

**DRAFT RECORD OF MEETING  
B.C. REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 2012 AT THE FAIRMONT HOTEL VANCOUVER,  
900 WEST GEORGIA STREET, VANCOUVER  
AND FRIDAY, MARCH 30 THROUGH SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 2012 AT THE PSAC VANCOUVER  
REGIONAL OFFICE, 5238 JOYCE STREET, VANCOUVER**

In Attendance:

Bob Jackson, REVP	Nic Humphreys, National Officers
Jayne Johns, A/REVP	Terry Lee, Metro Vancouver
Sargy Chima, Racially Visible (Thurs. & Fri.)	Cindy Little, South Vancouver Island
Paul Croes, Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender	Kelly Megyesi, Women's Coordinator
Heather DuDoward, Aboriginal	Antony Paller, East Fraser Valley
Benilde Gomes, Northwestern BC	Tracy Shudo, Members with Disabilities
Shawna Hall, Metro Vancouver	Virginia Vaillancourt, South Vancouver Island
Jennifer Ho, West Fraser Valley	Christine Walker, North Vancouver Island
Patt Holmes, Northeastern BC	Sam Wiese, Health & Safety
Jennifer Horsley, Metro Vancouver	Susan Yaciw, Southern Interior
	Erica Yang, Young Workers

Regrets:

Jamey Mills, Metro Vancouver	Jason Salchert, Directly Chartered Locals and Small Separate Employer Units
Sargy Chima, Racially Visible (Saturday only)	
Keith Palmer, Southern Interior	

Staff:

Patrick Bragg, Political Communications Officer  
Kristin Schnider, EA to the REVP – BC  
Joanna Schultz, Regional Coordinator

Guest Speakers:

Jerome Turcq, PSAC REVP-Quebec Region  
David Orfald, PSAC

**Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

The meeting commenced at 3:08 pm following the Federal Budget Watch and Press Conference.

Sam Wiese noted that the room in which the meeting was being held was not in accordance with Health & Safety regulations.

Bob Jackson then took the Chair and opened the meeting by providing some comments the Budget Watch that had preceded the meeting, advising that more analysis will be conducted on the implications of the Budget announced.

**PSAC NATIONAL BUDGET PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION**

Bob then introduced Jerome Turcq, REVP from the Quebec regional and AEC member responsible for the Finance portfolio.

Jerome Turcq then provided a presentation on the current financial standing of the PSAC and his work with the proposed National budget to the vetted at the upcoming National Triennial Convention.

Jerome's presentation was divided into four sections:

1. A review the PSAC's financial statements
2. The 2013-2015 PSAC national budget and its challenges
3. PSAC Holdings
4. The state of the PSAC employees' Pension Plan

On the matter of the PSAC employees' Pension Plan, Jerome explained that the Plan had undergone an actuarial evaluation to test its solvency. The evaluation concluded that the Plan currently shows a deficit of \$23M (with 5 year smoothing) over the next three years: in 2013 the Plan will have a surplus of \$4M, but by 2015 the Plan will accrue a \$30M deficit. He went on to advise that it was found that the Plan will fall into deficit in 2014. Therefore, a draft resolution has been introduced to initiate a levy of \$2.58/month per member at the start of Convention which will be directed into a reserve fund for the PSAC employee Pension Plan if it falls into deficit. The draft resolution further provides that the reserve is not required by the Plan, it will be reallocated according to NBOD priorities. It was further communicated that the PSAC employees' contribution to the Plan will increase to 40% as of December 31, 2012.

A Council Member then enquired if PSAC staff will be cut in light of the job cuts announced in the Budget. Jerome reminded those present that there are collective agreements in place with job security for PSAC staff. Moreover, it wouldn't necessarily be very good optics if the PSAC membership denounced the actions of the Harper Government and then went on to do the same to its staff.

Jerome then went on to discuss the other levy proposed in the budget that will introduce a levy if the membership falls below 170K members, which is not anticipated with the cuts announced. This gradual levy would add \$1.25 for each member every time over 5000 members are lost up to a maximum of \$5.00 per member (based on the average salary).

Sam Wiese then broached the issue of the draft resolution on constitutionally recognizing Regional Health & Safety Committees. While the resolutions itself engenders the intention with which the resolution was drafted, the costing associated is troubling as it suggests more than one committee per region. The Council then discussed how to address this issue at Convention and advised that the BC Caucus of delegates is preparing written instructions prepared that will request the draft resolution be referred back so that the original intent is restored.

Terri Lee then advised that the BC Caucus is also planning on suggesting a dues increase for political action funding. Nic Humphreys added that he worked on the Finance Committee and

supported that budget because it came our way on political action funding; he added that he would encourage the membership to further increase this amount at Convention.

Jerome Turcq cautioned that there is not much other fat in the budget to use for the anticipated staff Pension Plan shortfall or for political action funding if a dues increase is not accepted.

Heather DuDoward asked what rationale the BC Convention Delegates had for increasing the Political Action line item to \$0.20 per member per month. Nic Humphreys answered that it was three-fold:

1. To ensure that Harper doesn't get another mandate;
2. to effectively fight issues arising from the federal budget cuts; and
3. because the PSAC does not have the capital presently to accomplish the first two objectives above.

Nic went on to explain the costs incurred for previous campaigns that have been successful (e.g. Fisheries Fightback campaign, Grain, Food Safety First). Similar campaigns will likely be initiated in light of the public services cuts. Bob Jackson added that the partnership between the PSAC and Agriculture on the Food Safety First campaign has been very successful, especially with the use of the software licenses already in place. He further noted that this software is available to all components for their campaigns.

Bob then thanked Jerome on behalf of the RC for his presentation and then formally called the meeting to order.

#### **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Some additional items were added to the agenda at the request of Regional Council members:

- Discussion of the Federal Budget and reactions by the PSAC (as information becomes available)
- Discussion of the Priority Resolutions for the Triennial National Convention (to be addressed in other business)
- Funding Request from the Young Workers regarding Camp Jubilee
- Discussion on the By-elections in the Port Moody and Chilliwack-Hope ridings (to be addressed in the Political Action Committee's report)

A motion was made to accept the agenda as amended.

Moved: Paul Croes

Seconded: Be Gomes

Carried

## **HOURS OF SESSION**

Thursday, March 29, 2012 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Friday, March 30, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
(Lunch to be provided)  
1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 31, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
(Lunch to be provided)  
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. or completion

## **PREVIOUS MINUTES**

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the October 2011 Regional Council meeting and the minutes of the February 2, 2012 Regional Council conference call as circulated.

Moved: Patt Holmes

Seconded: Susan Yaciw

Carried

The meetings adjourned for the day at 4:44 p.m.

## **Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

The meeting resumed at 9:08 a.m. and began with introductions for everyone present.

### **SCENT FREE AND HARRASSMENT STATEMENTS**

Bob Jackson identified the location of these statements within the meeting space and it was agreed by the participants that these need not be read aloud. Joanna Schultz was identified as the harassment coordinator for the duration for the meeting session.

### **OCCUPATIONAL GROUP STRUCTION PRESENTATION (OGS) BY DAVID ORFALD**

David Orfald provided some historical context for OGS, explaining that the parties are behind in terms of progress, but that he anticipates results this year.

Details of his presentation are attached to these minutes.

Following the presentation some comments were made with respect to the OGS: some Coordinators were concerned that the division lines may invite problems, especially when it is not yet clear on which side of the division jobs will reside.

Sam Wiese commented that the PSAC has maintained the methodology of "no one left behind." With the proposed OGS of three separate units and bargaining strategies, it would be possible to have one unit in a strike position when the others are not.

Further discussion then ensued. David Orfald concluded the conversation by reminding the RC that while a single group is the best solution, we are not in a negotiating position. The employer is

carrying out a consultation process with employees. Whatever decision is found, some members will win while others will lose.

### **REPRESENTATION BACKLOG PROJECT REPORT BY DAVID ORFALD**

David Orfald noted that this presentation is not for circulation at this time as it has not yet been presented to the NBoD.

David then went on to speak on representation work within the Union, the use of UnionWare and its relationship with the backlog project that has been carried out to address the case load that has resulted over the last few years.

Details of his presentation are attached to these minutes.

Following his presentation, David Orfald commented that the aim of the presentation and the Backlog project was not to discourage members from filing grievances. Instead, he noted that it would be better to combine grievance filing with mobilization. He also advocated from all Components to use UnionWare so that a full picture of representation can be attained and more collaborative problem-solving can be conducted. Bob Jackson added that there needs to be a more holistic approach to grievance handling and that more work needs to be done at the front end.

### **REVP REPORT**

A motion was made to accept the REVP Report as circulated.

Moved: Paul Croes

Seconded: Virginia Vaillancourt

Carried

The REVP then provided some supplemental commentary to his report. He noted that since taking on the position last May, Bob is much more comfortable in the role, acknowledging the support provided by Joanna Schultz and the rest of the staff.

Bob Jackson also commented on the number of changes that have taken place within the region and at the national level, which will conclude with the elections in May at the National Convention.

Bob added that following the elections, there will be strategy sessions of both the AEC and NBoD. These sessions will provide an opportunity to further develop plans in response to the budget cuts and may also lead to the reassignment of portfolios within the AEC.

Bob then spoke on the regional work that he's focused his energies on: the Burns Lake relief funding (with the help of the BC Federation of Labour and the United Steelworkers). At present the PSAC has with the efforts of locals and components raised close to \$10K. Bob commented that this has been a good exercise to demonstrate how we can stand together.

One of the REVP's priorities this spring includes the re-activation of the Prince George Area Council. To assist this, the REVP will be traveling to Prince George in April to visit worksites and locals.

Travel is also planned for Vancouver Island, Prince Rupert and surrounding area, Kamloops & Revelstoke, and the Okanagan/Kootenays. In particular, Bob will be attending the BC Federation of Labour Regional Conference in Kelowna this May. Bob further emphasized that it is important for the PSAC to support the BC Fed activities, especially as they are greatly supporting us during these challenging times.

The REVP then took some questions on his report. One question raised was on the changes to the EOC and the establishment of the new National Human Rights Committee (HRC). Tracy Shudo asked if she could get some clarification on the new structure and from whom she should seek this information. Bob answered that the best source of information is the AEC officer(s) assigned to the portfolio (who are presently himself and Robin Benson). Bob then spoke on the new National Conference that will take place for the HRC in lieu of meetings for individual equity groups. Further discussion then ensued on the topic.

## **REGIONAL COORDINATOR REPORT**

Joanna Schultz provided an update on various activities at and involving the Regional Office since the last RC meeting. In particular she provided commentary on the following:

### *Education*

Joanna noted that Union School had taken the previous weekend with 62 participants. This year's theme was "Our Strength: Mobilizing and Fighting Back". Two Advanced Steward Training courses were also offered in Vancouver and Victoria for a total of about 38 Members trained in advanced steward skills. She further commented the new course "Representing Members with Mental Illness" is already oversubscribed.

### *WFA*

In anticipation of the federal budget cuts, WFA training has been a priority for the Region. There was an over-subscription of the one-day WFA session delivered on March 10<sup>th</sup>, which provided two simultaneously sessions in each of the RO Boardrooms. Joanna further advised that the RO is offering many sessions at workplaces all over the. Participation levels have been very high at these sessions and feedback has been positive.

### *Negotiations*

Last week, a tentative agreement was reached for a one-year rollover of the collective agreement for the Commissionaires in Victoria, Vancouver Island and the Yukon. The agreement extends the same wage increases of last round and includes Family Day as a Holiday when enacted by the BC government.

The Victoria Airport Authority is entering bargaining; the initial dates were recently postponed by the employer, but it is expected to proceed shortly. CMHC Granville Island will also be entering bargaining very soon.

### *Mobilization*

Joanna noted that they are continuing to mobilize with the TC Group, CFIA, FB, Parks and SSO as well as Regional Units that are in bargaining right now.

### *Organizing*

Joanna advised that they made an application for a group of workers at YVR working for Marquise, work previously done by PSAC Members. Unfortunately, some members of the unit left employment. So it made sense to withdraw the application and reapply after another signing effort, which is where the application currently stands; it has been successfully withdrawn and the PSAC is engaged in re-signing the cards.

### *Staff Conference*

RO staff will have a three-day regional staff conference on April 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>. Included in the agenda is a full day of planning followed by skills building workshops on advising Members on disability insurance claims and another on UnionWare.

### *Local Development*

Starting next week Joanna will be canvassing National Officers to identify Locals that need a little extra, targeted (and funded) attention. Once a list is generated, Joanna will consult with the Regional Reps and draft a plan and budget to access funding from HQ.

### *Renovation*

The Regional Office renovation is nearly complete. Of note, the number of workspaces has increased by four, with further options to add more if required. This has created designated spaces for PSAC Members to come in and work on projects. The renovation has also provided an additional meeting room, larger kitchen, bigger storage area and an enhanced copy and work room on the second floor. We gained a kitchenette in the boardroom, a bathroom by the boardroom, and a small meeting room. A swipe card system will be installed soon, which will make it much easier for Members to access boardrooms after hours.

Following her report, Joanna fielded questions from the RC. With regard to the office renovations, Bob Jackson added that they are still struggling to get signage on the building; the building management is not in favour of the building being marked as the PSAC as there are other tenants in the building which use the front entrance. However, Bob assured the RC that headway is being made and, at a minimum, the front doors will have PSAC signage.

Kelly Megyesi then enquired about how staff is coping with the renovations as she had heard that it had been rather difficult for some. Joanna advised that change is always hard for people. The office has undergone a radical change and there are mixed feelings about the results. After extensive consultation with staff starting six years ago when the renovation process began, much consideration was given to staff concerns. The end result has been a compromise for all parties acknowledging both the needs of staff and the needs of members. With the renovations, the Regional Office can now provide adequate access for all members. Questions were then raised on the ergonomic capabilities of the workstations available to members. Joanna advised that there are a variety of ways that the workstations can be adjusted to accommodate the individual needs of users. Sam Wiese added that she has used the workstations and could attest they are fully adjustable but for a crank on the desktop. However, with the WI-FI access in the office members could easily use a counter top as a workspace if they needed to stand.

## **COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER'S REPORT**

Patrick Bragg reported that his focus has been on the Third Choice Campaign over the last few months. The aim of the campaign has been to engage people online and via Facebook. Patrick then provided some statistical analysis on the success of the campaign to date, noting the number of YouTube views for the videos and "likes" on Facebook. Patrick also commented on the media coverage that was earned as the campaign progressed. He further added that it is his personal aim to insert the Third Choice squirrel into the public consciousness. With that in mind, Patrick advised that 'wanted' posters for the Squirrel were posted in Ottawa yesterday and that the PSAC would be do something further today in light of the budget announcements. Despite the budget having come and gone, the campaign is still ongoing and the PSAC will continue to use the metaphor of the Third Choice.

Bob Jackson suggested that with the changing season, perhaps it would be a good idea to reintroduce 'clean graffiti' for the campaign in a variety of the regions. Patrick agreed that it was a good suggestion and that he would share it with headquarters.

Patrick then spoke on the March 1<sup>st</sup> Day of Action, asserting that he was extremely happy with the results in the region. He advised that he had received hundreds of photos from members, some depicting areas that he had never seen before. All of the pictures were uploaded to the PSAC regional Facebook account and to date they have already received 5000 hits.

Patrick advised that he has also been working closely with BC FED; both the PSAC and the BC FED have acknowledged that the fight with Harper is the same fight being had with Christie Clark in the province. This was exemplified by Jim Sinclair's participation at the PSAC press conference yesterday, for which we would like to extend our thanks to Jim and the BC FED.

To conclude, Patrick identified some of his upcoming priorities and emphases, including the provincial By-elections and the PSAC response to the Budget cuts. Questions were then taken from the RC and there was some further discussion on the success of the March 1<sup>st</sup> Day of Action and the noticeable achievement in BC relative to other regions.

A motion was then made to accept the reports of the Regional Coordinator and the Communications Officer.

Moved: Paul Croes

Seconded: Kelly Megyesi

Carried

## **COORDINATOR REPORTS**

A motion was made to accept the Regional RC Coordinators' Reports as circulated.

Moved: Sam Wiese

Seconded: Susan Yaciw

Carried



Some Coordinators then raised questions on the deadlines used for report submission, suggesting that having to submit their reports one month prior to the meeting may be too far in advance. After further discussion, it was then clarified and agreed that this amount of time was required to allow staff enough time to consolidate reports and provide to the REVP for review in advance of circulating to the Council such that Coordinators have enough time to review the reports in advance of the meeting.

On behalf of Jamey Mills, who was absent for this meeting, Sam Wiese spoke to his report, reminding the Council that even after the budget has been tabled work is still ongoing with lobbying efforts. Sam further iterated Jamey's comments that we need not feel defeated.

Patt Holmes then spoke to her reports, advising that her experience with the March 1<sup>st</sup> Day of Action was not as positive as others had experienced: Patt faced a lot of opposition from management; however, her coworkers still have their "standing together" posters at their workstations and rallied together with her during the action. Patt then spoke on the upcoming Convention, asking that those Coordinators attending speak on behalf of the rural and smaller areas like her own that will not have as much representation on the floor.

Be Gomes noted that one item was missing from her report: the rally in February that she attended. She then added that she would resubmit her report so that the missing items could be included.

Terri Lee spoke on the CCPA fundraiser that she recently attended, which feature a guest speaker from 350.org. Terri encouraged members to visit their website.

A motion was made to accept the Equity RC Coordinators' Reports as circulated.

Moved: Susan Yaciw

Seconded: Patt Holmes

Carried

In conjunction with her report, Kelly Megyesi advised that the Women's Committees had met to review the resolutions for Convention and identified their priority resolutions (in priority order):

1. General Resolution No. 4 on Childcare
2. General Resolution No. 7 on preventing violence against aboriginal women
3. General Resolution No. 8 on leadership training for women

Kelly then encouraged those members attending Convention to speak on behalf of the above priority resolutions.

Erica Yang then added the following information to her report on Young Workers: three AGMs have been held by the YW Caucus, including that of the Vancouver Island YW Committee. In addition, national funding has been received to hold the first YW conference this fall. Erica also

noted that the YW are also adopting the use various social media to convey messages and maintain communications.

A motion was then made to accept the Health & Safety Coordinator's Report as circulated.

Moved: Sam Wiese

Seconded: Christine Walker

Carried

Sam Wiese then provided some supplemental information to her report: Sam noted that she is finalizing the report on the Health & Safety Conference held in February and that the conference allowed for good discussion on Health & Safety basics with great guest speakers. Sam then reminded those who attended the conference to submit their feedback reports.

A motion was then made to accept the National Officers Coordinator's Report as circulated.

Moved: Nic Humphreys

Seconded: Sam Wiese

Carried

With regard to his report, Nic Humphreys apologized for its lateness and then spoke briefly on the National Officers meeting that was held on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **COMMITTEE WORKING GROUPS**

The meeting session was then suspended to allow Regional Committee to meet and work on their draft terms of reference and goals for 2012.

### **COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS**

Following the Committee Working Groups, the meeting was reconvened and Committee Chairs delivered the Committee Reports to the Regional Council.

### **BY-LAWS COMMITTEE**

Jayne Johns in the Chair.

The Chair advised that the Committee had met and reviewed the By-Laws following the Regional Convention. With that the Committee was recommending the inclusion of a new regulation in lieu of the outdated subsidies guideline found on the PSAC BC website. The Committee provided the RC with a hard copy (attached hereto) of the draft regulation. The content of the draft regulation followed what was provided in the guidelines with the same monetary provisions.

Jayne Johns went on to advise that the Committee also spent some time reviewing the National Convention Constitution Committee report to identify issues for the region and any potential impact they could have on the By-Laws.

Questions were then raised on the proposed subsidies regulations. Sargy Chima asked if the subsidy could be used for Education and/or training. Jayne replied that the regulation followed the original intent of the guidelines which limited use to conventions and conferences. Virginia asked if there would be room for movement on the deadline of three weeks stipulated in the regulation. Jayne answered that the majority of conference and conventions provide lots of advance time for registration so this would not likely be an issue for many.

A friendly amendment was made the draft regulations changing the use of the word “should” throughout to “shall.”

A motion was then made to approve the new regulation on conference and convention subsidies as provided with the friendly amendment applied to it.

Moved: Jayne Johns

Seconded: Tracy Shudo

Carried

#### ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Nic Humphreys in the Chair.

The Chair briefly explained the Committee’s draft terms of reference and the recommendations the Committee found during the earlier meetings, which can be found in the Committee’s written report. Included in those recommendations was a recommendation to have a committee member attend the GreenJobs Forum (which Nic acknowledged did not come to fruition). Nic then identified the Committee’s action plan going forward:

1. To provide members with a monthly update on environmental issues
2. To encourage RC members with environmental issues and/or campaigns to engage the Committee
3. To work on the northern pipeline issue, producing an information package and requesting support for their position
4. Participate in the Environmental Jobs Forum in September
5. Continue to coordinate with the BC Federation and Labour Councils’ on environmental activities

With regard to the first action items to provide a monthly update on key environmental issues, the Committee advised that they want to be careful not to overwhelm members with the quantity of information available. Sam Wiese commented that the Committee may be interested in looking at some of the work of the CUPE BC Environment Committee as they have been very successful with similar activities.

Nic concluded his report by noting that a larger project of the Committee will be to politicize the environment. He added that in his opinion a major weakness of Harper Government is the

environment. As such the labour movement should take advantage of this opportunity and use it as leverage to lobby against the current Government.

A motion was then made to accept the Environment Committee's Report.

Moved: Nic Humphreys

Seconded: Benilde Gomes

Carried

#### POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Sam Wiese in the Chair.

Sam advised that the committee had not had an opportunity to meet prior to this meeting and did not have terms of reference yet. However, the immediate focus of the committee is the provincial by-elections in Port Moody-Coquitlam and Chilliwack-Hope. The Chair reported that the Committee will be writing letters to the members within these ridings, signed by the REVP, with the aim of Easter delivery along with phoning these members April 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>. The Committee is seeking some assistance from the RC for these activities.

This issue of the RO's ability to distribute member phone lists was then discussed.

<b>ACTION ITEM:</b> Patrick Bragg to provide member phone lists as appropriate to the Political Action Committee members
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Jayne Johns commented that she and Antony Paller are already involved via the FVLC, and that the Labour Council has already made a political donation to the NDP candidate in the Chilliwack-Hope riding. The NDP candidate had also attended a FVLC meeting and received support from members. Antony added that the BC FED Young Workers were also active in this riding's By-election.

Nic Humphreys further added that he will be contacting his members within the riding and encouraging them to vote NDP, but also further suggested that the contact might more appropriately come from the local president as members would likely be more responsive. Success of this was shown in the Esquimalt riding.

Some discussion was had on the NDP's ability to succeed in the Chilliwack-Hope riding.

Christine Walker then alerted the RC on a new CUPE campaign in Nanaimo, the 10% Shift, which encourages people to spend money in their communities. She then called on RC members to promote the campaign.

<b>ACTION ITEM:</b> Patrick Bragg to post a link the CUPE campaign on the PSAC-BC website
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CONVENTION COMMITTEE

A motion was made to review the Convention Committee’s terms of reference the next day.

Moved: Virginia Vaillancourt

Seconded: Susan Yaciw

Carried

The meetings adjourned for the day at 5:03 p.m.

**Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012**

The meeting resumed at 9:05 a.m.

The meeting was reopened with the comments from Tracy Shudo regarding Bob Jackson’s online reaction to the Federal Budget and the positive feedback she had seen in social media from various RC members.

**COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS CONTINUED**

The RC then returned to discussion of the Committee Reports. Bob reminded the RC that all committees are tasked with providing recommendations to the RC for approval, and that the Committees are not decision-making bodies.

CONVENTION COMMITTEE

Virginia Vaillancourt in the Chair.

Virginia read aloud the terms of reference drafted by the Committee which were then discussed.

Joanna Schultz commented that she was not comfortable with responsibilities for staff being outlined within a committee’s terms of reference and that authority falls with the Regional Coordinator. Virginia replied that for the last convention Janelle Ho-Shing had been assigned to the committee and worked as a liaison between the Committee and the REVP.

Questions were raised on the some of the Committee’s goals and terms of reference insofar as some goals were viewed to be “lofty” and/or beyond the authority or scope of the committee.

Discussion then ensued on the historical context in which the Committee resides and what the current role of the Convention Committee will have, with specific attention to what are staff responsibilities and Committee members.

Bob added that as he and Jayne Johns are members on every RC committee he would assign the task of checking with other regions with regard to how the work with the RCs to prepare for and organize regional conventions.

ACTION ITEM:	Bob to check with other regions on how the prepare for and organize their regional conventions and the role the RC plays within that process
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In addition Bob proposed that the Committee be afforded an opportunity to meet via conference call with him to clarify the Committee’s role and terms of reference.

A motion was then made to table the discussion of the Convention Committee’s terms of reference until the next RC Conference call.

Moved: Sam Wiese

Seconded: Kelly Megyesi

Carried

ACTION ITEM:	Convention Committee to meet with Bob via conference call to clarify the Committee’s role and terms of reference
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#### INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE

Paul Croes in the Chair.

Paul read aloud the Committee’s draft terms of reference, which made the request to receiving staff support from the Regional Office and defined some of the responsibilities that would be assigned to the staff member. Joanna commented that she would be hesitant to have staff responsibilities enshrined in any committee’s terms of reference. Other Council members agreed that it was beyond the scope and/or authority of a committee to assign staff responsibilities. Further discussion then ensued. Joanna then added that she would have no problem assigning staff to a committee, but not through terms of reference. Instead, she would prefer that the request be put to the Regional Coordinator (via email, etc.). Patrick Bragg suggested that Committees could also engage the general membership to assist with committee work (as with the BRUSH Committee and the RWCs).

Questions were also raised with respect to the number of committee members required by the draft terms of reference and further discussion ensued.

The Chair then agreed that he would provide a revised terms of reference given this discussion, but commented that the anticipated expenses of committee work should not be carried by committee members. As such, his Committee was seeking a modest line item within the Regional Council’s budget to support their work. Cindy Little, Chair of Finance Committee, advised that the International Solidarity line item had been removed from the budget per the new budget passed by the membership at the Regional Convention. However, other line items within the current budget could be used for the work of all Committees.

Bob Jackson then suggested that the Committee reconvene and adjust their draft terms of reference and also include a recommendation for the Finance Committee with respect to their funding requirements.

ACTION ITEM:	International Solidarity Committee to reconvene to adjust their draft terms of reference in light of the discussions at this meeting and propose a funding recommendation to the Finance Committee with respect to their anticipated expenses
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#### EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Susan Yaciw in the Chair.

Susan read aloud the Committee’s draft terms of reference. The terms of reference spoke to the Committee’s structure and the role of the REO within the Committee. In light of the discussion with the

International Solidarity Committee regarding the inclusion of staff responsibilities within terms of reference, a motion was made to table discussion on the terms of reference until the Committees have a chance to revise them.

Moved: Virginia Vaillancourt

Seconded: Sam Wiese

Carried

Discussion then turned to the Committee's work on the handbook for new Regional Council members. While the Chair recognized that the handbook would be an asset for the RC, there was a concern that having Regional Council members working on it would be an infringement on the bargaining unit work of PSAC staff. Bob Jackson replied that this matter had been discussed at the last RC meeting and it was agreed that this information would best come from current RC members. He further added that he had had a conversation with the CULE President on the issue of BU Work and from CULE's perspective it would be appropriate for the Education Committee to do this work; Dave Jackson had no concerns on BU Work with regard to the handbook.

Patt Holmes then advised that in the past new Council members had received in-person training. Why is this training no longer being offered to new Council members? Bob Jackson advised that at the last RC meeting it was decided to work on the handbook for training purposes.

Sam Wiese then advised that without written assurance from the CULE President regarding the BU Work issue she would not be comfortable working on the handbook. She further added that in other regions there are examples of these types of resources that are constructed and drafted by the REO. Joanna advised that the Acting REO had already requested these examples from her counterparts in other Regions and would have them available for the Education Committee.

Bob Jackson then asked Joanna to seek this written authorization from the CULE President, Dave Jackson.

<b>ACTION ITEM:</b>	Joanna Schultz to seek written authorization from CULE President, Dave Jackson, for the Education Committee to engage working on a handbook for new Regional Council members
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Further discussion then ensued. Antony Paller then added that a handbook or booklet would be a good resource for alternate coordinators to have access to, especially when asked to step in for a coordinator on leave. He added that it's not favourable to have an alternate in the position of being "parachuted in" without any guidance or direction. The longer it takes for an alternate to figure out his or her role, the long it takes that individual to be effective. Moreover, mentorship should be explored in tandem with any sort of handbook developed. There was a general agreement with Brother Paller's comments.

Joanna Schultz added that if Regional Council members are looking for support, they should contact the Regional Office or the REVP Office for assistance and let them know what is needed.

Susan Yaciw then requested that the Council members advise her of what items they would like included in a handbook for new members once work proceeds on it.

ACTION ITEM:	Regional Council members to submit items that they would like included in the handbook for new Council members by the May conference call
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#### DONATIONS COMMITTEE

Tracy Shudo in the Chair.

The Chair explained that the Committee had decided to propose donations recommendations based a budget of \$2000 for this meeting, based on the overall annual budget of \$5500 for donations and memberships. With that in mind, the Committee had the following recommendations for funding:

- Camp Jubilee – sponsoring one camper to attend in the amount of \$559
- Kamloops Chapter of the Council of Canadians – donation to the Walk for Peace, Social Justice and the Environment in the amount of \$200
- Downtown Eastside Women’s Centre – donation to the meal program in the amount of \$250
- Nelson & District Women’s Centre – donation in an amount of \$250
- BC Coalition of People with Disabilities – donation to the Farmers on 57<sup>th</sup> Program in the amount of \$500
- Protein for People – donation in the amount of \$200

Total amount of the donations recommendations is \$1959.

After some discussion and clarification on the above recommendations, the RC decided to support these recommendations and approve funding.

ACTION ITEM:	Sam Wiese to provide additional information on the Protein for People program, including contact info, so that the donation can be sent by the REVP Office
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Kelly Megyesi then asked if any membership requests had been received. The Chair acknowledged that none had been received.

Bob Jackson then outlined the new procedure for addressing donations requests, which stipulates that any requests received would electronically copied and sent to the Committee Chair via email. The Chair would then circulate the request with Committee members. Together, the Committee would then decide if they would recommend to the RC that the request be approved funding. Any such recommendation would then be decided upon by the RC at the next meeting (via conference call or in person).

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE

Cindy Little in the Chair.

Cindy presented the adjusted 2011 financial statements to the RC. Clarifications were sought and provided on the costs allocated to specific line items within the statements.

A motion was made to accept the Adjusted 2011 Financial Statements as presented by the Committee.

Moved: Cindy Little

Seconded: Patt Holmes

Carried



The Chair then reviewed the YTD Financial Statements for 2012, noting that Regional Convention budget effected a reduction in Coordinator Allowances. To accord with that reduction, the Finance Committee proposed a 10% reduction to all 2011 Coordinator Allowance amounts.

A concern was then raised on the issue of accurately reporting Coordinator activities. As some Coordinators have made use of other line items within the Council's overall budget, it may be the case that expenditures within each Coordinator's allowance will not accurately reflect the activities of the individual. Cindy offered that the reduction to the allowances was not due to an assessment of the activity or inactivity of Coordinators; the reduction was based on the budget passed that the Regional Convention. Cindy further added that while Coordinators may have use of other budgets and/or funding, the financial reporting on the coordinators allowances would not be used to gauge the activities (or presumed lack) of some coordinators. Further discussion then ensued on the concern regarding future reductions to the total sum of moneys allocated to Coordinator allowances.

Kristin advised that the Priority Proposal approved at the Regional Convention approved funding of \$24,000 for each year of the three-year cycle, 2012 through 2014.

A motion was made to accept the Coordinator Allowances as presented by the Committee.

Moved: Cindy Little

Seconded: Patt Holmes

1 opposed

Carried

#### **YW REPORT BACK ON HONURAS TRIP**

Young Workers, Ashley Buncic of Vancouver and Kaleena Young of Nanaimo provided a report on their recent trip to Honduras with Codev Canada.

#### **COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS CONTINUED**

##### **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Cindy Little in the Chair.

Be Gomes noted a typo in the Political Action 2012 report where the subheadings were labelled 2011 instead of 2012.

Paul Croes asked why the International Solidarity line item had been removed in the 2012 budget. Cindy advised that it had been debated at Convention and it was agreed to remove this line items and distribute the funds throughout the other line items that had been utilized the Committee for their activities.

Further discussion then ensued on the issue of the removal of the line item.

It was then suggested by Kristin that if Committees need to seek funding for their activities, they should draft a proposal and submit it to the Finance Committee to seek funding advice, which can then be vetted by the RC for approval.

A motion was then made to accept the 2012 Financial Statements as presented.

Moved: Cindy Little

Seconded: Susan Yaciw  
Carried

The Chair then reviewed the Committee's recommendations to the RC.

The first of the two recommendations dealt with the establishment of a Coordinators Allowances Reserve Fund in which unused Coordinators Allowance moneys would be transferred at the close of each year within the three-year cycle rather than be transferred to the general surplus fund annually. The moneys allocated to this new fund could then be accessed by Coordinators to fund the activities that fall outside their established annual budgets. At the end of the cycle any unused amounts in this fund would then be rolled into the general surplus fund.

The second recommendation suggested that RC be granted the autonomy to book regional travel (within the province) without the use of W.E. Travel except for travel to and from Conference or Conventions within the region.

Clarification regarding the rationale for the second recommendation was then requested by Sam Wiese. Cindy advised that the cost of using W.E. travel was significant, including a \$60+ booking fee with each travel reservation.

Further discussion then ensued on the recommendation regarding regional travel and the booking thereof.

Joanna Schultz advised that the recommendation was in contravention to the National Travel Policy. Bob advised that he would look into this matter at HQ and seek guidance on the application of the policy to regional travel in light of costs savings measures and the criteria drafted by the Committee.

<b>ACTION ITEM:</b> Bob Jackson to seek guidance from the National President and AEC on the application of the National Travel policy on regional travel
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Kelly Megyesi added that when booking travel through W.E. Travel, members can elect to travel by Tango instead of the more costly Tango Plus if they choose.

Bob further clarified that should the recommendation be deemed appropriate, travel via commercial airline is to be carried out with the use of unionized carriers; West Jet will not be used. However, the use of float planes is permissible as they are regarded as taxis.

A motion was made to table the Finance Committee's report until the next RC conference call to allow Bob to seek advice from HQ.

Moved: Sam Wiese  
Seconded: Patt Holmes  
Carried

Cindy then spoke to the point of information in the report, advising that at the last regional convention it was decided that the financial statements do not to be audited. Instead, they are to be reviewed by members. The Finance Committee will now put a call through the REVP Office seeking expressions of interest for two members to review the 2010 and 2011 Financial Statements. Compensation for services is

to be determined by the Committee. Tracy asked about the budget allocated to the activities. Cindy advised that it was based on the cost of auditing the Financial Statements previously.

### **REVIEW OF JOINT STAFF SESSION NOTES (FROM OCTOBER RC MEETING) & NEXT STEPS**

The working groups established at the October Joint Staff working session were reassembled and tasked with providing an analysis of their progress to date on the actions/activities they identified in October and on what their focus will be going forward. The groups then reported back to the RC on the same:

#### **GROUP 6B**

Nic Humphreys reported back on the progress he and Joanna had made, noting that their main goal was to have a National Officers (NOs) meeting, which was held on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, and to offer RO services to the NOs. At the meeting, this was done through a presentation on WFA training available through the RO. Following the meeting, lots of calls were received from NOs requesting delivery of the training.

Nic noted that there were some other goals that will not be carried forward, and that the Federal Budget delivered on Thursday has changed a lot of priorities for many. To address this, he and Joanna would like to conduct a conference call and survey the NOs to see what priorities are: what are they currently? Have they changed? How do the NOs want to proceed?

Nic asserted that he feels the biggest failings of RC are in its inability to engage NOs and Components in the work that they do, and that RC works in isolation. Nic raised that point that when he asked to have another NO named to the RC, the request was defeated. To address these failings, Nic will attempt to engage NOs.

Joanna Schultz added that where we have had success with NO is with action-focused things. March 1<sup>st</sup> was a good example of this where we can build on the ties between the NOs and the Components. Joanna acknowledged that the success of March 1<sup>st</sup> was partly due to expectation that Components were engaged in the activity.

#### **GROUP 6A**

Bob spoke and the activities of the REVP and the A/REVP, noting that the majority of items were completed. Outstanding opportunities were to better engage and work with NOs alongside the RC. With that in mind, Bob and Jayne would like to call a NOs conference call following convention and try to regularize that kind of activity with the NOs to improve communication between the PSAC and NOs.

Bob commented that a good way of engaging NOs within the region is to get them more active.

Patrick added that they are also entertaining the idea of creating a Component newsletter as venue for Components to communicate their activities with rest of the PSAC and throughout the broader membership.

Conversely, these types of exercises would also allow the REVP and NO Coordinator to identify the NOs that are not participating'. With that information either Bob or Nic would be able to expose and address such issues.

Nic commented that this follows the suggestion from him and Joanna to resurrect the NOs survey, which will also let regional reps understand how they can support the NOs.

Terri Lee added that at the National Convention will include a caucus of BC delegates (which includes the majority of NOs). She suggested that this might be an opportunity to approach and engage NOs.

In light of the discussion on training and development for new RC members, Kelly Megyesi asked if the NO Coordinator could provide some information on how National Officers work, and what work they perform at a future RC meeting. Nic responded that he would hope members understand the work and functions of the National Officers within their own Components better than he does.

As a point of information, Bob Jackson pointed out that there are now three NOs sitting on the RC.

#### GROUP 1

Be Gomes acted as the spokesperson for the group. She advised that the group previously identified issues with timelines and receiving information and materials. While this has improved quite a bit there are still some ongoing issues in this area (e.g. late arrival of March 1<sup>st</sup> materials)

Be added that the group has found it to be their responsibility to check website for what materials are available to them. This is a time-consuming activities and would be better accomplished is they could get this information from the Regional Coordinator.

<b>ACTION ITEM:</b>	Joanna to provide RC members with a list of materials available and provide updates on the availability as appropriate
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Virginia asked if the materials information could be published on the website so that all members can be aware of what materials are available. Joanna replied that the volumes of materials vary and that the RO would not necessarily want to hurry them out the door. For now, she suggested that the RO start this communication with the RC. The RC could then identify materials that should be more broadly communicated and distributed with the membership.

Be continued, reporting that timelines are still an issue for the group. For example, she just heard at this meeting that Phil Carriere and Bob will be traveling to Prince George and visiting locals; she did not hear this directly from Phil Carriere. More timely communication of this would allow for better preparation during the visits.

The group plans to continue their engagement in community events; however, holding them in the daytime is still an issue, especially with new budget cuts. That said, Be advised that the work tours she conducted with Bob were well received and would like to include AC meetings down the road.

#### GROUP 2

Sam Wiese advised that she and Heather DuDoward met separately first and then rejoined the Vancouver Island geographical reps.

On Health & Safety issues, Sam advised that introductory H&S training is being delivered outside Vancouver now. Sam further commented that she is working with James Little on items stemming from the Health & Safety conference. Specifically this relates to advanced Health & Safety training, which includes some elements of WCB training. This is especially important as there are some members who are covered by WCB regulations and not Part II of the Canada Labour Code. Training on the latter is provided in the introductory training. Sam acknowledged that this advanced training is separate from the ongoing WCB campaign.

ACTION ITEM:	Sam to send information on the WCB campaign to Patrick who will send it out more widely
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Sam also spoke on requirements of the employer for training, which will be further discussed with at upcoming events with the REVP.

Sam then turned the floor to Heather to speak on her areas of focus. Heather advised that during the staff working group, Dave was instrumental in putting together list of activities, which included the Regional Aboriginal Peoples conference. At this point, Heather is not sure how to proceed with this; the conference would be a huge undertaking. As such, she has decided to start with a smaller activity such as an aboriginal course or an in residence course to be offered at Union School.

Heather is also working on the idea of producing a poster communicating why Self ID is important. She was pleased to hear that the PSAC has added the opportunity for member to self id on conference registration forms, along with the check box to authorize the information be communicated the Regional Coordinator. This was recently done with the Health & Safety conference.

In conjunction with this, Heather stressed that we need to get name and contact info out there for those that do Self ID. She will be working toward this with Dave Jackson.

#### GROUP 2B

Cindy Little acted as the spokesperson for the group, and advised that the group will be carrying out work on the following:

- Sending out a letter of introduction to all the locals within the Vancouver Island constituencies. They will also send the letter to the regional rep as an email. Included in the letter will be information on the two Area Councils, the HRCs and the RWCs.
- The group will also update website bios of the RC coordinators on Vancouver Island and review the areas of the AC boundaries as the North Vancouver Island AC has expanded to north of the Malahatt, now including Nanaimo.
- A road trip this fall with the purpose to hold meetings in Nanaimo and the Courtenay areas
- Working on a brochure for the RWC
- Updating the local executive list. Some work in this area has been done through the Presidents' Conference in October and through the March 1<sup>st</sup> activity.
- Promoting self id – This is already being done on regular basis and this work will continue.

#### GROUP 3

Kelly Megyesi acted as the spokesperson for the group and advised that all of the Women's issues been addressed. In terms of ongoing issues, they will be focusing on communication and gearing up for liaison between the RC and staff; however, the group recognizes that the staff is quite busy and needs time to develop.

Other issues the group will be focusing on are:

- Training and mentoring for Antony as new member on the RC, and providing him with materials to support his work

- Worksite visits
- MP lobby for Jennifer Ho, who will also be working with staff on this issue

One common issue of importance for all groups is to get members (more) active. The group's aim is to develop something so that they can encourage members to get involved.

#### GROUP 4

Paul Croes acted as the spokesperson for the group and identified that a number of their items for action are now mute, such as the education form which has already been finalized.

Previously the group identified that information and communication with the staff needs to be more frequently and more timely. Upon review, the group confirmed that communication has improved, but that is still is not always timely (e.g. they are not always aware when leave is taking place).

The group also expressed a desire to visit more ACs within their mandate and increase their effectiveness in terms of outreach. Work is ongoing to this area and improvements have been made.

#### GROUP 5

Terri Lee acted as the spokesperson for the Group. She advised that the group has accomplished a number of the tasks identified have been completed. In particular, the Youth Caucus AGM was held in December and that messages were sent out regarding the municipal elections.

Moving forward the group have identified some areas where they would like to do some work:

- Hoping to sponsor four Yong Worker to attend Camp Jubilee with BC Federation of Labour
- In light of the Federal spending cut, circulate a form to members asking "what do the cuts mean for me?" This item will be discussed at the Vancouver AC meeting on April 11<sup>th</sup> for May 2012.
- Coordinate with Regional Office to host an Open House in spring to show off the new services/facilities available to members
- Reach out to RC or BC Regional delegates and observers attending the National Convention to assist with staffing a table or display there
- May Day mobilization on Commercial Drive with help from Monica Urrutia
- Plan and carry out other events this year for Young Workers, much like the baseball last year. The group is entertaining the idea of Playland and renting a bbq area to attract YW
- Ongoing petition work
- Participate in Car Free Day with a booth on Commercial Drive
- Will be sending information out to Metro Vancouver and Youth on the Libby Davies forum on pensions that is to be held April 21<sup>st</sup> at the Hastings Community Centre

Erica Yang announced that national funding has approved to hold a Young Workers conference this October. She then asked RC members to help identify YW who would be interested in working on the steering committee.

ACTION ITEM:	RC Members to send names to Erica of Young Workers to within their constituencies that would be interested in participating on the steering committee for the Youth Conference to be held this October
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Erica further added that the YW film night on Vancouver Island was actually the committee's first AGM with terms of reference adopted, and that they are now an active committee. The same has been done with the local youth caucus.

Bob Jackson commented that this week he received notification that there will be space for regions to do something at the National Convention to advertise events and activities; however, this may not be a table. He advised that if there are members interested in working on this, to please let staff know. Bob further noted that any display would have to be staffed by members going to Convention and will require some organization.

Discussion then ensued on previous displays at Conventions.

Kelly Megyesi commented that she will be hosting a display for women's nationally at Convention. She then offered that she would be happy to distribution information and materials at the Women's table on behalf of the group.

Patrick stressed that everything distributed must be bilingual, and that would entail a lot of work and preparation.

Susan Yaciw noted that as there will only be 7 observers from BC at Convention with funding from locals etc., they would likely be expected to be on the floor and not staffing a display. As such, it's a big ask from the RC.

Patrick Bragg suggested that in lieu of a display perhaps the RC could entertain the idea of putting together of basket of BC goods to be raffled off for charity. Some discussion ensued on the suggestion.

Jennifer Horsley then suggested that if there will likely be an issue, maybe it would be better to have something that does not need to be staffed such as the "Standing Together" banner or a collage of images depicting who we are and celebrating our region. Bob Jackson agreed and suggested that other regions will likely do something similar.

Kelly advised that she would be happy to take the display with her to Convention and look after it.

#### **FESTIVAL/EVENT PARTICIPATION & FUNDING**

Bob Jackson steered the discussion to Festivals and events participation as Terri's Group report expressed some interest in summer outreach activities. He commented that in the past some events have been very good exposure for the PSAC, but that we need to think about what we want to do with the understanding that Garry Fraser is no longer available to act as the primary support in setting up and taking down booths, etc. As a result, the responsibility for staffing events will rest with the Regional Council. Additionally, this year the Regional Office will not be getting a hiring student, so we cannot rely on that support either (nor should we necessarily have a student staffing an event on behalf of members). Bob added that some event organizer have already been contacting the REVP office for participation commitments, so the RC needs to make some decision on how to fund and what level of participation can be provided by the RC.

Tracy Shudo commented that she attended many of the events with Garry, including the Surrey Fusion Festival. She acknowledged that there was a high cost attached to this Festival, but that it was well

attended by the public and that if we need a venue for lobbying and political action, this would be a good opportunity again this year.

Bob advised that the high cost was largely due to the fact that the PSAC was a sponsoring partner for the 2011 Festival, not just a participant. This year, there would likely be a lower and more cost-appropriate participation level available to the PSAC. However, cost aside, the point being made is that there is a lot of work associated with the preparation, transportation, set up and take down of supplies and materials used at festivals and events. This responsibility now rests with the RC. Bob noted that while the activities are good for visibility, and he hopes we can continue to do these activities, there will be a cost in terms of commitment and staffing from the Council.

Further discussion then ensued.

Christine Walker commented that the summer outreach activities should include an Open House of the Regional Office to celebrate the completion of the renovations. She added that most of the Area Councils and Labour Councils already carry out Labour Day picnics and activities for the Day of Mourning.

Additional discussion followed.

Joanna Schultz then suggested that it would be helpful to develop an ad hoc subcommittee to identify what events the PSAC should attend and identify the associated costs so that we can seek political action funding from National PSAC HQ.

After some discussion, Bob Jackson called for volunteers for the Subcommittee in accordance with some regional consideration, who would then be tasked with coming up with a plan to proceed which would be discussed at the next RC conference call.

Named to the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Festivals/Event Participation were:

Tracy Shudo  
Sam Wiese  
Kelly Megyesi  
Cindy Little  
Be Gomes

<b>ACTION ITEM:</b>	Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Festivals/Event Participation to meet and generate plan to move forward for this summer's outreach activities, which shall be submitted to Patrick by mid-April and discussed at the May RC conference call
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#### **REGULAR SCHEDULING OF RC CONFERENCE CALLS**

Bob Jackson opened the discussion, advising that he had spoken with Patrick on the subject a couple weeks prior. Through that discussion, they had determined that it would be a good idea to increase the frequency of meetings so that the content for RC meetings would be less.

The RC then discussed the suggestion. After some discussion, it was decided that there would be conference calls scheduled monthly as follows, with break in scheduled during the summer months:



May 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm

June 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm

July and August - no calls scheduled

September – call to be scheduled during June conference call

October – call to be scheduled June conference call

It was further discussed that the next in-person Regional Council meeting could be held in November in coordination with the BC Federation of Labour Convention, which is scheduled for November 26-30 with the election taking place on November 29th. Scheduling the RC meeting in coordination with the BC Fed Convention would allow all RC members to attend the Convention.

Patrick Bragg added that this had been done in the past and that RC would not necessarily have to attend all five days of the Convention.

Discussion then ensued on the matter.

Sam Wiese then commented that she has attended the BC FED Convention for many years. Through that experience she has been appalled at unions who only come in for the election day; she would not like to see PSAC in that position at the next Convention. She further added that if we are going to be on the BC FED convention floor, the RC should be there for at least two full days prior to the election. As such she asserted that it would be more appropriate to hold the RC meeting first, and then attend the BC FED Convention.

Antony Paller echoed the comments of Sam and added that holding the RC meeting in advance would provide the RC with an opportunity to strategize for the BC FED Convention.

Patt Holmes commented that we had held RC meetings in advance of the BC FED Convention in the past and that it had provided her with the otherwise lost opportunity to attend the Convention. She added that in the past the PSAC has been successful at bringing their issues to the floor at this Convention and should continue to do so through participation at the Convention. In closing, Patt noted that because Jim Sinclair was at our press conference, we should have as many PSAC as possible at the BC FED Convention. Virginia echoed the some of Patt's comments, adding that she had never attended the Convention and would like the opportunity to do so, but not just one or two days.

Bob Jackson noted that there appeared to be a consensus of the Council to hold the RC meeting in advance of the BC FED Convention.

Christine Walker closed the conversation with the statement that if RC members were to miss a day or two of the Convention, the days to miss would be Monday and Tuesday during registration and guest speakers.

#### **BC FED YOUNG WORKERS CAMP JUBILEE FUNDING REQUEST**

Camp Jubilee – Send up to four YW to camp at cost of \$600 per camp participant, which includes the cost of travel and LWOP. Erica added that attending the camp will provide the YW with an opportunity to network, receive training and get more active within the Union.

Virginia Vaillancourt asked how the YW would be regionally selected, especially in light of the newly formed Vancouver Island Youth Committee.

Erica answered that the aim to have participants come from through the region; however, selection would ultimately depend on interest.

Kelly Megyesi asked if the YW funding request would fall within the scope of the new subsidies regulation. Jayne Johns added that it would be appropriate for the YW to submit a subsidy application under the new regulation. However, the regulation only allows for a subsidy of either \$250 or \$500, which would not fund the entire camp registration.

Further discussion then ensued on where moneys could be drawn to support this funding request.

Susan Yaciw then suggested that perhaps instead of funding all four Young Workers, the RC could fund Erica Yang to attend.

Bob Jackson further added that the three other YW could seek out funding from their locals or utilize the newly created subsidy regulation to request a subsidy from the RC.

A motion was made to fund Erica Yang to attend Camp Jubilee at a cost of \$600, with the direction to the Finance Committee to find resources from the appropriate fund(s) within the Council budget.

Moved: Paul Croes

Seconded: Susan Yaciw

Carried

#### **NATIONAL TRIENNIAL CONVENTION PRIORITY RESOLUTIONS**

Virginia Vaillancourt reiterated the earlier comments of Kelly Megyesi commenting that the Regional Women's Committee Chairs had reviewed the priority resolutions and identified their priorities including the resolutions on childcare, the prevention of violence against aboriginal women, leadership training for women among other items. Virginia asked that these resolutions be spoken on at Convention. To that end, she would be looking for the support of the RC members attending Convention so that these resolutions are heard.

Bob Jackson commented that although committees generally set ten priority resolutions, the reality is that only the first five are addressed at convention. However, he did advise that some of the resolutions identified by the RWC were in the top five priorities for some the Convention Committees.

Sam Wiese spoke on the resolution concerning the establishment of regional Health & Safety Committees, which is one of the constitutional committee priority resolutions. She commented that it was her understanding that the intent of the resolution was to have one committee per region and not the several that had been costed in the draft resolution. She added that it should be referred back to enshrine the original intent of one committee per region.

On the issue of the Health & Safety Committees resolution, Bob Jackson encouraged those attending convention to speak with Bob Kingston, Terri Lee along with Jamey Mills in terms of recommendations to refer it back for amendment.

Bob concluded with his commitment to provide the Council with electronic copies of the Priority Resolutions.

ACTION ITEM:	Bob Jackson to send out National Triennial Committee Priority Resolutions to RC
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**OTHER BUSINESS – GENERAL**

Jennifer Ho spoke on the Metro Vancouver Alliance, noting that Megan Adam has been attending their events and was hoping for PSAC affiliation for the same. Terri Lee commented that this affiliation had already been established via the Area Council.

Jennifer Ho then advised that the Metro Vancouver Alliance is holding two upcoming workshops in April. She added that she encouraged RC member to attend and, if attending, bring their feedback to the RC at the next meeting.

**OTHER BUSINESS – MEETING FACILITY**

On behalf of the Council, Bob then thanked Kristin for her work organizing the meeting at the Regional Office. He further added that he thought the next RC meeting should also be held in the RO given the cost savings that it provided. He then called on the RC members to provide their comments and/or suggestion with respect to this meeting facility to Kristin within the next month.

ACTION ITEM:	Regional Council members to provide feedback to Kristin via email with respect to holding RC meetings at the Regional Office.
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Patrick further added that for future meetings in the RO, additional A/V capabilities will be installed in the coming month, which will greatly enhance the meeting services available at the RO.

Joanna advised that she had prepared a cost analysis on cost savings generated by hosting the Regional Council meeting at the Regional Office versus a Vancouver hotel. Joanna further advised that she drew the numbers from costing provided by Carol Pegura, former EA to the REVP-BC. Joanna noted that the savings were around of \$8000 per meeting. Joanna added that she would circulate these numbers to the Regional Council via email.

ACTION ITEM:	Joanna to circulate, via email, the cost analysis of using the Regional Office for Regional Council meetings versus conducting a meeting at a hotel.
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**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

Moved: Jayne Johns

Seconded: Tracy Shudo

Carried

There being no further business, the meeting was concluded at 4:17 p.m.