

PSAC Okanagan Women's Committee
November 21, 2015
Penticton, BC



Present:

Linda Woods	UNE 20140
Kelly Megyesi	CEIU 20915
Susan Yaciw	UTE 20003
Carolyn McGillivray	CIU 20045
Maria-Luiza Romano	AGR 20027
Michele Sibson,	UNE 20008
Darrell-Lee McKenzie	AGR 20043
Rebecca Davis	CIU 20045
Debra Dry	CEIU 20972

Regrets

Annette Hale	USGE 20153
Joan Coburn	CEIU 20915
Joy Harrison	APSAR

Chair

Michele Sibson

Michele called the meeting to order and welcomed the new participants. Minutes from the last meeting were reviewed. m/s/c

Treasurer's Report:

Kelly presented on behalf of Joan. Balance as of October 31, 2015 \$2461.09. Allocation of \$1500.00 from PSAC received and deposited in October. Report m/s/c

Projects

Women's Shelter: Thank you to all of those that collected items for the Kelowna Women's Shelter. Thank you also to the Vernon CEIU office that will be donating directly to Vernon and Darrell Lee for donating directly to SOWIN.

Group discussed how best to give the collection. Date decided upon was December 3 at 5:30. Kelly to contact the centre and make arrangements. Plan is to go for an hour, bring pizza for the women and donate items collected.

Everyone that can is encouraged to attend a December 6th event in their location.

Other

Kamloops Women's - Michele received an email from Michele Grabner who is the new CEIU Women's. Michele will get back to her and let her know that she is welcome at our next January meeting and also let her know that she can contact any of us on the committee if she needs help or has any questions.

Canadian Women's Webinar - The Canadian Women's Foundation, the Canadian Alliance for International Action, and the Native Women's Association of Canada recently hosted the first webinar in a three-part webinar series on Missing & Murdered Aboriginal Women in Canada. For those who were unable to join the webinar, you can access the recording here: <https://sas.illuminate.com/site/external/jwsdetect/nativeplayback.jnlp?sid=vclass&psid=2015-10-05.1208.D.309BD253F22388B0D58230CA9AE136.vcr>. Powerpoint presentation available if interested.

Amnesty Conference – Kelly attended a one-day conference in Vancouver that centered on Women's Rights. She distributed a pamphlet "Break the Barriers to Free Choice – My body: My rights" Speaker was Jacquie Hanson a National Representative for Amnesty Canada.

Interesting lectures included, i) violence against women and social research for temporary work areas (example Fort St John) and ii) Strategic plan for business with a human rights agenda.

Health & Safety - Michele attended the UNE National Conference and was very impressed with their work on mental wellness. There was a section on domestic violence and Michele quoted some eye opening statistics. <http://www.une-sen.org/events/conferences/OHS/2015/> Interesting presentations included "Words to Weapons" Responding to Domestic Violence", and "Workplace Mental Health & Stress".

Group discussed Violence and regulations 20. Susan talked about the Health and Safety PSAC BC conference. **Action:** Susan will work with PSAC to provide link and information.

Okanagan Incident – Linda shared with us a safety incident that recently happened with her. As a statistic field worker she is on her own and is sent to houses to complete surveys. She discussed the details in depth. The field workers are very vulnerable and the incident has been very traumatizing. It was properly documented/reported and supports sought. The example just highlights the need for regulations and health and safety awareness.

Rebecca talked about working alone at the borders and also the requirement to now carry weapons. Susan talked about Grant's law and how we worked towards workers not working alone.

Next meetings

January 16, 2016 – AGM / location to be announced.