

**DRAFT RECORD OF MEETING
B.C. REGIONAL COUNCIL CONFERENCE CALL
HELD TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2015 AT 6 PM**

In Attendance:

Bob Jackson, REVP-B.C. (Chair)
Johann Ackermann, West Fraser Valley
Terri Lee, Metro Vancouver
Jennifer Chieh Ho, Racially Visible
Paul Croes, Pride
Parveen Deepak, Northeast B.C.
Bert Farwell, North Vancouver Island
Colleen Girard, South Vancouver Island
Linda Harding, Health & Safety
Jennifer Horsley, Metro Vancouver

Nic Humphreys, National Officers
Ruby Langan, Aboriginal
Carolyn McGillivray, Southern Interior
Vanessa Miller, Youth
Jamey Mills, Alt REVP-B.C.
Liz Oliphant, South Vancouver Island
Jim Sidel, DCL and SSE
Virginia Vaillancourt, Women's
Ken Waldron, MWD
Crystal Warner, Metro Vancouver
Susan Yaciw, Southern Interior

Regrets:

Benilde Gomes, Northwestern BC
Antony Paller, East Fraser Valley

Staff:

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

Bob Jackson called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Bob Jackson called for any additions to the agenda, which had been circulated in advance via email.

Johann Ackermann requested that a discussion of the Dogwood Initiative be added to the agenda under Other Business.

PREVIOUS MINUTES – NOVEMBER 3, 2014

Bob advised that the draft minutes from the November conference call had been circulated in advance. He then called for any edits or additions to the minutes.

Johann advised that there were a couple grammatical issues to be corrected. Bob suggested that those types of edits be emailed in to Kristin so that she can correct the minutes as necessary.

REVP REPORT

a. AEC Update

Bob advised that the AEC met over the last two days. He commented that a lot of their discussion focused on a couple main issues: the upcoming PSAC National Triennial Convention (NTC) and the 2015 federal election. On the former issue, Bob advised that the Convention Committees will be meeting in Ottawa during the third week of February; Finance will meet first and the other committees will begin meeting shortly thereafter. Bob added that 375 resolutions had been submitted for the NTC. Several of the resolutions will become composites, but there will still be a large number of resolutions after that process is completed. The current breakdown for resolutions is:

80 resolutions on collective bargaining
75 resolutions on constitutional changes
34 resolutions on finance
185 general resolutions

Bob reminded the Regional Council that the Convention Finance Committee will also receive any resolutions that require costing prior to debate.

On the subject of finances and the PSAC Convention, Bob advised that the preliminary PSAC budget had been reviewed by the NBoD at their December meeting. The budget is now ready to go forward to the Convention Finance Committee, who will finalize it before it is debated on the Convention floor.

The AEC also discussed preparations that are underway for the 2015 federal election. These preparations include the CLC Election Preparation Conferences that are taking place across the country and the PSAC's involvement with them, the PSAC leadership training that will take place in all Regions, and activist training that is also to be scheduled. Bob commented that at this point, it doesn't look like the election will take place this spring, and it may have to be held off until the fall. However, we'll have to wait and see.

During their two-day meeting, the AEC also received a presentation from the Young Workers Committees; Vanessa Miller along with other Young Worker representatives from across the country met with the AEC to discuss their plans and did a great job. Bob went on to say that the AEC discussed the BC Young Workers' funding proposals that they submitted. Currently, the financial aspects are still being sorted out, and Vanessa should anticipate some follow up from REVP Marianne Hladun who is responsible for that portfolio.

Bob then called for questions on his report.

Paul Croes commented on the scheduling conflict between the upcoming delegates' Pre-Convention meeting and the CLC Election Preparation Conference in Vancouver. Bob answered that, unfortunately, the scheduling conflict was unavoidable given the heavy spring schedule. Bob added that for members on Vancouver Island there is a CLC workshop on the weekend of March 6-7 that is geared toward members from that geographic area.

Nic Humphreys then asked when convention committees can expect to receive the resolutions, noting that the Committees are scheduled to meet in Ottawa in mid-February. Bob answered that PSAC staff are currently working on the resolutions in terms of formatting and ensuring that they've all been appropriately vetted by the National Executive Office. Bob then added that he anticipates that the resolutions will be provided to the Committees very soon, and prior to the scheduled meetings.

Bob went on to talk about the Region's National Officers and Pre-Convention meetings that will be taking place in March. The idea was to schedule these two regional meetings after the convention committees meet so that the Region's delegates can discuss the priorities and the committee reports. Bob then reminded the Regional Council that BC is the only Region that schedules such a meeting.

b. Negotiations Update
i) Treasury Board

Bob reported that the Treasury Board (TB) bargaining teams were meeting in Ottawa this week. At the time of the teleconference, Bob had no new information to report. However, Bob advised that he was aware that the Employer would be giving a presentation the following day.

Bob added that the NSCC will be meeting this Friday, and Bob is now a member of this Committee. By participating on the Committee, Bob will give the NSCC an indication of what the Regions will be doing over the next several weeks regarding mobilization.

c. WAAA Action Plan and Member Outreach Events

ii) Public Sector Working Group Summit

Patrick Bragg reported that he attended the BCFED's Public Sector Summit last Friday along with RO staff rep Janelle Ho-Shing, Bob Jackson, Jamey Mills, Paul Croes and Jennifer Chieh Ho. The meeting was another step in the process that has been ongoing for over a year with representatives from public sector unions in BC. The group has been talking about organizing a group or spokespersons coordinated by BCFED to counter right-wing groups such as the Canadian Taxpayers' Federation, the Canadian Federation of Independent Business and the Fraser Institute.

At the meeting the group settled on a set of recommendations, which will be brought before the BCFED's Officers for approval and funding. While some details are still being fleshed out, essentially it's being recommended that the spokesperson or spokespeople work autonomously from the BCFED, but be supported by the Federation. Patrick noted that if this concept is successful, the hope is that this model will be replicated with other Federations of Labour across the country to bring a left-wing and labour-friendly voice to the dialogue on public services and government spending.

iii) CLC Election Preparation Conference in Nanaimo and Vancouver

Adding to earlier comments, Patrick advised that the CLC has put together sixteen free workshops across the country for the upcoming federal election. Patrick reminded the Council that last year the CLC hosted the Political Action conference in Toronto, which brought several labour activists together, but it was not cost effective and relative to the numbers that were able to attend. As a result these sixteen workshops have been spread out across the country to engage as many members as possible. In BC there are two workshops scheduled: one in Nanaimo on March 6-7 and one in Vancouver on March 13-14.

In terms of PSAC involvement, the goal is to send as many members as possible. To assist members in attending the Region will be using regional action plan funds to send two members from each of the following area councils: North Vancouver Island, Victoria, East Fraser Valley; one member from the Northeast BC, Northwest BC and the Okanagan area councils; and 3 members from both the Vancouver and West Fraser Valley area councils. In addition, the members of the Regional Council's political action committee will be funded to attend their appropriate workshop (based on their residency).

Patrick added that we'll also be sending conference information to all Locals in the Lower Mainland and National Officers, and encouraging them to send members. Bob commented on the importance of engaging Area Councils in this activity; we need to draw upon the Area Council structure to ensure maximum participation.

Bob went on to say that PSAC members across the country are attending the CLC's workshops, and the workshops will be good opportunities to network with other unions. Bob then asked if there were any questions on the CLC election preparation conferences.

Nic Humphreys asked about the Leadership Training National Officers and Regional Council members will be taking February 6-7, and whether or not that training will address preparation for the federal election. Luc Guevremont answered that the leadership training is not limited to the federal election. The goal of the training is to address how the union's elected leaders can increase powers for members, families and Canadians. This builds on the one-on-one conversations that were part of the original WAAA campaign. In that sense, the training goals are much greater than the 2015 federal election. Bob added that for those who have taken leadership training activities in the past, this upcoming training will involve a different approach. Nonetheless, this is a key activity for members to attend.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

a. DASH – CoDevelopment Canada membership renewal, sponsorship request from First Call – BC Child & Youth Advocacy Coalition

On behalf of the DASH committee, Virginia Vaillancourt advised that the committee was recommending a renewal of the Region's annual membership with CoDevelopment Canada at a cost of \$250. In addition, the Committee had been asked to provide a recommendation on whether or not to purchase tickets to First Call's annual fundraiser. Virginia reported that in the past the Regional Council had purchased tickets to this event; however, it was challenging to find members to attend. As a result, the Committee was recommending at the direct donation of \$200 be made to the organizing in lieu of ticket purchases.

The Council then agreed with the DASH Committee recommendations.

ACTION ITEM	Kristin to submit the membership renewal fee to CoDevelopment Canada at a cost of \$250 as agreed by the Regional Council, and Kristin to submit a \$200 donation to First Call – BC Child & Youth Advocacy Coalition as agreed by the Regional Council
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HEALTH & SAFETY COORDINATOR UPDATE: Day of Mourning, Upcoming Courses

Bob Jackson then asked Linda Harding to provide her update on Health & Safety activities.

Linda began by mentioning that she is working with the BCFED to organize the Day of Mourning events this April. The Committee will be meeting again tomorrow and is discussion potential venues for the events, such as the PNE fairgrounds, the Richmond Oval, and Jack Poole Plaza.

Linda went on to report that the BCFED now has an additional health & safety committee, which she sits on: the Health & Safety Advisory Committee. The Committee has been tasked with developing health and safety plans for the next three years, including committee training, young worker training, return to work training, and bullying and harassment training.

Bob added that the BCFED's Health & Safety Standing Committee met yesterday and reviewed a number of policy papers, which are currently under revision. Many of the revisions related to the

policies being out of date and/or obsolete in light of the current legislation. It's expected that all of the revisions will be completed in the next month and a half.

Linda then reminded the Council about the upcoming CLC Health & Safety courses taking place at the Winter School in Harrison. Information on the course was sent out to all BRUSH committee members. Linda also reminded the Regional Council that the next BRUSH committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 28.

Both Bob and Linda then reported on the new online course is being developed for members that addresses health and safety changes that have resulted from Bill C4. The course is supplemental to the face-to-face course and is not meant to replace it. Bob noted that the challenge we have with face-to-face courses is logistics. The hope is that the online course will be more accessible for members; they will be able to start, stop and resume the course content as they need. When the course is finalized, members will be able to access it through the PSAC national website under the health & safety section.

Linda concluded her update with some brief comments on the upcoming federal election and the scheduling of the regional health and safety conference. She noted that as there will likely be a fall election, and we may have to look at an alternate schedule for the conference as it was slated for the fall as well. Bob and Linda will discuss this matter further with James Little and report back to the Regional Council.

OTHER BUSINESS

Dogwood Initiative

Johann began by advising that the Dogwood Initiative is a non-profit environmental organization in British Columbia that aims to take back the decision-making power over the province's land and water. Johann went on to explain that the group is supported financially through donations, and suggested that perhaps the Region should provide a contribution. He noted that this organization is opposed to the Conservative Government and could be an ally to the PSAC.

Nic Humphreys advised that he was aware of the group, and noted that in the last provincial election the organization encouraged the public to vote for the Green Party, not the NDP. This will likely be the case for the upcoming federal election as well, which is not in the interest of the union.

Following further discussion, Johann withdrew his suggestion to provide financial support to the Dogwood Initiative.

Next Teleconference of the B.C. Regional Council

The Regional Council then discussed scheduling for the next Regional Council teleconference. It was suggested that given the limited availability over the next two months the Regional Council would forego having a teleconference before the next in-person Regional Council meeting, which is scheduled for April 10-12 in Vancouver. Ken Waldron then added that if any issues arise they could reassess and schedule as call as appropriate. All agreed with Ken's suggestion.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Before adjourning the meeting, Bob thanked all for their attendance on the call. The meeting was then adjourned at 6:57 PM.

Minutes recorded by: Kristin Schnider

Minutes published: February 2015