

I attended the BC Federation of Labour Convention from November 24-28, 2014. I have been to many conventions, but this was one of the largest. At its peak, on Thursday, for the elections, there were 2252 delegates on the floor. Delegates filled the entire convention center and extra chairs had to be brought in. PSAC must have won the lottery because we sat in a prime position right in front of the stage.

We are a small union, with far fewer delegates to the convention, compared to other unions. However, the PSAC had a major impact. We had the largest turnout of delegates that I can remember. I was pleased to see Bob J chairing the resolutions committee, as well as many PSAC activists on the various committees, speaking at mics, and assisting the convention proceedings.

The speakers were very informative and timely. Tom Mulcair was in like a rock star and gave some inspirational words about defeating the Liberals and Conservatives and becoming the next Prime Minister. I have been at many events with Hassan Yussuff including a number of PSAC events. His involvement with the labour movement has spanned decades. The CLC is now reinvigorated with his role as the President. I also especially enjoyed the presentation about the minimum wage fight in King County from David Freiboth. It is possible to succeed and we need to share our successes and continue to fight.

It was very interesting to hear the resolution debate and the Fight Attack on Public Services Report. This was one of the first times that I have seen the extensive use of 'mic muffins' at a Fed convention. This showed how passionate members were about speaking to the resolutions. I feel that PSAC conventions and events are better organized (especially elections and caucas'). But the Fed staff did a good job with such as large convention.

I attended the Workers of Colour caucus and supported Jennifer Cheih Ho in her election as the representative on the Federation Executive Council. There were three candidates, the other two from larger unions, but she took the election on the first ballot, although there were only 4 PSAC members in the room. She is the best candidate for the job and I'm glad the other delegates realized this. She had done a good job networking with the other delegates and getting her some exposure.

Congratulations also to Paul Croes who was elected the Pride representative. Holding two PSAC equity seats, plus our other two Executive Council seats (Bob & Jamey) - PSAC will rock the Fed over the next 2 years!!

Thanks to Bob Jackson, the BC Region and Agr Local 20044 for support my attendance to the convention.

In solidarity,
Terri Lee
Metro Vancouver Co-ordinator
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