



# Our Union, Our Power Notre syndicat, notre pouvoir

February 15, 2012

## Message from John Gordon, National President of the PSAC

The last two rounds of negotiations with the Canada Revenue Agency brought several important improvements to your collective agreement and marked a historic new approach to collective bargaining. The 2007 round was the first time a tentative agreement was reached prior to the expiry of the previous contract. The same process was used in 2010 to again bring you a timely agreement. This round of collective bargaining may take a little longer...

Bargaining with the Canada Revenue Agency means bargaining in the shadow of Treasury Board. As you all know, Treasury Board is determined to eliminate severance for voluntary departure within the federal public sector. This includes the CRA, which has been under increasing pressure to table the severance provision. We had already commenced bargaining last round when the proposal was tabled with the large Treasury Board units; and we know that this time, it's coming to us.

We are also facing the same challenges and frustrations as other groups who have fought to negotiate fair and equitable working conditions under a majority Harper government. We have seen regressive legislation, the freezing of departmental budgets, and systematic cuts to our public services; cuts that will likely escalate due to the upcoming Federal Budget.

We need to be engaged, mobilized and politically active if we are to effectively protect and improve our collective agreement in this round of bargaining. Union of Taxation Employees have always been at the forefront of our campaigns, our political action, and our struggle to defend against a government that refuses to recognize that quality public services are an essential element of Canada's economic recovery. We need you to be there again, in the workplace, on the streets, and in their face.

The submission of bargaining demands is an on-going process that actually begins as soon as the ink is dry on a new collective agreement. It is time, however, to invite you once again to submit demands on issues that you believe are priorities for this round of collective bargaining. The National Bargaining Conference will be held in May, 2012, and it is there that your demands will be assessed and a series of proposals drafted for submission to the employer.

We need to hear from you, particularly in these challenging times, if we are to have success at the bargaining table. You need to know what's going on – but we also need to know what you're thinking.

Together, we can take some important steps forward while protecting the rights we have worked so hard to establish. Please submit your bargaining proposals so that together we can achieve a new collective agreement.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'John Gordon'.

John Gordon  
National President

