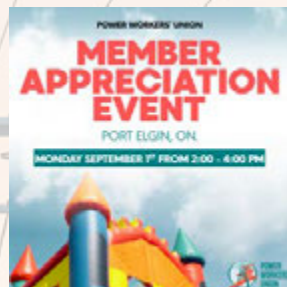
08

ONTARIO NEEDS TO
START BUILDING BIG
NUCLEAR AGAIN -
AND FAST!



11

TORONTO LABOUR
DAY



13

PORT ELGIN LABOUR
DAY & PWU MEMBER
APPRECIATION
EVENT



16

79TH COUNCIL OF
CHIEF STEWARDS



19

WELCOME RACHEL
BOHNERT



19

TOURING RICHVIEW



21

IN THE COMMUNITY



23

CONTACT US



POWER WORKERS' UNION

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

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sisters and Brothers,

Since being elected President in June, it has been a very busy and productive time representing you, our members, and ensuring the PWU's voice is heard where decisions about our work, our industry, and our future are being made. As President, I attend numerous conferences, meetings, and committees to stay ahead of trends in both the energy sector and the labour movement. This work ensures that PWU members are not just reacting to change but helping to shape it.

One of the highlights of the summer was participating in the Port Elgin Labour Day Parade and Member Appreciation Event. This was a great opportunity to meet members and their families, say thank you for the work they do, and simply enjoy time together. From the bouncy castle and ice cream to PWU swag, it was all about appreciation, and we will continue looking for new and creative ways to recognize our members and their families throughout the year.



On the advocacy front, I have met with government officials and senior decision-makers. These meetings are critical to ensuring labour's perspective is understood when energy policy and infrastructure decisions are being made. Alongside this work, the PWU has been active in public communications. We issued press releases welcoming federal-provincial funding announcements for SMRs and, most recently, the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station Refurbishment announcement. We also published an op-ed highlighting the importance of building large-scale nuclear power plants to meet Ontario's future energy needs, work that continues to gain attention from social media users, government officials, and labour leaders.

Ontario seeks to expand its grid and ensure it is built to be reliable, well-planned, and future-ready. The Ontario government has now designated three of the five proposed transmission projects as priority projects, with two more still under review. We are also monitoring opportunities for additional submissions to support responsible grid expansion that delivers dependable service and good union jobs. At the same time, we are monitoring the creation of new provincial panels such as PULSE and exploring avenues to ensure labour's perspective is included, recognizing that these bodies will influence how utilities plan and finance future investments.

Relationship-building remains a key part of my role. I've attended joint dinners, meetings, and conferences to strengthen alliances and maintain strong working relationships across the labour movement and the energy sector. Internally, we've continued building our workplace culture at the Union office through events like the staff Christmas lunch and Halloween costume contest, recognizing the hard work of our dedicated staff.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

CONTINUED

Finally, a reminder to save the following dates:

- **Membership Appreciation Event - Family Skate Day: Wednesday, March 16th** in Barrie.
- **The Annual PWU Golf Tournament: Thursday, June 25th** in Ajax at Deer Creek Golf Club.

More details will be shared shortly in regard to both events. We're excited about these new venues and hope to see many of you there.

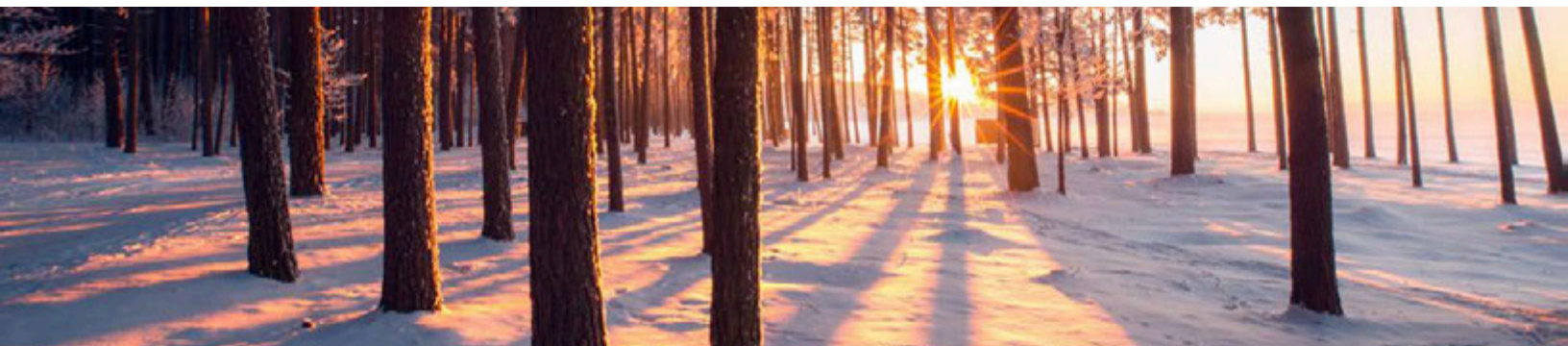


As we head into the Christmas season and prepare to welcome the New Year, we want to take a moment to recognize and thank our elected PWU officials for their dedication, leadership, and hard work on behalf of the membership throughout the year.

We wish everyone and their families a safe, healthy, and restful holiday season. Please take care of yourselves and one another, whether on the job or at home. Health and safety remain our top priority, and we look forward to continuing this important work together in the New Year.



Andrew Clunis
President
Power Workers' Union



WE REMEMBER

REMEMBERING



O'NEAL GAYLE

1995 - 2025

REGIONAL MAINTAINER - ELECTRICAL II
HYDRO ONE

REMEMBERING



RYAN MCEACHERN

1980 - 2025

CERTIFIED CABLE PERSON
TORONTO HYDRO

WE REMEMBER

REMEMBERING



JOSEPH MAJEROVICH

1979 - 2025

LEAD HAND POWERLINE TECHNICIAN

ALECTRA

REMEMBERING



PETER DORNHOFF

1962 - 2025

REGIONAL MAINTAINER - ELECTRICAL UTS III

HYDRO ONE

WE REMEMBER

REMEMBERING



JESSE MACHALE

1978 - 2025

REGIONAL MAINTAINER - ELECTRICAL I
HYDRO ONE



ONTARIO NEEDS TO START BUILDING BIG NUCLEAR AGAIN - AND FAST!



Ontario's Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) and others have identified a looming electricity capacity gap starting in 2035, with demand for electricity rising much faster than the province is building new, clean generating facilities. According to the province's Integrated Energy Plan, between now and 2050, Ontario could need 17,500 megawatts (MW) of additional nuclear generation alone – the equivalent of adding five new Darlington-scale nuclear stations.

Analyses by the Power Workers' Union suggests the gap could be much bigger. While the IESO projects a 75 per cent rise in demand for electricity in Ontario, some experts indicate the actual need could be more than double today's levels. Fulfilling such a power requirement would be a significant task, to say the least.

Ontario's large reactors have been the quiet workhorses of our clean-energy system for more than half a century. They have afforded the province one of the lowest-carbon electricity grids in the world. The CANDU technology that powers these reactors today is Canadian-designed, Canadian-built and globally respected for its safety, reliability and long operating life. Nuclear also has one of the highest capacity factors of any electricity source – over 90 per cent – and the smallest land footprint per unit of energy produced. That stability anchors Ontario's low-carbon grid.

To address the imminent electricity crunch, Ontario must start building large-scale nuclear again. Ideally, the sooner, the better. The development process from planning to engineering and regulatory review to permitting and construction time takes years. Delays have real costs.

Ontario is already building more gas generation to meet the rapidly growing demand driven by electrification of transportation, heating systems, AI data centres and industrial processes. By investing in nuclear now, public funds that would otherwise be spent on additional gas-powered carbon-emitting generation could be saved, and the transition to Ontario's net-zero electricity system expedited.

Small modular reactors (SMRs) could be part of the solution. These innovative and promising new technologies are well suited to complement large-scale nuclear workhorses needed to power high-demand growth regions like the Greater Toronto Area.

More importantly, SMRs (typically up to 300 Megawatts (MW)) will be particularly valuable in locations that require hundreds of MW of new carbon-free electricity generation rather than the thousands needed in Ontario's major load centres. SMR's "fit-for-purpose" scalability, and prospect of shorter design and construction timelines, have attracted interest from multiple provinces, industries and the federal government.

ONTARIO NEEDS TO START BUILDING BIG NUCLEAR AGAIN - AND FAST!

CONTINUED

Construction of the G7's first four SMRs is already underway at the Darlington site in Clarington, Ontario.

Now there are even more reasons to get moving quickly, including economic development, high-skilled jobs, industrial renewal and energy sovereignty.

Canada's trade relationships are undergoing an unprecedented restructuring that will take years if not decades to develop and stabilize. In this environment, Canada's nuclear industry is not just a powerhouse, it's an economic accelerator.

According to an economic impact study commissioned by the Canadian Nuclear Association in 2024, the nuclear sector contributes 22 billion per year to GDP, and sustains approximately 80,000 high-skilled jobs in engineering, construction, manufacturing, mining and plant operations. This industry study is consistent with federal government findings. Natural Resources Canada stated in 2024 that over 75,000 Canadians are employed across the nuclear supply chain and that the nuclear industry is a significant contributor to GDP, government revenue and employment.

Canada's nuclear supply chain is dominated by domestic companies, including over 250 firms concentrated in Ontario's industrial heartland (represented by the Organization of Canadian Nuclear Industries). Employing our uranium, technologies and workforce keeps energy dollars and project management in Canadian hands and underpins our economy and sovereignty.

More than half of Ontario's electricity is produced on three relatively small sites in Pickering, Tiverton and Clarington. In the face of unprecedented electricity demand growth, neither Canada nor Ontario can afford to delay the launch of next generation large-scale nuclear projects. This work should start at "Bruce C," a proposed project to build up to 4,800 MW of nuclear power generation on the existing Bruce Power property in Tiverton. Wesleyville is an existing Ontario Power Generation site near Port Hope that could support up to 10,000 MW of new nuclear capacity. These truly generational projects will drive Canadian prosperity, cut emissions and protect our energy sovereignty.

Canada's nuclear industry is essential to meet Ontario's massive demand growth for clean electricity and power the economy at a time when we need it most, especially in light of the US government's tariffs affecting Ontario manufacturing and heavy industries. Doing so will also deliver on our net-zero-by-2050 commitment – all while building on Canada's longstanding strengths as an energy superpower.

Power Workers' Union calls on Ottawa to treat new large-scale nuclear as a nation-building priority by fast-tracking approvals through Major Projects designation and providing federal funding and Clean Economy Investment Tax Credits to support construction. Large-scale nuclear, capable of delivering large volumes of clean, reliable and 'round-the-clock power, will help secure Canada's economic future and long-term energy sovereignty.

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)



**POWER
WORKERS'
UNION**

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!

TORONTO LABOUR DAY

The first Monday of September is always a highly anticipated day at the PWU, as it marks the celebration of Labour Day. Labour Day serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of safe, secure and fair labour practices across industries throughout Canada. It is a moment to reflect on the collective strength of workers and the progress achieved through unity.

PWU Members proudly take part in Labour Day events across Ontario, with the Toronto Labour Day Parade being a longstanding tradition for the PWU office. Organized by the Toronto and York Region Labour Council, the Toronto Labour Day Parade travels approximately two kilometres through downtown Toronto toward the Canadian National Exhibition (CNE), where participants enter and continue the day's festivities. With roughly 25,000 labour workers marching annually, the parade stands as the largest display of labour solidarity in Canada.

For the PWU, registration opens about a month in advance, and in recent years, has filled almost immediately. In 2024, approximately 600 Members joined the parade, and this year that number increased to 625 – a testament to the strong enthusiasm and commitment of our membership.

Those who attend the Toronto Labour Day Parade receive a complimentary t-shirt, choice of headwear (a baseball cap or reversible bucket hat), \$20 for lunch and a wristband providing free admission to the CNE.

As participation continues to grow, registration reaching capacity has become an unavoidable and ongoing challenge. The PWU is actively exploring ways to address this for future events, with the goal of ensuring as many Members as possible can take part in this important celebration.





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AND RECEIVE IT WITHN A WEEK!

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

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



PORT ELGIN LABOUR DAY & PWU MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION EVENT

The PWU is also a proud sponsor of the Port Elgin Labour Day Parade, another one of the largest Labour Day celebrations in Ontario with members from smaller local communities such as Kincardine and Saugeen Shores joining in to proudly represent the PWU. The Port Elgin Labour Day Parade has long been a cherished community tradition, bringing together participants and volunteers to celebrate workers, solidarity and the strength of the labour movement.

As with the Toronto Labour Day Parade, the PWU provided hats and t-shirts to PWU Members and their families who joined the march. Following the parade, UNIFOR hosted a lunch at its Family Education Centre, featuring remarks from local labour leaders and activists, along with a complimentary meal for attendees.

This year's event was particularly special, as it also included a PWU-hosted Member Appreciation Event at the conclusion of the day's festivities. After lunch, the PWU hosted a Member Appreciation Event on the same property, just in a slightly different location. Offering two bouncy castles, a variety of ice cream treats and Labour Day swag for PWU Members. While the giveaways were exclusive to Members, the event itself was open to all parade participants, creating a welcoming and family-friendly atmosphere.

Approximately 125 PWU Members registered to take part in the parade and Member Appreciation Event, with even more attendees joining throughout the day.

With beautiful weather and a strong sense of community, it was a memorable Labour Day celebration in Port Elgin.

Be sure to watch for announcements about our next **Member Appreciation Event**, a Family Skate Day happening in Barrie on **March 16th 2026!**



SAVE THE DATE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18TH 2026

**MEMBER
APPRECIATION
EVENT**

Family Skate Day

SADLON ARENA - BARRIE, ON.

More details including times, registration & everything you can expect coming early January!



**POWER
WORKERS'
UNION**

SAVE THE DATE

THURSDAY, JUNE 25TH 2026

PWU ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT



DEER CREEK

NEW DATE, NEW LOCATION, NEW PRICE.

You heard it here first!

The PWU will be hosting it's
Annual Charity Golf Tournament
on **Thursday, June 25th, 2026** at
Deer Creek Golf Club in Ajax, ON.

Please keep an eye out for
additional details, which will be
released in the new year.



79TH COUNCIL OF CHIEF STEWARDS

KEY NOTE SPEAKER: SPENCER BEACH

Annually, the PWU hosts its Council of Chief Stewards (Council), and this year marked the 79th gathering of this important forum. Council plays a vital role in maintaining the integrity of the Union, as it is the only forum in which changes to the PWU Constitution can be made through constitutional amendments.

The call for constitutional amendments is issued each spring. Once proposed constitutional amendments are submitted, they are reviewed and researched by the Constitution and By-Laws Committee. All proposed amendments, along with the Committee's recommendations, are then presented to the Executive Board, which reviews each amendment and determines whether it has concurrence or non-concurrence. Amendments that receive concurrence are presented to the Council of Chief Stewards for consideration in legally drafted language. Amendments that receive non-concurrence are also shared with Council for information, with written reasons provided to the submitter and their Chief Steward in advance.

Beyond constitutional matters, Council also serves as a valuable opportunity for education and professional development. Through training sessions, keynote speakers and formal addresses, the week-long event provides Chief Stewards with tools, insights and shared learning, all of which are invaluable in their roles.

This year's keynote speaker was Spencer Beach. PWU Health and Safety Staff Officers Bailey Farrell and Dave Zelasko first heard Spencer speak at another conference and strongly advocated for him to address our Chief Stewards at Council. Below is what Bailey had to say about Spencer and his presentation:

"All who were present to hear Spencer Beach speak at this year's PWU Council of Chief Stewards left the room inspired and with a reformed concept of workplace health and safety."

Spencer Beach, a safety culture and workplace safety expert was asked to join our Council and deliver his powerful message. His story began like so many of our days do. On April 24th, 2003, Spencer woke up and got himself ready to take on the challenges of his workday as a floor layer. He kissed his wife goodbye and left for work. Little did he know that later that day, lying in a hospital bed and talking to the head Doctor of the University of Alberta's Burn unit, he would have to decide whether he would live or die.

Spencer's Beach is someone we will never forget, and we remain grateful for the opportunity to have him join our Council and tell his story of recovery and survival. Spencer is committed to helping workers and employers in North America to operate safely. The challenge he says, is getting employers – all of them – to take the issue of workplace safety seriously. In addition to the many different motivational talks he delivers to audiences, Spencer publishes a monthly video called "[THE PUSHBACK.](#)"



PWU President Andrew Clunis featured here with Spencer Beach and PWU Chief of Staff Elaine Ledwidge.

79TH COUNCIL OF CHIEF STEWARDS

CONTINUED

PWU ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT - CHEQUE PRESENTATION

In addition to the previous page, the PWU also uses Council as an opportunity to recognize the three organizations that benefit from the proceeds of the PWU Annual Charity Golf Tournament. We were pleased to welcome Lindsey Hutchinson from the Ross Tilley Burn Unit at Sunnybrook Hospital, Celine Brathwaite from Diabetes Canada, and Jeff Maher from the MS Society of Canada.

Thanks to the generous support of our Members, corporate sponsors and the PWU, the golf tournament was able to raise \$81,000.00 meaning we were proud to present a donation of \$27,000 to each of these charities.

ROSS TILLEY BURN UNIT



PWU President Andrew Chunis with Lindsey Hutchinson from Sunnybrook Hospital.

DIABETES CANADA



PWU President Andrew Chunis with Celine Brathwaite from Diabetes Canada.

MS SOCIETY OF CANADA



PWU President Andrew Chunis with Jeff Mamer from the MS Society of Canada.

PWU AWARDS

At each Council, we also take the opportunity to honor Members who have made outstanding contributions to their communities and workplaces. This recognition is presented through two awards: the **PWU Community Volunteer Award** and the **Don MacKinnon Health & Safety Activist Award**. PWU Members are invited to submit nominations for individuals from their Sector between March and July.

Below are this year's deserving recipients.

PWU COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER AWARD WINNERS

Sector 1	Kurtis Mink
Sector 2	Rehanna Ferreria
Sector 3	Robert Fawcett
Sector 4	Nicole Rundva
RWC	Brian Bolton



DON MACKINNON HEALTH & SAFETY ACTIVIST AWARD WINNERS

Sector 1	David O'Hehir
Sector 2	Renee Schwartz
Sector 3	Shane Harty
Sector 4	Jeff Pasma
RWC	Howard Phorson



SEASONS GREETINGS FROM THE PWU

Happy Holidays

PWU OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

Closed:

- **Christmas Day** - Thursday, December 25th, 2025
- **Boxing Day** - Friday, December 26th, 2025
- **New Year's Day** - Thursday, January 1st, 2026

WELCOME, RACHEL!



We are pleased to welcome **Rachel Bohnert** to the PWU team as the temporary Staff Officer in the Communications Department. Rachel will be covering Jordan Andrews' maternity leave over the coming year, as she takes the time to grow her family.

Born and raised along the shores of Lake Huron in Port Elgin, Rachel brings with her a Bachelor's degree in Communications and Media Studies from Carleton University in Ottawa. She has a strong background in communications, along with expertise in social media and excellent interpersonal skills and will be a valuable addition to the team. One of her favourite communications roles was her time as a summer student at Bruce Power, where she led the highly popular bus tours and shared her passion for clean energy with local communities.

Rachel is well travelled and enjoys connecting with others through her interest in cultures from around the world. She will serve as the primary point of contact for communications at the PWU over the coming year. If you see her around, please don't hesitate to say hello and join us in welcoming her to the team.

TOURING RICHVIEW

On August 21st, 2025, Hydro One Chief Stewards Brian Nowry, Cody Niven, and Michael Lukasko took a group of the PWU's lawyers (Paliare Roland lawyers Shyama Talukdar, Kate Shao, William Webb, and Braxton Murphy, and PWU General Counsel Jessica Latimer) on a tour of the Richview Transformer Station.

With multiple grievances underway involving work performed by RMEs (Regional Maintainer – Electrical), it was valuable for our lawyers to see the station equipment first hand and get a better understanding of the work our PWU members perform. There is no zoom meeting or explanatory document that can compare to the experience of donning PPE and standing under bus bars and beside circuit breakers. Jessica Latimer and the other lawyers would like to give a big thank you to Brian, Cody and Mike for sharing their expertise with them!



From left to right: Cody Niven, Jessica Latimer, William Webb, Michael Lukasko, Braxton Murphy, Kate Shao, Brian Nowry and Shyama Talukdar.

WANT A PWU 2026 CALENDAR?

REACH OUT TO YOUR CHIEF STEWARD TO GET YOURS!

Should your Chief Steward not have any, they can request more by emailing communications@pwu.ca.

All PWU members, Retired Workers' Chapter (RWC) members and their immediate families are eligible to submit their sketches, drawings, paintings or photographs for the 2027 PWU Calendar.

A group of representatives from each Sector and the RWC will choose thirteen images, one for each month and the cover.

Each individual whose image is selected for the calendar will receive \$500 and have their name included in the calendar with their winning entry.

**BE SURE TO KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR
THE 2027 PWU CALENDAR CONTEST
ANNOUNCEMENT, WHICH WILL BE
DISTRIBUTED IN MARCH.**

IN THE COMMUNITY

SPECIAL OLYMPICS ONTARIO SUMMER GAMES

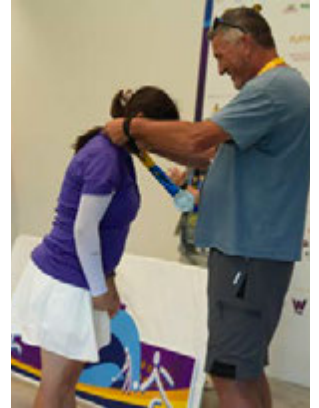
The opportunity to participate as a sponsor in the upcoming 2025 Special Olympics Ontario Summer Games, was brought forth to the PWU Executive by PWU Steward Andy Roth. The Executive could see the importance of this event and donated \$20,000 to this initiative.

The Special Olympics Ontario Summer Games welcomes athletes to compete in five sports, soccer, bocce, golf, softball and track and field. As explained by the Special Olympics Ontario, “these Games are the pinnacle of competition for Special Olympics athletes in Ontario and a celebration of the incredible abilities of individuals with an intellectual disability.”

This is what PWU Steward Andy Roth had to say:

“I would first I would like to thank the Power Workers Union for your generous sponsorship for the Special Olympics Provincial Summer Games. I was so proud to be representing the brothers and sisters of the PWU. It was one of the most amazing experiences that I have ever been apart of.”

There were roughly 1,200 athletes and coaches representing the entire province of Ontario. They all battled through extreme heat over the three days of competition but finished every event with the largest smiles on their faces and many hugs for their fellow competitors. Truly a beautiful display of sportsmanship.”



THUNDER BAY FAST PITCH

Through the PWU's By-Law 33: Sports/Community Programs that focus on Youth, PWU Chief Steward and Sector Representative for Sector 2, Gene Capasso, was able to secure a sports sponsorship for an all-girls fast pitch team in Thunder Bay. The team went on to have an incredibly successful season, winning first place in their division!



RETIRING SOON?

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

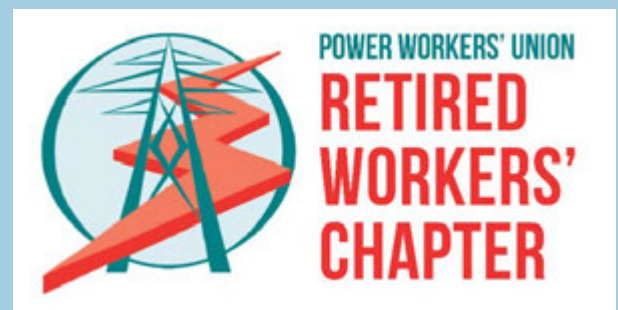


The RWC was formed in 1996 and is an independent organization from the PWU. It was formed to ensure that the PWU has access to the advice and experience of PWU retirees, while also working diligently to ensure that retirees' pensions, rights, and benefits (where applicable) are retained or improved and 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 rwcpwu.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 - WINTER NEWSLETTER - 2025



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CREATED BY

COMMUNICATIONS STAFF OFFICERS Jordan Andrews & Rachel Bohnert
COMMUNICATIONS SR. ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Paige Beaulieu

CONTRIBUTORS

Andrew Clunis, Andy Roth, Bailey Farrell, Elaine Ledwidge, Gene Capasso, Jessica Latimer

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RESOURCES

www.kidsportcanada.ca

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