

**DRAFT RECORD OF MEETING
PSAC B.C. REGIONAL COUNCIL CONFERENCE CALL
HELD TUESDAY, JULY 30, 2013 AT 6:00 P.M.**

In Attendance:

Bob Jackson, REVP-B.C. (Chair)
Celine Ahodekon, West Fraser Valley
Benilde Gomes, Northwestern BC
Roberta Gourlie, Southern Interior
Antony Paller, East Fraser Valley
Terri Lee, Metro Vancouver

Cindy Little, South Vancouver Island
Jamey Mills, Metro Vancouver
Tracy Shudo, Members with Disabilities
Virginia Vaillancourt, South Vancouver Island
Christine Walker, North Vancouver Island
Susan Yaciw, Southern Interior

Regrets:

Shawna Bundac, Metro Vancouver
Sargy Chima, Racially Visible
Paul Croes, Pride
Heather DuDoward, Aboriginal
Linda Harding, Health & Safety

Nic Humphreys, National Officers
Jayne Johns, A/REVP-B.C.
Kelly Megyesi, Women's Coordinator
Sharon Tieman, DCL
Erica Yang, Youth

Staff:

Patrick Bragg, Political Communications Officer
Luc Guevremont, Regional Coordinator
Kristin Schnider, EA to the REVP-B.C.

The meeting commenced at 6:06 p.m.

I. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Bob Jackson opened the meeting, reviewing the proposed agenda items circulated.

II. PREVIOUS MINUTES

Bob advised that the draft minutes from the June 17, 2013 B.C. Regional Council conference call had been circulated to the Council and edits received had been incorporated.

Virginia raised a number of issues from the previous minutes and sought clarifications and/or updates on the following:

- Affected members seeking to retain their membership in good standing (MIGS) and the outcome of the June NBoD meeting discussions
- the WAAA campaign
- planning for the 2014 Regional Convention and convention committees

Bob spoke first to Virginia's query on members requesting to remain MIGS. He advised that the Section 4 of the PSAC National Constitution defines MIGS and Regulation 5 speak to the process that members are to follow if they wish to remain their MIGS status while on leave, etc. Bob went on to say that for members affected by WFA who hold PSAC or component elected positions, a couple scenarios were discussed by the NBoD at its June meeting.

In cases where affected members hold component positions and when they are no longer are employed and wish to retain elected position, components are charged with responsibility of submitting a letter to AEC to determine the membership status of those individuals on a case by case basis. There have been three of those cases dealt with already, with a few currently pending.

In cases where an affected member is elected to PSAC positions, her or his request is brought forward to AEC by the AEC officer responsible (typically the REVP for the member's Region). Bob noted that we've

had one of those situations with Sister Kelly Megyesi. He went on to explain that Kelly had sent a letter to the National President expressing her desire to have her membership retained in good standing while she is on education leave. Following that request, Bob discussed that matter with Kelly and he forwarded his recommendation to the AEC for their review and decision. The AEC then decided to allow Kelly to retain her PSAC Regional Council position until the 2014 Regional Convention. However, she will not be able to seek re-election or run for another PSAC position. Bob then reiterated that all requests to remain MIGS are assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Virginia then asked some follow up questions on the process by which members retain their MIGS, and Bob committed to follow up with her at a later time.

ACTION ITEM:	Bob to provide further clarity for Virginia Vaillancourt regarding members on leave and MIGS when he's back in the Office
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Bob went on to address Virginia's query on the status of the WAAA campaign, speaking to the campaign's second phase and the campaigner training. He advised that they had completed some training in the last couple days in the Fraser Valley. He added that there have been some staffing issues and other Regional priorities that have delayed the campaign somewhat (the FB vote, negotiations at YVR, work that has taken staff out of the Region temporarily, etc.). However, Bob conveyed that he is confident we can get the campaign back on track.

Luc added that with it being summer, several reps have been on vacation which has added to some of the delay. Nonetheless, pledge cards are starting to trickle into the ROs.

(Roberta Gourlie joins the call)

Bob then addressed Virginia's question on Convention, confirming that staff have been discussing timelines and the composition of convention committees. He added that presently we are on track in terms of timing and that the bulk of the activity will begin this fall. Information has been gathered from the 2011 convention that will assist the planning for 2014. In addition, we are waiting on input from National office through Sarah Belanger. Bob advised that Sarah is working to produce a convention kit for all regions to use as a guide for 2014. He then advised that this matter would be discussed in more detail later on the call.

The minutes were then adopted as presented.

III. B.C. REGIONAL COUNCIL COORDINATOR UPDATES

a. DCL Coordinator

Bob advised that since the last conference call Sister Sharon Tieman had agreed to assume the DCL Coordinator position on the Council vacated by Brother Jason Salchert.

b. Northeast BC Coordinator

Bob further advised that Sister Patt Holmes had officially left the public service and PSAC as of July 25, 2013. At the same time, the alternate for the position also left the PSAC in July. As there were only three members in the 2011 Regional Convention caucus for that geographic area, the REVP Office has contacted the remaining delegate to see if she is willing to take on the role for the balance of the cycle. At present, we are still waiting to hear back from that individual.

IV. REVP REPORT

Bob began his report by noting the fair amount of activity that has taken place since the June call. He then briefed the Council on the status of negotiations with regional units. Bob noted that we were approaching a critical stage with Fuelers at Globeground (YVR). However, the situation has been resolved and a tentative agreement was reached at last moment, avoiding potential job action at YVR.

Bob added that negotiations are also ongoing for YVR's 300 employees and a strike vote is anticipated fairly soon.

With regard to the TC group, Bob is currently in Ottawa attending meeting between the employer and the bargaining team. They are attempting to get moving on some of the longstanding negotiations that have yet to be resolved.

Bob then spoke on his involvement at various summer outreach events so far this summer, including the Victoria Pride celebrations and the Fusion Festival. Bob also advised that he's also planning some work site visits with Tom Hopkins and Nic Humphreys in the northern area of Vancouver Island this August and is scheduled to visit Prince Rupert and Terrace this September.

Bob then called for questions on his report.

Terri Lee asked if there was some momentum at the TC bargaining table. Bob answered that the meetings this week have proven challenging. The employer is dug in on several issues as is the union on other items. Nonetheless, the Bargaining Team is committed to be at the table over the next three days as long as possible to get something done. He added that there was a good rally today in Ottawa with bus loads of members brought in to show support to the team.

Bob further commented that the CFIA PIC report was released last week and there will likely be some challenges with that as well. A lot will depend on what happens with the TC group.

V. UPDATE ON WAAA SUMMER OUTREACH PLANS

a. Victoria Pride (debriefed by Virginia Vaillancourt)

Virginia advised that the Victoria Pride Parade took place July 7, and was well attended by the public. She added that there was little PSAC participation, which was upsetting given the number of members in Victoria and on the Island. However, members of the VIHRC did participate in multi-union walking group and had a booth set up at the Pride Festival, which followed the parade.

During the parade and at the booth, the VIHRC distributed 1800 beads and 300 PSAC Pride flags to the public, which were visible throughout the festival. She also commented that people really like the PSAC Pride waterless tattoos, adding that we should keep this in mind for future summer outreach events. WAAA information was also distributed and well received by the public.

Virginia then advised that the VIHRC is discussing the possibility of including the BC Mainland HRC members at Victoria Pride next year to increase PSAC numbers. She then concluded by thanking Bob for attending the event and confirmed that overall it was a great event.

b. Surrey Fusion Festival (debriefed by Celine Ahodekon)

Celine briefed the Council on the event, noting that Saturday, July 21 was the busier of the two days and there were not enough volunteers for the booth. There were two no-shows and Celine has already followed up with them. She added that no staff attended and members were unsure how to run things. Fortunately Garry Fraser (retired staff) provided some assistance on the Sunday when he visited the booth. She noted that it would be good to provide volunteers with some speaking notes.

Celine went on to say that while the booth was well visited over the two days, the booth location was problematic due the noise between the two music stages. Nonetheless, the location did allow for good foot traffic. Unfortunately due to some miscommunication, they didn't distribute all the swag available as they thought it had to be reserved for other summer outreach events.

Tracy Shudo further reported that the questionnaire offered to the public was well received: it asked them to give an example of how they have been affected by the cuts. However, she noted that it would have been good to have a petition as well; many people would have readily signed one it was available.

Bob replied that there is no petition campaign underway currently. However, the questionnaire could be just as effective as a petition. That information will be collected, assessed for trends and forwarded to PSAC National.

Bob acknowledged Tracy's point regarding petitions and said he would bring it up with the AEC. On the issue of staffing at the Fusion Festival, Luc advised that Regina Brennan had planned to attend the event. However, unfortunately she was unable to attend due to an unexpected bereavement leave.

Tracy then reiterated that it would be good to have some speaking notes for volunteers at events.

ACTION ITEM: Patrick to provide speaking notes for volunteers at future summer outreach events

c. Upcoming Events: Vancouver Pride, New West Pride, Labour Day

Bob reminded the Council that the Vancouver Pride celebrations would be taking place Sunday, August 4. He added that Paul Croes has been working on multi-union pride parade float and has also been working to organize volunteers for a PSAC booth at the festival that follows the parade. Luc added that in terms of PSAC staffing, he will be in attendance at the event and there will likely be a staff rep in attendance periodically.

Kristin the spoke briefly to New West Pride, confirming that the PSAC is a sponsor for the event (which allows a booth at the festival on August 17). She added that no committee has really taken the lead on this event. Bob added that they will be looking to Paul to coordinate these two Pride events.

ACTION ITEM: Patrick and Luc to coordinate with Paul Croes on the upcoming Pride events
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For Labour Day, Antony Paller advised that the East Fraser Valley Area Council will be participating in an Abbotsford event from 11 to 3 on September 2, which will be attended by 500 to 750 people. The Area Council will be providing ice cream and there will be various family activities on site.

Jamey Mills advised that the BCFED will be hosting their annual Labour Day event at Trout Lake; however, he is not involved with the planning this year and has few details. However, there will be a PSAC table at the event with WAAA information and swag to distribute. Others on the Area Council will be volunteering at the event this year as he is unavailable.

Be Gomes advised that the Northwest Area Council is struggling to organize for Riverboat Days, which takes place this weekend. There are only a few volunteers for the booth, but they now have enough to commit to a booth. Despite the lack of union interest, the event will be huge this year especially with all the new pipeline related companies in town now. As such, local MPs are really hoping to have a PSAC presence at this year's event. Be then asked if some swag could be sent up to distribute for both Riverboat Days and for the upcoming Labour Day events. The Area Council will be participating in the Kitimat celebrations and for the first time they will also have a booth at the Prince Rupert Labour Day event.

ACTION ITEM: Patrick to ship supplies/swag up to Be for Riverboat Days in Kitimat
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Virginia reported that UVAE Local 20030 and CEIU Local 20095 had a successful joint BBQ on July 27, which was attended by 130. At the BBQ they were able to get pledge cards signed, speak about the WAAA campaign and give out some WAAA swag. Both locals are planning to host a similar BBQ next year, and are hoping Regional Council members can assist to include more locals. Virginia then extended her thanks to Patrick for providing speaking notes on the WAAA campaign.

Jamey then advised that the VAC in hosting its annual picnic again this year at Trout Lake on August 10.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Donations Committee – Recommendations for requests from:

I. Covenant House - \$200

II. Friends of Canadian Broadcasting - \$150

III. Grandmothers’ Tribunal (Organized by BCGEU) - \$100

On behalf of the Committee, the Committee Chair Tracy Shudo reported that the Committee had reviewed the requests received from Covenant House, Friends of Canadian Broadcasting and from the BCFED Women’s committee regarding the Stephen Lewis Foundation Tribunal for African Grandmothers’ Human Rights on September 7 (being organized by the BCGEU). Tracy further advised that the committee had unanimously agreed on their recommendations to the Regional Council, which provided \$200 for Covenant House, \$150 for Friends of Canadian Broadcasting and \$100 for the Grandmothers’ Tribunal.

A motion was then made to approve the Donations Committee’s recommendations for donations to Covenant House, Friends of Canadian Broadcasting and the Grandmothers’ Tribunal, totalling \$450.

Moved: Tracy Shudo
Seconded: Antony Paller
Carried

ACTION ITEM:	Kristin to issue donations of: \$200 to Covenant House; \$150 to Friends of Canadian Broadcasting; and \$100 to the Tribunal for African Grandmothers’ Human Rights organized by BCGEU as approved by the B.C. Regional Council
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VII. DISCUSSION ON HONOURS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (Brought Forward from June Call)

Bob reminded the Council that he had talked briefly about forming an honours and awards committee on the June call and that the item had been brought forward to the July call. He then suggested that perhaps the item would be better discussed in-person at the fall meeting. With that, Bob provided some preliminary context for the formation of a committee, committing to send additional information out and seek input from the Council in advance of the September meeting.

He suggested that the honours and awards would be similar to those conferred by the PSAC National Office. However, the Region’s awards would allow for BC Region members to receive regional recognition when they don’t qualify for a national award. Bob then further recommended that they would need three individuals to look at the existing national criteria and adapt it for Regional purposes.

ACTION ITEM:	REVP Office to send out additional information on the formation of a Regional Honours and Awards Committee prior the September meeting and include a callout for the input from the B.C. Regional Council
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VIII. USE OF UNIONIZED GOODS

Bob explained that he was disturbed to hear that some members were seeking non-unionized supplies for events and activities. He then reminded that Council of the standing practice to use Canadian, union-made/produced goods and services as a first option whenever possible.

Kristin further clarified that the practice was based on resolutions of record passed in 1995 and 2000, which stipulates that the PSAC buy Canadian made, union goods and services whenever possible even if it costs up to 5% extra for the goods.

Bob then confirmed that this was the manner in which the REVP Office had been producing and purchasing swag for summer outreach, etc. Bob then opened the topic for discussion, but no comments or questions were voiced.

IX. REGIONAL CONVENTION

a. Regional Council Resolutions – By-Laws Committee and Sarah Belanger looking at housekeeping issues for Regional By-Laws

Bob advised that the By-Laws committee is organizing a meeting for this August to discuss housekeeping issues for the Regional By-Laws and to resolve some outstanding concerns within the current By-Laws.

In addition to the Committee’s review, Sarah Belanger will also be reviewing the Region’s By-Laws for national standardization and consistency with the PSAC National Constitution. Sister Belanger is also working on standardizing some of the format for all regional conventions to take place in 2014. Bob noted that the B.C. Region will be the first convention to take place in 2014, and the Office has already provided PSAC National with information on our structure and past conventions to assist in this process. With the information provided by all Regions, National will be providing a Convention kit for all Regions to use as guidelines. The kit should be received in early September.

b. Finance and Convention Committees to come in early for September meeting to address Convention-related matters

Bob commented that the Finance Committee will be coming in early for the September in-person meeting to begin work on 2014-2016 priority proposal, which is to be vetted at the 2014 Regional Convention.

Bob advised that the Convention Committee will also come in early to discuss Convention matters including theme, etc. He then noted that at last AEC meeting, it was confirmed that all regional convention themes will follow the 2015 NTC theme and current campaign, *We Are All Affected*. However, there will be the possibility for some regionalism. The Office is hoping to have information on this from PSAC National prior to the September Regional Council meeting.

c. Convention Kit and Checklist from PSAC National

Bob reiterated his comments on the Convention Kit that is being prepared by PSAC National (as discussed above). Bob also noted that the Convention Kit will be discussed at the September AEC meeting, which takes place September 9-11.

d. Call for interest on 2014 Regional Convention Committees

As discussed on the June conference call, the REVP Office is calling for expressions of interest for the three Regional Convention Committees: By-laws Resolutions Committee, General Resolutions Committee, and Finance Resolutions Committees. Bob went on to say that the Office has already given a preliminary look at how the committees were constructed for the 2011 Convention, and that the 2014 Committees will be based on past practice. Bob then advised that the he will be working on the committees when he’s back in the office next week.

ACTION ITEM:	Bob to review the expressions of interest received for 2014 Regional Convention committees and begin confirming committee members
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Tracy sought clarification on the committees, asking if they were the same as the existing Regional Council committees for Finance, By-Laws and Convention. Bob clarified that while the convention committees include members from the Regional Council, the convention committees also include participation from the general membership. In addition, Regional Council members are able to submit an expression of interest to participate on one of the convention committees even if they are not on the existing Regional Council Finance and By-Laws committees.

X. REMINDER: NEXT IN-PERSON MEETING – SEPTEMBER 20-22, 2013

a. National Officers meeting, September 19, 2013

Bob reminded the Council members of the next in-person Regional Council meeting taking place this September in the Vancouver Regional Office. Bob went on to advise that a National Officers meeting will immediately precede the Council meeting on September 19th. Nic Humphreys will be coordinating the meeting with Kristin and the RO staff in terms of logistics and agenda. At present, the REVP Office is assessing the anticipated number of NOs attending, who have also been invited to attend the Friday session of the Regional Council meetings. If numbers necessitate, we may move the Friday session of the Council meeting to Vancouver hotel. However, both the Saturday and Sunday sessions will take place at the Vancouver Regional Office.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

a. Update on Metro Vancouver Alliance

Jamey advised that he had attended the Metro Vancouver Alliance (MVA) AGM on June 27 with Bob Jackson. The meeting was well attended with 14 new groups, including the PSAC, affiliating with the MVA.

At the meeting, Jamey spoke on behalf of the PSAC and voiced our purposes for affiliating with the MVA. He noted that one of our reasons for affiliation relates to the cuts to federal services and the impact they've had on both our members and the public.

Jamey added that the MVA is still working on its "listening campaign," which aims to find out what changes affiliates would like to see in Vancouver. Common themes raised include the lack of public services, affordable housing and childcare.

Jamey concluded by confirming that he would keep the Council apprised of MVA matters.

b. Tribunal on African Grandmothers' Human Rights at UBC, September 7

On behalf of Women's Coordinator Kelly Megyesi, Kristin advised that tickets for the upcoming Stephen Lewis Foundation Tribunal on African Grandmothers' Human Rights (as discussed above under Donations Committee Recommendations) are available online for presale for labour partners at a cost of \$34.75. The event is taking place at the Chan Centre at UBC on September 7. Further details are available online at <http://bit.ly/africangrandmothertribunal>

c. BC Mainland Young Workers Committee Meeting, Aug 14

On behalf of Youth Coordinator Erica Yang, Kristin advised that the next meeting of the BC Mainland YW committee has been scheduled for August 14 at 5:00 pm at the Boston Pizza a Surrey Central Mall.

d. NEC

Roberta Gourlie asked about the delegate selection for the National Equity Conferences regarding the delegate names put forward by the RWCs. She asked if the names submitted had been confirmed as conference delegates. Bob answered that the Office had received the list of applicants last week, which he will review when he returns to the office to confirm the same. He added that there will also be opportunities for other applicants to attend through the Region's delegate selection process. Bob will be

contacting the Regional Council equity coordinators to assist with this process. The Region's rankings must be completed and submitted to Ottawa by August 16.

ACTION ITEM:	Bob to follow up with Roberta on the delegates selections for the NECs
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Tracy then asked how many seats the Region is receiving for each equity group. Bob advised that he believed it was two for each equity group, plus some additional seats for the women's conference.

e. Martha Johnson

Susan Yaciw advised that Martha Johnson had accepted an indeterminate position with the PSAC Regional Office in Saskatoon. Congratulations were voiced for Sister Johnson.

f. EI Whistleblower

Christine Walker asked about the EI whistleblower who had been suspended without pay, as reported in local and national media recently. She queried whether or not the PSAC is supporting this member. Bob answered that he'd had several discussion with this individual and the RO had also been involved in this matter. He then added that currently the case is being handled through the Component CEIU and the PSAC is not being asked for further input at this time.

g. REVP Travel to Vancouver Island

Christine then asked if dates had been confirmed for Bob's travel to Northern Vancouver Island this August. Bob answered that no dates had been confirmed as yet. Bob added that he has only had some preliminary discussion with Nic Humphreys and the Victoria RO staff on the matter. Bob further advised that he is hoping to attend some of the scheduled WAAA summer outreach events on the Island in August, which may determine his travel dates. Christine then asked to be included in the correspondence, to which Bob replied that he would.

ACTION ITEM:	Bob to forward details to Christine once confirmed for the REVP travel to Central/North Vancouver Island this August
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h. MIGS

Virginia commented on the process by which members can request to remain in good standing. She suggested that a copy of a sample letter to the National President be posted to the regional website along with an explanation of the process to assist members in these circumstances.

ACTION ITEM:	Patrick to post the regulation to the regional website that relates to process by which members can remain MIGS when on leave
	Patrick to post the letter template to the website that members may use to write the National President to request that their membership remain in good standing while on leave

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Bob then thanked the Regional Council members for their participation in the call. He added that he is looking forward to the seeing Council members at the September meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was concluded at 7:37 p.m.

Minutes recorded by: Kristin Schnider

Minutes published: August 2013