

As Conventions are an important part in determining the path forward for the Labour movement, setting priorities and advancing important campaigns, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to attend the 56th BC federation of Labour Convention which was held in Vancouver November 24 – 28, 2014. Although the weather was bleak and miserable in Vancouver the delegates came to Vancouver eager and prepared to work and to elect a new leader.

Before the delegates got down to business the Convention was called to order and we sang O Canada and Solidarity Forever.

Native storyteller Henry Charles of the Musqueam Nation opened the convention by welcoming the delegates to the Musqueam lands. Following Mr. Charles address, mayor Gregor Robertson addressed the delegation. Mayor Robertson spoke about the Fight for \$15 campaign. He said the city is facing incredible pressure on affordability and there is a need to have a strong minimum wage in BC.

Next item on the agenda was to adopt the Rules of Order, go over the changes for voting on resolutions and the reading of the Harassment Policy.

Day One

Monday, November 24, 2014 there were 1062 registered delegates and executive officers.

The Young Workers chair, Stephen Von Sychowski introduced out going federation president Jim Sinclair. Jim addressed the delegates. He provided an overview of the work of the BC Federation of Labour since the last convention. He thanked the delegation for the honor of serving them. He said that the Labour movement is his life, his family, his home. He may be stepping down, but he was not leaving the movement.

Tom Mulcair, leader of the New Democrats Party of Canada and the Leader of the Official Opposition in Canada addressed the delegates. He spoke about the NDP's plan for affordable childcare spaces across Canada. The goal is to ensure parents don't pay more than \$15 a day for a childcare space. Mr. Mulcair said as a father and grandfather, he understands the importance of childcare services and as a former Quebec cabinet minister, he has seen firsthand how affordable childcare helps families and boosts the economy. But in the last nine years under Stephen Harper, parents have seen their childcare costs go through the roof. It's time parents got a break and were able to benefit from a childcare program.

Mr. Mulcair spoke about Bill C-377 and Bill C-525. Bill C-377, a bill that will force every union, every union local, every local Labour council, every federation of Labour and the Canadian Labour Congress to file financial reports. Bill C-525 which aims to remove the possibility of automatic certification of bargaining units. These proposed changes to existing federal legislation would put in place the highest barriers to unionization in the country. It is another attack from the Conservatives against unions and the Labour rights of hard working Canadians.

Mulcair also said it was time to stop working against the planet and start working with the world, something the conservatives are not doing.

Political Action Report and Resolutions – The chair of the political action Committee provided a brief overview of the work and accomplishments of this committee. The committee brought forth five (5) recommendations to the convention. These five recommendations and the committee's report was adopted by the convention. The main goal of this committee is to mobilize and elect the BC NDP in the May 2017 political election and to increase the number of NDP MP's elected in BC and defeat the Harper Government.

Only one resolution from this committee was debated and carried on the floor, PA: 3 The Federation will reaffirm its support for the NDP and will

actively oppose so called strategic voting in political and federal elections.

Resolution debate begins – Resolution GE: 97 A – Substitute resolution which replaced resolutions 97 – 100 was the first priority on Monday.

The Federation will continue to support the Canadian Labour Congress' efforts to

The Federation will ensure British Columbians, particularly young people, women and First Nations, have access to adequate training and apprenticeships to ensure they have employment opportunities first

The Committee supported the resolution and the convention agreed and the resolution was carried.

Women's Rights Committee Report – the committee chairs provided a brief overview of the work and accomplishments of this committee. The committee brought forth nine (9) recommendations to the convention. These nine (9) recommendations and the report of the committee were adopted by the convention. This committee will continue to work on ending violence against women, continue to work with women organizations, improve employment standards and wages for women and demand the provincial government implement a child care plan in BC

Three (3) resolutions were debated – **WR:1** – The Federation will support the mandate of Canadian Unions for Equality Onscreen to achieve gender equality and address misrepresentation of women's in the production of screen-based media, both onscreen and at all levels of production;

Resolution **WR:5A** – Composite Resolution to cover WR:5 7 – The Federation will lobby the provincial government to enact pay equity legislation, including compensation based on skills, effort, responsibility and working conditions; and

Resolution **WR: 2A** – Composite Resolution to cover WR: 2 – 4 – The Federation will demand funding for a \$10 day childcare plan and will

make it an election issue and the Federation will through the CLC make it an election issue and will continue to demand a nationally funded program.

The Committee supported these resolutions and these resolutions were carried by the floor.

The Joy Langan Social Justice Award is given to a woman who is a leader in her union and her community. This year's recipient of the award was Deborah Payment. Deborah addressed the convention and was presented with the award.

Monday evening was the Women's Rights event which due to illness I was unable to attend, however, I have been told that it was a fabulous event.

Day Two

Tuesday, November 25, 2014 there were 1459 registered delegates and executive officers.

Constitution & Structure

CS: 1A Amended – The Federation will amend the Constitution to bring it in line with the correct terminology – (i) (1) must be a member of an equity seeking group. For this purpose, equity seeking groups include ...workers of color and (iii) (4) LGBTQ

CS:3A Composite Resolution cover CS 3 – 4 – amend the constitution – Under Article 4, Section 4 add (iii) The BC Federation of Retired Union Members shall be entitled to 2 delegates and

Under Article 9, Section 1 a) add new subsection (vi) The President designate of the BC Federation of Retired Union Members (BC FORUM)

Resolution CS1 and CS3A received support of the committee and were carried by the convention floor. Resolution CS:2 was defeated by the floor.

TRISH HENNESSY – speaker

Trish is the founding Director of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives' (CCPA) Ontario office. Trish is a former newspaper journalist. She has a B.A. Sociology from Queen's University, B.S.W. from Carleton University, and M.A. in Sociology from OISE/University of Toronto. She was the founding Director of the CCPA's national project examining income inequality in Canada, which began in 2006, and is an ongoing contributor to the growing gap team. Trish spoke about fair taxation and the growing income gap in Canada.

Executive Council & Secretary/Treasurers Reports – Good jobs build a better BC. The federation continues to fight for an increase in minimum wage, hold negligent employers to account and defend all workers against exploitation and abuse.

The Executive council report found in the convention booklet provides an in-depth report covering jobs and the economy, minimum wage, the rise of unstable and temporary work, the temporary foreign workers program and green jobs in BC. Under the heading public and private sector both the teachers fight back and the strike at IKEA were high lighted. The report also covered the attack on unions by the federal government, Bill C-377, federal budget cuts, Bill C-4 and the attack on public health care.

It is clear that the federation is committed to advancing the rights of working people in BC and across the country. The federation will continue to improve health and safety regulations, and work towards electing a government that respects workers.

The federation believes that the members have always been and will continue to be their greatest resource and strength. The federation believes our fight is far from over but that when we combine our voice and our votes we can make change.

The Executive Council brought seventeen recommendations forward. These recommendations and the report of the Executive council were adopted by the convention.

Financial Statements were presented and adopted by the convention.

The delegates participated in a rainy **lunch time rally** as the Federation launched their campaign Fight for \$15. A campaign which calls on the provincial government to increase the minimum wage to \$15/hour. BC's minimum wage is one of the lowest in the country. Yet our province is the most expensive and unequal according to Statistics Canada data. BC is also the only province in Canada without a poverty reduction plan. "At the current minimum wage, working full-time is not enough to lift a worker out of poverty," said Jim Sinclair, President of the BC Federation of Labour. "It has been almost three years since the last increase to the minimum wage. Workers fall behind when their wage is stagnant, yet the cost of living goes up each year."

Hassan Yussuff – speaker –Hassan is the President of the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC). Hassan Yussuff made history as the only candidate in the history of the CLC to successfully unseat an incumbent President. Hassan spoke about preparing the Labour movement for change and how the Labour movement needs to change the government. He pledged union defiance should the government pass Bill C377, the odious private member's bill that would require public disclosure of all union spending over \$5,000.

Stewart Phillip – speaker – Grand Chief Stewart Phillip is the president of the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs. He spoke about the critical need for building a movement for social justice and he spoke about economic marginalization and how the aboriginal people understand this economic marginalization. Phillips told the delegates that he would get arrested as a matter of principle to protest Kinder Morgan's' plans to expand the Trans Mountain pipeline. He said that this is a matter of principal; leaders can't just talk the talk, they have to walk the walk. The following day Phillips joined protesters at a Kinder Morgan borehole site on Burnaby Mountain, and he was arrested. Before his arrest he said "We are making a very clear public statement that we do not support the Harper and Clark governments when it comes to resources."

Education Committee Report – The Ministries of Education and Advanced Education continue to underfund districts and institutions, forcing program cuts and layoffs. Currently BC’s public schools are funded at \$1000 below the national average. Last year the federal government gave notice that it would no longer fund English as a Second Language programs. This means that 72 regular faculty and 60 sessional faculty will have no work by Christmas.

The Education Committee brought five recommendations to the convention. The report and recommendations were adopted by the convention.

Resolutions ED 6, ED 8, and ED 2 – all received support from the committee and were carried by the convention floor

Composite Resolution ED 4A was developed to cover ED 4 and ED 7– committee supported the resolution and the convention carried

ED 3 and ED 1 did not get debated on the floor

Human Rights Committee Report – The Human Rights Committee has developed a plan which includes some new initiatives and some reorganizing of old initiatives to ensure that the work of the committee continues to be proactive, relevant and timely.

Several members of the Human Rights Committee attended the World Pride Human Rights Conference in June 2014 in Toronto. The workshops and daily plenary were amazing and gave the activists a global perspective on LGBTQ rights around the world and in our own country.

Through participation in reconciliation activities and creating relationships of solidarity, the Human Rights Committee can help to ensure that the Labour movement is a welcoming place for all workers.

It has been noted that many affiliates do not have a Workers with Disabilities working group or committee through which members can educate their respective unions regarding their needs

Some delegates from this group felt that the convention agenda did not provide enough time for them to have meaningful discussions or debates on the floor.

The Human Rights Committee brought seven (7) recommendations to the convention. The committee's report and the recommendations were adopted by the convention.

Tribute to Jim Sinclair – Jim was joined on stage by his wife and son to watch a video which paid tribute to Jim. The video included words of praise and messages from fellow labour leaders, union activists, members of the community and political leaders. The video was followed by a succession of speakers praising Jim's leadership and efforts on their behalf. Hassan Yussuff said: "Jim has shown you've got to stand up and fight for others who don't have a voice in this province. We are a better labour movement today because of Jim's leadership.

Following the tributes Jim gave a speech which prompted numerous standing ovations and cheers from the delegation. Jim deflected praise for helping out individuals and workers who were outside the ranks of the Federation saying "I don't care what movement they're part of. They are part of us."

A scholarship in Jim Sinclair's name will be established as part of the Labour Studies program at Simon Fraser University.

Tuesday evening the federation held a Solidarity Night which I did not attend due to illness.

Day Three

Wednesday, November 26, 2014 there were 1603 registered delegates and executive officers.

It was announced that a bomb threat had been called into the convention, however, after an investigation it was deemed safe to continue.

Young Workers Committee Report – the Young Workers Committee is committed to working on issues that face new and young workers in BC. Part of the work of the committee is encouraging other young union members to become more involved in their unions, and much of the committee’s work is focused on this.

The Young Workers Committee brought forward eight (8) recommendations to the convention. One recommendation being that the minimum wage for all workers, including liquor servers and farm workers is increased to \$15.00. So far there have been 10,000 signatures on the \$15 minimum wage petition.

The committee’s report and the recommendations were adopted by the convention.

Resolution YW: 1 – increasing the age of a young worker did not receive the support of the committee and the convention floor defeated the resolution after hearing from many young workers speaking against this resolution.

David Freiboth – speaker – David Frieboth is the Executive Secretary Treasurer of the King County Central Labor Council in Seattle and is a Vice-President of the Washington State Labor Council.

Mr. Freiboth spoke about the successful campaign in Seattle to increase the minimum wage to \$15/hour. In 2013, Seattle's labor and community alliance zeroed in on the \$15 minimum wage in SeaTac, a small neighboring city where the metro area's airport lies. The SeaTac campaign gained the attention of organized business interests, which

poured money into the campaign against it, sparking a battle that gained national media attention. It also established an essential template for collective bargaining through public policy, pushing politically for the kind of rights that would be difficult to win through unionization.

The King County Central Labor Council; a group of 150 area labor organizations was a central part of the coalition of grassroots groups that led the campaign. Mr. Freiboth attributes the \$15 an hour win to the cooperative process adopted by grassroots activists from all corners of the city. Within Seattle itself, the victory has also created positive ripples. Mr. Freiboth noted that there are intangible benefits to the victory in Seattle that may ultimately help shift the balance of power in the city. For one, he said, the higher minimum wage could lift what he called the "hopeless" feeling that many low-wage workers now have about their situations. "It will help raise awareness, which indirectly will help people organize. A study conducted by the University of Washington concludes that 100,000 Seattle workers will benefit directly from the raise; the city will see a 25 percent reduction in poverty; and the measure will save the government money by reducing the number of people on food stamps and public assistance rolls. Mr. Freiboth said they still have very regressive labor laws in the states. Effectively they have a legal system that denies a worker's collective bargaining rights.

Resolution Debate Continues

GE: 57 – resolution brought forward by the PSAC – protect current pensions for public sector workers and to educate British Columbians about the value of good defined benefit pension plans – carried

GE: 47 – lobby provincial and municipal governments to advocate for greater job security, working hours and benefits, and working conditions for precarious workers – carried

GE: 67A Composite resolution to cover GE 67, 69, 71 – Federation will lobby the provincial government to restore, enhance and expand health care , increase funding and support for members with mental

health issues and serious addictions..... and develop a strategy on mental health and addiction awareness in the workplace- carried

GE: 80 – lobby the BC government to end the practice of transferring responsibilities to local governments without sufficient revenue and ask the CLC to pursue at the federal level – carried

GE: 53 Amended – encourage affiliates with pension investments in BCIMC to advocate collectively for socially and environmentally responsible changesand call on affiliates to develop consultation processes on social and environmental investment issues – carried

GE: 93 Amended to cover GE: 94 Resolution brought forward by PSAC – educate about the effects of cuts and changes to policy legislation with regards to Employment Insurance andpressure the federal government to reverse cuts to Employment and Social Development Canada – carried

GE: 90 – resolution dealing with Canada Post eliminating door to door service – carried

GE: 68 – resolution funding for health care – carried

Leadership Debate –

President candidates – Irene Lanzinger – is a former teacher and past president of the Vancouver Teachers' Association and BC Teachers' Federation and she has been the BC Federation of Labor's Secretary-Treasurer for the last four years.

Amber Hockin – is a longtime activist with the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) and currently the Pacific Region Director of the Canadian Labour Congress

Secretary-Treasurer – Aaron Ekman is the Northern Regional Coordinator with the BC Government and Service Employees Union and he was the founding president of the North Central Labour Council.

During the presidential debate Irene defended the Federations record and policies under Jim Sinclair. Irene pledged to continue Fed policies developed under Jim Sinclair, particularly its philosophy of standing up for all workers and not merely union members.

Amber Hockin is calling for change and said that this is no time for the status quo as it is not getting us to where we need to go. Amber stated her entire career has been about bringing people together and building consensus and she believes that Aaron and she can do that by working strategically and cooperatively within the Federation.

I was disappointed that Aaron spent a lot of his allocated time endorsing Amber and not providing information to the delegates about himself.

Overall the debate was great, all candidates were respectful of one another and a number of great questions were asked and answered.

Executive Council Addendum – Climate Change Working Group – this group is in the process of revitalizing and is developing a clear work plan for the next two years. The group is collecting all of the affiliates’ and the federation’s policies and positions regarding climate change and the environment to create a consolidated picture of where the Labour movement stands on these issues.

Two recommendations were brought forward to the convention. The report and the recommendations were adopted by the convention.

Resolution Debate Continues

GE: 66 – lobby the provincial to increase the level of emergency responders in the health care field, specifically in the northern and remote areas – carried

GE: 56 – resolution through CLC to lobby the federal government to restore, support and remove political constraints when it comes to science research funding and to endorse the CAUT Get Science Right Campaign – carried

Executive Council Addendum – Apprenticeship and the Skills Training Working Group – report indicates the BC is simply not producing enough journeypersons to meet the mid-to-long term needs of our economy if BC wishes to maximize its growth opportunities. The Labour shortage is forecasted to intensify beyond 2015. The federation provided a written submission to the independent review highlighting 12 recommendations to improve the system.

The ASTWG brought forward three recommendations to the convention. The report and recommendations were adopted by the convention.

Resolution Debate Continues

GE: 81 Amended – through the CLC lobby the federal government to make all road and bridge tolls tax deductible and toll exemption for workers who cannot make alternate travel arrangements – carried

GE: 89 Amended – through the CLC support the Coast Guard marine safety network by lobbying all level of government – carried

GE: 95 to cover GE: 96 – federation will lobby provincial government to restore library funding and to restore the provincial budget line for public libraries – carried

OH & S Committee Report – the BC Federation of Labour has a long history of being the voice of working people with respect to health, safety and compensation–persistently lobbying for the changes necessary to make our workplaces safer and healthier, as well as to ensure full compensation for injured workers. The workplace health and safety changes proposed by Bill C-4 will have a direct consequence on what has been a fundamental health and safety right for Canadian workers – their right to refuse unsafe work. The OH & S Committee has identified as a priority the need to review the current legislation in Part 3, Division 4 – Joint Committees and Worker Representatives, of the Workers Compensation Act, including a review of the joint committee requirements in other jurisdictions. Work place violence, including

domestic violence, bullying, and harassment are on the rise at an alarming rate in many sectors, including health care, public education, public transportation, social services, correctional facilities, retail, emergency responders and the list goes on. Workers' compensation law and policy continues to be eroded in BC despite the best efforts of the federation, affiliates and workers' compensation advocates who provide fulsome submissions against the proposed changes.

The committee brought forward 5 recommendations. The committee's report and recommendations were adopted by the convention.

OH: 8 Amended – the federation will actively advocate for just compensation for injured workers and actively advocate for lifetime pensions for injured workers – carried

Composite resolution OH: 2 A to cover OH:2 and OH 4 – lobby WCB to develop comprehensive disability management programs and encourage affiliates to only support return to work programs that include all principles of a comprehensive disability management program – carried

OH: 9 Amended to cover OH: 10 – lobby through the CLC the political authorities to have the Criminal Code amended in order to enact stiffer penalties on persons who assault workers – carried

Day Four Election day

I was part of the credential committee so it was an early morning for me as I was to report the registration area by 7:15 am to help with the registration of the anticipated 600 delegates arriving the morning of the election.

Thursday, November 27, 2014 there were 2207 registered delegates and executive officers. This number was later amended to 2252 registered delegates and executive officers.

After a long count that stretched past lunch, Irene Lanzinger was declared president of the Federation.

Irene Lanzinger, the Federation's secretary-treasurer for the past four years and strongly backed by Sinclair, squeaked past challenger Amber Hockin by a mere 57 votes among the record 2,217 ballots cast by convention delegates. (2249 ballots were cast, 32 ballots spoiled, and leaving 2217 acceptable ballots)

Despite the clear split on the convention floor, it was a rewarding, historic victory for the Irene as she is the first Federation president from a public sector union, the first teachers' union representative to lead a labour federation in Canada, and, most significantly, the first woman to head the 500,000-member labour organization in its 104-year history.

Aaron Ekman had been unopposed to take over as secretary-treasurer of the Federation, but a last-minute nomination put Howard Huntley of the Grain Workers Union on the ballot. His nominator explained he didn't like having the public sector holding both of the Federation's top positions for the first time. Aaron defeated Howard by 177 votes. (1806 ballots cast, 7 spoiled ballots, leaving 1799 acceptable ballots)

Some delegates may have registered their dislike over a remark he made while expressing support for Amber Hockin. He pointed to her "decades of experience, not limited to one union, alone." That was a clear shot at Irene's long tenure with the BCTF. Cries of "shame" and boos erupted in the hall.

During the period between counting the votes the resolution debate continued.

Diane Wood – speaker Diane Woods is the President of the BC Federation of Retired Union Members (BC FORUM). The BC Federation of Retired Union Members – BC FORUM represents thousands of retired and active workers from unions affiliated to the BC Federation of Labour.

For retirees, BC FORUM keeps the strength of the union movement on your side after you've left the work force. For active workers, BC FORUM helps you plan for retirement – because leaving work should not mean leaving the movement.

By working together in solidarity, they retain the bargaining power to spotlight issues important to seniors, demand the attention of legislators, and negotiate the best benefits for the members.

The organization is in need of more members so Diane encouraged union members age 50 and up to sign a BC FORUM membership card.

Jim Sinclair was awarded an honorary lifetime membership in the BC FORUM.

Dr. Danielle Martin – speaker Dr. Danielle Martin is the Vice-President of Medical Affairs and Health System Solutions of the Women’s College Hospital in Toronto. Dr. Martin has been a family physician in the Family Practice Health Centre since 2006 and is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Toronto. She is the Board Chair of Canadian Doctors for Medicare. She also served on the Health Council of Canada from 2005.

Dr. Martin spoke about the about the state of public health care. Dr. Martins focus is on improving health at the system level as well as the individual level. Dr Martin spoke about the Cambie Surgical Clinic and Dr. Brian Day.

Resolutions debate continues

GE: 52 – federation will demand that the Registrar of Society Act of BC enforce the rules of the Society Act of BC – carried

GE: 58 – federation will call upon elected parties in the Province of BC to support Bill M212 – Poverty Reduction and Economic Inclusion Act – carried

Additional election Results

Labour Council 5 members, 2 of which must be women

All candidates were acclaimed

Joey Hartman – Vancouver District Labour Council

Ellen Oxman – Nanaimo District Labour council

John Hall – Kamloops and District Labour Council

Brian Harder – Vancouver District Labour Council and

Doug Dykens – Kitimat, Terrace, and District Labour Council

Trustees all candidates were acclaimed

Four (4) year term – Lynette Patton

Two (2) year term – Steve Ironside and Terry Van Stynberg

Alternate Trustee – Kelly Knocks – acclaimed

Fight the Attack on Public Services Report – this report was an in-depth look at the attacks on Public Services.

Highlights – Life in the 21 century as we know it would not be possible without public services. They form the backbone of a civilized and safe society. We are in a climate where both the Harper and Clark governments have been relentless in their tax cuts and subsequent reduction in public services.

We need to shift the public debate. We need to take action to stop the tax cuts that have fundamentally changed Canada before its too late. We are the visionaries for social responsibility and the need for public services.

The BC Federation organized a “Public Sector Summit” to engage in strategic discussions and identify action to fight the attack on public services. The summit discussed the depth and breadth of the forces that campaign for privatization and tax cuts.

The labour movement needs to aggressively challenge the constant and repeated right wing propoganda about taxes. Labour has the strength, skills and resources along with advocates for public sevicees to mount a long term strategy.

John Horgan – speaker John Horgan is the BC NDP Leader. We heard from Mr. Horgan how he plans to work with the Federation of Labour and about how he hopes to become the next leader of our province.

Oath of Office – all elected officials to the oath of office.

Day Five

Friday, November 28, 2014 there were 2252 registered delegates and executive officers. However judging by the delegates in the room one could surely conclude that the number in the room was not 2250.

Before business got started the delegates watched two videos, one on opening doors for women, created by the Longshoreman Union and the other on domestic violence

Resolution debate continues

Composite Resolution HR 10 was developed to cover HR 10, HR 11 and HR 12 – the committee supported the resolution and the resolution was carried by the floor.

HR 2, HR7 amended and **HR 5** amended received support from the committee and were carried by the convention.

HR 1, HR 3, HR 4, HR 6, HR 8, and HR 9 did not get debated on the floor

GE: 61 A Composite resolution to cover GE: 61, 62 and 63 – federation will call for legislation to establish an independent officer of the legislature to advocate for people with development disabilities, call for independent review and audit of Community Living BC's budget and expenditures; call for immediate moratorium on cuts to group homes, programs and continue the fight against the BC Liberals and CLBC's anti – union agenda – carried

GE: 59A Composite Resolution to cover GE 59 and 60 – intensify its public awareness campaign involving all affiliates for the purpose of informing the public of the perils associated with the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement and lobby politicians to oppose the agreement – carried

GE: 88 – campaign to prevent the erosion of the Ministry of Children and families – carried

GE: 50 – increase funding for assisted living units as well as subsidized housing for families – carried

GE: 48 – institute a poverty reduction plan that will specifically address child poverty – carried

GE: 54 – oppose any effort by senior governments to reduce the autonomy of local municipal governments and their ability to determine the value of services provided by their employees

GE: 46 A Composite Resolution to cover GE 46, GE: 77 and GE: 78 – website to organizations campaigning against sweatshops, lobby for health and safety standards and laws and to continue supporting CoDevelopment Canada’s work – carried

GE: 31A Composite resolution to cover GE:24, GE:31, GE;32, GE;33 and GE: 34 – protect watershed, expose for-profit companies stealing public water, First Nations people receive safe water and ensure necessary resources are available to upgrade and maintain our water infrastructures so all Canadians have safe, clean and free drinking water – carried

GE: 14A Substitute Resolution to replace GE: 12, GE: 14, GE: 15, GE: 16 GE: 17, GE: 22, GE: 27, GE: 28, GE 29, GE: 30, GE: 35, GE 36 and GE 37 – resolution is meant to represent a common ground position in favour of the resolutions submitted on these issues. The resolutions committee recommends support of the following substitute resolution GE: 14A and consequently recommends non support of resolutions GE: 12, 14–17, 22, 27–30 and 35–37 – carried

GE: 1A Composite Resolution to cover GE: 1–3, GE: 7 & 8 – lobby the BC Government to undertake significant actions to repair the BC apprenticeship system – carried

GE: 85 Amended – lobby the provincial government to increase the resources and funding allocated to the Ministry of Children and Family Development – carried

GE: 73A Composite Resolution to cover GE: 73 – 75 – continue to support the BC Health Coalition and allied organizations intervening to protect public health care in Brian Days’ constitutional challenge to Medicare – carried

GE: 49 – advocate to restore exemptions for Family Maintenance payments – carried

GE: 64A Composite Resolution to cover GE:64, 65 & 82–83 – speaks to purchasing union made products, supporting unionized products and services and to promote the use of unionized products and services – carried

GE: 70 – speaks to working together to develop and expand fixed needle exchange sites

GE: 79 – speaks to educating the public on the true costs of removing tree farm licenses and the requirement to mill raw logs – carried

GE: 84 – hire more probation officers – carried

GE: 86A Composite Resolution to Cover GE: 86 – 87 – speaks to keeping liquor stores public and to open a BC liquor store in downtown core of Victoria – carried

The above resolutions may not have been debated in the order presented in my report but they were all debated on the convention floor.

Resolution debate is an important part of a convention as they help determine the path going forward and set guidelines for the next two

years until the next convention. I find resolution debates inspiring and invigorating, the passion some speakers have for their resolution is amazing, and there were many passionate speakers.

Between and before many of the committee reports videos were presented on a variety of topics which I found to be very interesting and informative.

All though I was not well for the duration of the conference I found the overall experience to be positive and I would like to take the opportunity again to thank you for your assistance to attend the conference. I would also highly recommend attendance at this conference as it provides you with a different prospective of the Labour movement, one finds out our union the PSAC is just a small part of the broader Labour movement.

Susan Yaciw