

To: PSAC Okanagan Area Council/ PSAC Okanagan Women's Committee  
From: Kelly Megyesi

Date: May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Subject: **Convention Report**

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Thank you for your sponsorship of \$500 from each committee respectfully. I worked very hard and believe that I represented the Okanagan well. It was wonderful to have a strong presence at convention – Joy, Martha, Maria-Luiza, Roberta, Susan, and myself.

### Convention

Convention was emotional with Public Service Cuts announced on Monday (Apr 30), marching to Parliament Hill in protest on Tuesday (May 1), and leadership elections on Thursday (May 3).

In addition to the regular convention agenda, I opened the Women's Caucus and participated in the BC Caucus, Disability Caucus, Area Council Caucus, All-Candidates forum, and an Aboriginal morning ceremony. I spoke to each candidate and spent time talking with delegates about their votes. Thanks Linda for some of the heads up info.

PSAC Women were well represented at our booth/ pins were a hit. I will enclose my presentation notes for the Women's Caucus [1].

Resolutions – Women's issues finally hit convention floor this year. I wrote a statement for the mic (with Martha's help) that was read out by the Prairie delegate [2]. We even had a strategy for closing debate quickly. Passed unanimously.

- Sending a few pictures – 1) Bonnie Robichaud visited our women's booth (she took her case of sexual harassment to supreme court and won -- <http://www.crvawc.ca/documents/Building%20Partnerships%20-%20Spring%202008.pdf>)

Women working for Women canvas part of our booth in the background  
Painted by Sarah Franklin a young Okanagan artist.



2) Parliament Hill Protest



## Cuts

- Cuts rolled out Monday at convention. I received a call and email asking me to participate in a group announcement. I declined and participated in a separate call at 5 Ottawa time Monday to receive my letter verbally. The cuts were hard for everyone and the stories were awful. It was so disrespectful in so many ways, starting with the secrecy rollout and just downhill from there.
- Here is a link of an interview I did..... Straight Goods News talked to some members (Kelly Megyesi included) for a sense of what's happening on the front lines. The stories they told were disturbingly similar, of frustrated clients, unmet needs, nonsensical management expectations and workers heartbroken about being dumped after decades of loyal and committed service - <http://www.publicvalues.ca/ViewArticle.cfm?Ref=001201> click for the article and video.
- My understanding is that the first wave was to be followed with another wave 4 weeks later which would be the end of this month.
- Since returning from Ottawa my members are telling me that they director held code of conduct meetings and told them anyone talking publicly would be disciplined right up to termination. It just seems to be one thing after another.

## National Public Service Week

During convention at the CEIU Caucus we discussed strategies and ideas. One discussion was on the non-participation during National Public Service Week. This was put forward as a way to mark solidarity with our members that are being affected by the cuts. This might be something other components might want to think about.

## Naramata

I also met with Joanna in Ottawa. We finalized the plan and it is now posted. Yeah!!!!!! Please help spread the news. I would love for lots of people to apply – if we have a good uptake – we could keep the weekend booking and have some sort of Okanagan training there every fall.

### **Women Reaching High - Conference & Educational Sep 14-16, 2012**

This course, designed for PSAC women in the Southern Interior, will help continue the momentum of building real equality in our Union by developing strategies to advance women's issues and improving our Union.



Come and join us for an unforgettable weekend of learning, empowerment, reflection and solidarity. Naramata Conference Centre, a rustic retreat in the heart of nature. <http://psacbc.com/regional-womens-committees/events/women-reaching-high-conference-educational>

Take care and have a great summer!



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[1]

Welcome Sisters

We wanted to take this convention opportunity to introduce the women's regional reps from across PSAC.

Atlantic – Angela Decker and Rhonda Doyle

Quebec – Ghislaine Jalbert represented by

Ontario – Colleen Wice

NCR – Jocelyne Bordage

Prairies – Nancy Johnson

BC - Kelly Megyesi

We are a group of women that are committed to working for PSAC women and welcome you here today....

We currently find our selves in a very difficult time.

More than half of public sector workers are women, representing 84 per cent of administrative staff in federal workplaces. This means that job cuts in the federal public sector will disproportionately impact women:

Did you know that women's continuing economic inequality contributes not only to their poverty but also to a continuing culture of violence? Insecure employment means that women are more vulnerable to harassment.

**Now more than ever as women struggle we need to come together in solidarity, support, and with voice.**

To grow this solidarity and support we decided to design a pin to celebrate PSAC women. The colours were chosen by your regional women's rep and show the distinctness and value of each of our regions. The design however is the same and it represents the solidarity of all women working for women.

We present these pins to you as a token of our respect for every member here... as a union member, as a spokesperson, as an advocate and as a woman. We hope you like them and wear them with pride.

We would also like to take this opportunity to tell you that we will be hosting a table in the hall for a couple of days for convention. We will pass out the pins but if we miss you make sure you stop by and pick yours up. We will also have some information and a great booklet "Job Cuts Hurt Women". We would love for you to

connect with us there. Stop by and enter our free draw – “What Women Wish For”

In Solidarity

[2]

GEN-84

In November 2007-250 sisters @ the PSAC National Women’s Conference voted in favour of this resolution. It was the absolute #1 priority.

At the 2009 Triennial it was shocking that not ONE Women’s resolution hit the convention floor. Not one word of our #1 priority!

The positive impacts of a National Child Care Policy are so far reaching that it is hard to find an argument against it.

I urge you to contribute your 2 cents for our women, their children and your future.

Please support the committee’s recommendation of concurrence.

(Kelly & Martha)