

Vancouver Area Council Meeting Minutes

1 Dec 11 (as amended)

In Attendance: Jamey Mills UTE 20027, Sharon Tieman UPCE 20101, Cheryl Oenema UNDE 21008, Marion McLarty UNE 20150, Fe De Casto GSU 20008, Allen Schofield CEIU 20938, Aaron Chang CEIU 20938, Angela Duhamel AGR 20044, Terri Lee AGR 20044, Julie Bussiere CEIU 20944

Staff Rep: Monica Urrutia

Regrets: Tracey Shudo, Ryan Ayres, Megan Adams, Erica Yang, Sigrid Hagglund

First area council meeting held in the RO since the renovations.

Brief agenda:

Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) Campaign
Third Choice Campaign

Local presidents and delegates from non affiliated locals were invited to tonight's meeting; unfortunately none were able to attend this meeting.

Swearing in of the new VAC executive:

President – Jamey Mills

2nd VP – Aaron Chang

Treasurer – Sharon Tieman

Secretary – Cheryl Oenema

3 members at large – Angela Duhamel, Fe De Castro, Julie Bussiere

Sam Wiese is 1st VP but wasn't in attendance for this meeting, so could not be sworn in.

Monica handed out **CFIB packages** which include a letter to business owners, a I support my customers I support public services post card for Catherine Swift and a I support my customers, I support public services window sticker.

The CFIB campaign was discussed at the president's conference which was held in October. Catherine Swift has been very vocal in the media attacking the public service employee's pensions and benefits. The goal of the CFIB campaign is for union activists to approach local small businesses in their community, especially business they frequent, and talk to the managers to see if they are part of the CFIB and explain our position as stated in the letter, see copy attached. If the business is not part of the CFIB, they can still display the window sticker in support. Please keep track of the business that are in support, and send a list of business names and addresses to Monica Urrutia at the PSAC office. Also if the manager is willing take pictures of the stickers in the window.

A sample of the CFIB package was given out at the recent president's conference. Three locals in Monica's area have already requested more packages, so ask your local executive if they have gotten involved yet. To get more packages please contact the PSAC regional office.

Jamey's local UTE 20027 has already committed to go to the independent coffee shops surrounding their work site location. It was noted that Starbucks is not an independent business and in the past has not been labour friendly. UTE national is looking at taking their money out of Scotia Bank as they are in support of Catherine Swift.

The East Fraser Valley Area Council has challenged the other area councils to see what area can get the most business support.

The VAC will look at arranging some group outings in the near future to visit local business.

The **Third Choice campaign** will be rolling out at 5 am on Friday 2 Dec 11, so keep a look out for the email and on social media. Everyone is asked to share this via email, facebook, twitter, etc.

Affiliate Reports:

- UPCE 20101 – Winning of the 28 year long pay equity case in the Supreme Court. As yet there is no info on how or when the money will be delivered to the affected employees. There are approx 6000 employees that will be affected by this decision. Patty Ducharme will be in the meetings to determine the time line of roll out. Employees in Edmonton were requested to destroy personnel files from the 1908's. Marion will forward Sharon information from the National Archive of Canada in regards to timelines of record keeping. Possibility of a pay equity party in the New Year. Sharon attended the PSAC Health and Safety forum in Ottawa.
- UNE 20150 – Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development has joined the list of Treasury Board Employers that have ceased the three year roll over term policy. Say it is to minimize the WFA. There are at least 30 known employees that are affected; however it will affect many more.
- AGR 20044 – AGM to be held 2 Dec 11. CFIA is currently in bargaining and they have exchanged demands. Have gotten same response from TB as the previous bargaining units. Terry attended the PSAC staffing tribunal in Ottawa; there were 3 delegates from BC. Transfer to provincial inspectors set to occur in 2014.
- CEIU 20944 – Local will be holding a Dec 6th event. Currently terms are being renewed on a month by month basis. There have been incoming employees being deployed.
- CEIU 20938 – At the Regional Executive committee meeting in Oct the feasibility of a sticker campaign was discussed. Such as "A Public Service Employee has helped put this money in your pocket". Aaron asked about doing the No Cuts

work site visits at the government office at Central City in Surrey and at the Expo Blvd site.

- GSU 20008 – AGM moved from Nov to Dec 8th. The current local president will not be seeking re election and therefore there will be a new president. The strategic review is on going. The consulting and audit office is closing, three employees have been placed in new jobs, and regular updates are issued in regards to other affected employees.
- UTE 20027 – PIPSC has now affiliated with the CLC, members of PIPSC work in the same work location. PIPSC has ads at the BC Ferries and other locations promoting Public Service. Health and Safety issues in the office due to age of building such as exploding radiators and toilets overflowing. Call for transparency on what Finance and Admin is doing in regards to these issues. UTE employees are being affected and getting work force adjustments. Onsite communication department has been shut down, employees have been moved to other jobs or work locations. The agency is however hiring collections officers, locally getting some workflow from other tax offices. A new office has opened at 1010 Seymour for CPP and EI appeals. Collective agreement expires Nov 2012. In the past negotiation started prior to the end of contract. UTE has stated they will fight for severance pay.
- UNDE 201008 – DND has also suspended the term roll over policy. The strategic review is in process. As yet DND has not been affected by job cuts; however things may change in the near future. Cheryl will be a delegate to the VDLC as the local has agreed to affiliate.

Other Items:

The **VDLC affiliation talk** will be held over until Megan is available for a meeting. Jamey will contact the VDLC and get more information on affiliation and delegate status.

Metro Vancouver members will be emailed out local happenings and events as alternate ways to be active in the labour movement.

Short discussion on the **recent Municipal elections**, election of a progressive council in Vancouver as well as Burnaby and New Westminster.

No Cuts Campaign – Two rally held at EI centres which were well attended and member were engaged. If you are interested in having a No Cuts site visit at your work site please contact the PSAC regional office to arrange. If you have any petition please get them into the PSAC office for the first week of January. Want to have them ready to send out for the federal budget. The area council can help you out with funds for mailing the petitions if needed.

BC Federation of Labour renewal conference was held in Vancouver in Nov. Three young workers from the PSAC attended. The youth summit was very well attended.

Donations and Political Action: The VAC has a budget line for donations and Political action. If you have any ideas on how to use these funds please bring them up at VAC meetings.

Minutes from 19 Oct 11 meeting

M/S/C Sharon/Fe

Discussion of **Program Ideas** for the 2011/2012 year:

May Day - in cooperation with the VDLC.

Baseball event - It brought in a lot of people however it was costly, so is it cost effective to do again.

Family friendly summer BBQ - Partner up with the other Vancouver groups, like the Regional Woman's committee and the Human Rights committee.

Panel – The impact of the Federal budget. Could invite other organizations to speak on how it affects them, such as non profit groups, immigrations services, employment resource centres. If you have any ideas on speakers please contact Monica.

Round Table:

- Carol has tickets from the BC Fed Dec 6th breakfast first come first serve.
- Dec 6th candle light vigil at Holland Park in Surrey
- Check out the up coming PSAC courses, was emailed out and is available on the website.
- Advanced Steward training just finished it was a full course.
- The Canadian Red Cross will take over emergency relief for stricken Attawapiskat, the first nation community that has declared a state of emergency amid a dire housing crisis. The Red Cross is now preparing to co-ordinate donations, and buy blankets, generators and other items to bring them into the community, which can only be reached by air until winter ice roads form. Many people in the community of about 2,000 are living in tents or shacks, using extension cords from other houses as the only source of power. Donations can be made to the Red Cross.

Motion to donate \$50.00 to the Red Cross for support of the Attawapiskat community.

M/S/C Jamey/Sharon

Adjourned

Next Meeting: Feb 2012