

Vancouver Area Council Meeting – September 23, 2014 (Amended)

In Attendance:

Shane Polak, Tracy Shudo, Cheryl Oenema, Bob Jackson, Sharon Tieman, Jamey Mills, Crystal Warner, Jen Horsley, Monica Urrutia, Todd Smith, Terri Lee

Regrets:

Sam Wiese (guest), Frank Anez, Jessica Kerek, Amit Deo, Bill Pleming

Called to order at 5:30

Agenda:

- Last Minutes/ Proxy votes
- Staff Change
- Financials
- Summer Events Debrief
- MVA October 9, 2014
- People's Social Forum
- Affiliate Reports
- AGM Date – October ?
- BC Fed
- PSAC Convention – Quebec City
- Education/UDP
- DLC Affiliation

Previous Minutes/Proxy Votes:

Minutes of Jan 27, 2014 Meeting – M/S/C Jamey, Sharon

Minutes of June 4, 2014 Meeting – M/S/C Jamey, Shane

Proxy Votes to be ratified:

\$300.00 Subsidy to Jamey Mills to attend CLC Convention

\$300.00 Subsidy each to Todd Smith & Crystal Warner to attend the People's Social Forum

\$300.00 Subsidy to Jamey Mills to attend the People's Social Forum

M/S/C Shane, Tracy

Report from REVP:

A brief round of introductions was made. Meeting was then turned over to REVP Bob Jackson.

Bob reported to the committee on the AEC meeting that he attended 2 weeks ago, which was the first meeting since June. Said that it was challenging having no meeting of the AEC during the summer and

that the AEC is looking at doing meetings via videoconference to meet more at need and to save on costs.

Plans are fully underway for the PSAC National Triennial Convention taking place in Quebec City in April 2015 and they are already looking at the budget for the next term. Budget will be going to the NBOD in October and a special meeting will be held in December to have the budget prepared for the Finance Committee of the Convention.

The budget is going to be very different, as we are still seeing cuts to our membership on a daily basis in many departments, the latest being the CRA. Membership numbers are down, but also the cuts are being made to higher salary positions or we are losing these members to attrition, while we are organizing new members in lower salaried areas, such as universities, which is bringing the average salary of our membership down significantly, thereby reducing our dues revenue.

Most of the Component Conventions are done, just a few to go – GSU, UPCE, CIU. Some components experienced a lot of changes, either to executives or composition due to need to cut executive positions to save money.

The general feeling among the labour movement is that there will be a Federal Election in the spring, especially with the Mike Duffy trial set to start in April.

The message that we need to get out to our members is for mobilization and political action, especially at the Area Council level. The Area Councils are going to play a key role in mobilizing our membership. We are being tasked with making sure that we have up to date and accurate contact info for our members so that we can get them active and mobilized.

For Collective Bargaining the employer has put the proposal to replace sick leave with LTD/STD, and there have been rumblings from members about “selling off” sick leave for other improvements. The message needs to be “No Concessions”, this key message has not changed. We have a solidarity pact within the components, other government unions and the CLC that none of us will accept concessions. We have to believe that we are going to win the fight and that we will succeed.

Floor opened for Questions:

Sharon: How many members will be deemed essential service if there is a strike?

Bob: Hard to say because the government has changed the rules, essential service agreements are not round by round anymore. We aren't there yet. We are being very thorough on the bargaining proposals and it's going to be a long process. Some units, like CFIA are settled, but we are also being very thorough going through the CA in both languages, making sure it is right before it is signed.

Terri: Are essential service agreements renegotiated?

Bob: Depends on who the employer is and what they decide to do with the new rules

Tracy: I would encourage more Town Hall calls for member engagement. It had very high participation and has the effect of getting the info out, I tell 2 people, they tell 2 people and so on

Bob: Yes, that is part of the discussion around mobilization activities.

Shane: Where in the process is the court challenge around essential service levels in C4?

Bob: I'm not sure.

Shane: Does the court challenge affect bargaining?

Bob: That is part of what the Bargaining Strategy Committee looks at.

Shane: You said that other unions from the CLC are watching our bargaining closely, is this because it will affect them?

Bob: Yes, especially those close to us (PIPS) and other public sector unions, if we have concessions we start a pattern for bargaining for other unions.

Bob returns to discussing upcoming activities. The BCFed Convention is coming up at the end of November. It is very important to get as many of our delegate seats filled as possible. There will be a leadership challenge, Amber Hocking who has the backing of CUPE, Steel and BCGEU. She didn't really come through the traditional channels of succession planning. Also, Irene may not run again as Secretary/Treasurer.

Meeting turned back over to the Chair, Jamey Mills

Staff Change:

Want to welcome Monica back to the Area Council and thank Deanna for her help while Monica was gone.

Finances:

The last term we ran on a deficit budget, but we still have money in the bank from previous cycle.

Financial Report with amendments M/S/C Sharon, Jamey, with the understanding that the financials will be audited for the AGM.

Summer Events Debrief:

The Vancouver Area Council participated in a number of events over the summer including: Car-free Day on Main Street, Aboriginal Day, Anti-NPSW Baseball Tournament, May Day, VAC BBQ.

Car-free day – food was better on Commercial Street, but crowds were about the same even with all of the rain

Aboriginal Day – lots of people came out, booth was very busy, people particularly liked the Idle No More slapfans, and Bob had to go back to the office to get more. Event that more people stayed to talk and wanted to engage. There was a line up for face painting. We also appreciate a member's child who did face painting with us.

Anti-NPSW Baseball Tournament – really successful, more participation and spectators. Need to advertise more next year to get more members out, good mobilization activity.

May Day – not as good a turnout, but fell mid-week, so not bad for a Thursday night

VAC BBQ – would like to see better turnout next year, would be good activity to engage members in a more social atmosphere

Tracy recommends getting a gift card for children of members who help out, and also recommends a letter of appreciation to members who participate as volunteers.

Jamey suggests bringing a proposal forward to the AGM

Closing comments on activities that BC Region and VAC are seen as very progressive and are getting lots of accolades from across the country.

MVA - Municipal Election Accountability Assembly

October 9, 2014 @ 7PM at the Italian Cultural Centre

We need a good turnout, at least 25 members, so let people know and invite them. We would like to have at least 25 members. We need to be there for them now so that they can be there for us in the future. Please RSVP, the email will be going out again asking members to come out.

Got commitment from Terri, Crystal, Jen, Bob, Shane is a maybe, Tracy will be out of town. Jamey cannot make it.

Report Back on People's Social Forum

Todd – the direct action workshops had the most impact for him. A good opportunity to exchange and connect with others. Huge unity march to Parliament, at least 7000 people participated from many walks of life. On the last day there was a strong PSAC presence in the Ottawa Pride Parade.

Jamey – the workshops put on the PSAC felt more like where we already are in BC, seemed to be meant more for building other regions to where we are.

Bob – the best presence came from BC as a region

Shane mentioned at this point that he has a radio program and would love to have some of the participants or have the names of people he could interview on his show which is half music/half political discussion. CJSF.ca or 90.1 FM, Sunday 4-5 PM, Live.

Affiliate Reports:

UVAE - UVAE Component convention is at the start of October. More cuts are coming to Veterans Affairs in that compensation staff are affected. We had an Ice Cream Social with give aways provided by the REVP office and UVAE Component office. It allowed us to get our message out and lifted moral.

Shane Polak for Helio DaCosta.

UPCE 20095- filed several grievances on behalf of members in Richmond, who finally came forward with concrete information on employer violations. UPCE Convention begins in a few days in Gatineau.

Jennifer Horsley

UTE 20027

-UTE will be having its PIC on Oct 8

-office will be moving 2017 to Main and Terminal

-had a successful member appreciation event in Sept. Use of a food truck allowed us to engage 80

percent of our members on bargaining and sick leave.

-convention was in July in Windsor

-Pres/VP remain the same

-new RVP is Wayne Little

-Jamey was elected a delegate to PSAC convention

Jamey Mills

UCTE 20219

Severance payout delay at transport Canada for some members of the TC group.

Transport Canada is currently running a staffing process for inspectors across Canada.

UCTE convention was held in Vancouver in July.

Cheryl Oenema

Next AGM:

Thursday October 23rd at 5:30 PM, dinner at 5:00

Will be electing a delegate to PSAC Convention in Quebec City in 2015 and is also the deadline for submitting Resolutions to the Convention.

BCFed Convention:

November 24-30, 2014

Need a good turnout this time around, as there is going to be a leadership challenge. If your local is not sending someone and feels comfortable giving your credential to another PSAC member please send it in to Kristin. Also, look at Regulation 3 to request a subsidy, must be submitted 6 weeks ahead of convention.

Deadline for resolutions submission is Sept 25, 2014.

PSAC Convention:

We will be electing a delegate at the AGM. If you are interested in running please let Jamey know in writing with the names of your nominator and seconder before the meeting. If you can't attend please prepare proxy info and nominator and seconder and send to Monica before the meeting. Be prepared to speak, speech should be 3 minutes or less.

Education:

Looking for suggestions for courses for Spring 2015. Please send in to Monica by the end of October, especially if there are any particular needs coming up in your locals. There is a new UDP Course which begins soon. It will be given in a total of 6 steps with mentorship throughout. Some will be online and some face-to-face. Two of the face-to-face will be in the Prairies and one in Ottawa.

Jamey asked how uptake has been on weekend courses, Monica responded that it depends on the subject matter. They need to get the input of the locals to build the spring courses.

District Labour Council Affiliation:

VDLC has revamped their website. A lot of locals are affiliated, but there doesn't seem to be a lot of participation. Your local can send a written request to Bob's office for a subsidy to affiliate. Meet the third Tuesday of the month. There is enough in the subsidy fund to cover a small local easily. Cost is 50 cents per member per month. Would like to see more participation from Area Council affiliates.

Round Table:

A motion was put forward by Jamey for the Vancouver Area Council to donate \$400 to the MVA.

M/S/C Jamey, Tracy, carried unanimously

There has been an extension to complete the Public Service Survey until October 3rd.

Adjourn 7:15 M/S/C Jamey, Tracy