

General Information:

PSAC 901 is the local charter for the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC). This union represents all Graduate Teaching Assistants (TAs), Research Assistants (RAs), Teaching Fellows (TFs), and Postdoctoral fellows at Queen's University. We aim to protect, maintain and advocate for the rights of all members in the local.

PSAC 901 comprises two units. Unit one members are all TAs, RAs, and TFs, and unit two members are all Postdoctoral fellows. Each unit has their own collective agreement with Queen's university that can be found at: <https://psac901.org/collectiveagreements/>. These collective agreements outline the rights and responsibilities of the employees and employers for the associated unit. These agreements are bargained on a 4 year scale.

Get Involved in your union:

While membership is automatic for all incoming graduate students and Postdoctoral fellows, further opportunities for involvement in the union are available for all members. Rank and file members are able to join various committees and working groups. Information regarding these groups can be found at: <https://psac901.org/about/>.

All members are also encouraged to attend General Meetings (GM) and Special General Meetings (SGM). There is one GM that is guaranteed to be held each year where the new executive committee is elected. SGMs are organized when necessary throughout the year. All of these meetings are held in order to vote on matters that cannot be governed by either the Executive, or Stewards council.

We encourage all members of the department to stay up to date with events, meetings, bursaries, and other opportunities through the PSAC 901 newsletters which are sent to our employee emails. If you are not receiving any of these emails please reach out to one of your union stewards to assist you.

Department Stewards:

Each department has departmental stewards who have a number of roles within the department. Each month they attend a stewards council where information and concerns from each department are raised. These meetings are also used to discuss and plan upcoming events, as well as discussing methods to keep the membership informed. These meetings are available to all members, however voting rights are reserved for department stewards. Stewards councils are held at the end of the month. Keep an eye on your employee email for information on upcoming steward councils.

Put pictures and emails of the department stewards here

Grievances

If situations arise during work that violate the terms of the collective agreement a grievance process can be undertaken with the associated employer or supervisor (for many this is the professor that is running the course that you are TAing). Department Stewards are able to assist with any grievances that may occur in the workplace. They have received training on the collective agreement and how to navigate the grievance processes. The aim of the grievance is to facilitate a discussion to encourage early and informal resolution between all parties involved. If this is not possible then the grievance will be elevated. The goal with any grievance process is to protect the rights of the employee as stated in the collective agreement found here (link the PSAC 901 website for the collective agreement).

Grievances can arise in a myriad of ways. They can range from being asked to work past your contracted hours, to facing discrimination from the employer. If there is any question whether an issue that you are facing as a TA/RA/TF is a grievable offence, please reach out to the union stewards who can help answer your questions.