

Prairie Region Council Rep Reports February 2016:

Position	Name	Page #	Rec'd by Deadline
REVP	Marianne Hladun	2	Yes
Racially Visible Persons Rep	Sam Akinsanya		Yes
Young Workers Rep	Nathaniel Angus-Jackman		No
Regina AC Rep	Satinder Bains		Yes
Southern SK Rep	Deanna Getz		Yes
Calgary AC Rep	Alec Goertzen		Yes
PWD Rep	Kim Haynes		No
GLBT Persons Rep	Timothy Hunt		No
Aboriginal Peoples Rep	Janette Husak		No
RWC Rep	Nancy Johnson		Yes
Westman AC Rep	Glen Johnston		No
Southern AB Rep	Deb Kosteniuk		Yes
Lethbridge AC Rep	Gregory Krokosh		Yes
DCL Rep	Michelle Lang		Yes
Edmonton AC Rep	Ben Lemon		No
SE Manitoba Rep	Gus Mardli		Yes
Saskatoon AC Rep	Jackie Nettleton		Yes
Northern AB Rep	Murray Pruden		Yes
Winnipeg AC Rep	Matt Tijani		Yes

Alternate REVP	Frank Janz	No Report
Separate Employers Rep	Chad Kemery	No Report
Northern SK Rep	Melanie Markling	No Report

**Marianne Hladun
Regional Executive Vice-President
Prairie Region Council February 2016**

NEW YEAR, NEW MANDATE?

I want to take this opportunity to thank all PRC members and activists who actively participating by stepping up to ensure we saw change in Ottawa. Members who volunteered for phone banks, stuffing envelopes, organized and attended candidate forums and those who took to the streets to doorknock for progressive candidates need to be acknowledged. We would not have seen the change without those efforts.

While it was disappointing to see the NDP lose so many seats across the country in the federal election, it was heartening to see the increased voter turnout—the highest since 1993—and the overwhelming message from Canadians that we deserve better and expect more from our government.

With the election of Justin Trudeau and the new Liberal government, we would like to see a new tone and open dialogue with the government. We want to maintain the momentum from our election campaign by focusing on lobbying efforts currently underway.

Our goal is to lobby all new and returning Members of Parliament by mid-March when the budget is scheduled for tabling. We have been working with regional offices and Area Councils to make sure that this lobbying effort is member-driven. Members are asking MPs to reinvest in federal public services and to respect collective bargaining rights.

It's important to note that we have seen some important concessions from the Liberal government, like repealing C-377 and C-525, two bills that were designed to weaken unions with unreasonable financial reporting and to make it more difficult to join a union.

That said, we are really disappointed to see that the Liberal plan for sick leave essentially mirrors the Conservative government's proposal. Negotiators met at the bargaining table on the week of February 1 and there is no improvement on sick leave provisions. PSAC is scheduled to return to the bargaining table on March 7 and April 11.

PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS

We also need to maintain our momentum as we head into provincial elections in Saskatchewan (April 4, 2016) and Manitoba (April 19, 2016). We have many members in both provinces under provincial jurisdiction and there is a definite threat to members from potential right-wing governments.

In Saskatchewan, Brad Wall's Saskatchewan Party government is riding high in the polls, but their dominance is impacting public services across the board. Crown Corporations are at risk of privatization—despite a campaign promise that explicitly stated otherwise—and labour rights are being stomped on. The NDP made headway in

several important ridings in Saskatchewan in the federal election, which may signal Saskatchewan residents are ready for progressive representation at the legislature.

In Manitoba, the NDP remains in power but is at risk. The alternative is truly frightening, with the Progressive Conservatives promising wide reaching cuts to public services and a right-wing agenda on social issues.

In the lead up to the federal election, Siobhan Vipond, Secretary-Treasurer for the Alberta Federation of Labour, joined us on our telephone town hall to share her experiences and the important role labour played in the Alberta provincial election. We hope to incorporate some of the lessons learned in Alberta, and more recently in the federal election, to our upcoming provincial elections.

We will also be participating in the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour campaign and the Manitoba Federation of Labour's campaign called the Working Families Manitoba.

We need to coordinate activities to ensure that our members are aware of the issues; of the potential impacts of the provincial elections; and to ensure that members get out to vote. I know PSAC members will step up to the challenge as they did in the federal election and work together with other unions and community groups to promote election issues.

BARGAINING

The Academic Capacity Unit at the University of Winnipeg, consisting of teaching assistants, markers, tutors, and lab demonstrators, met with the employer on January 27 to continue negotiations for the first collective agreement. There is no consistent process in place now for hiring. We are seeking fair and transparent job posting, application and selection processes. We return to the table for two days on Feb 18-19.

The bargaining team also met with the University of Winnipeg Student Association. The UWSA, along with the faculty union, passed resolutions to call on the university to become a living wage employer. The UWSA and other campus groups held a strategic meeting on February 17 to plan actions to get the university to demonstrate its commitment to social justice and becoming a better employer. We're thrilled to have this solidarity.

Members working for the Royal Canadian Mint (Winnipeg & Ottawa) ratified a new agreement on January 13 and 15. Members are very pleased that sick leave provisions remain intact. The Winnipeg Protective Services Officers unit at the Mint is still in bargaining. The last round was January 26-29, with significant progress made.

The collective agreement for the Centre for Aboriginal Human Resource Development expired on August 7, 2015. We exchanged proposals with the employer on January 19 and the next round was scheduled for February, 2016.

Members working for the Marine Tank Farm ratified their first collective agreement. Meanwhile, we issued a notice to bargain for members at Port of Churchill

NATIONAL UPDATES

On behalf of our National President, I participated in a mission to Bangladesh with our Social Justice Fund. The objective was to get an update on our efforts with unions and NGOs representing workers in the garment sector in Bangladesh following the Rana Plaza disaster in 2013. A full update will be presented to the June NBOD meeting.

The next National Board of Directors meeting is taking place February 23-26, 2016.

COURSES AND CONFERENCES

Over 60 members attended seven regional education meetings over the past couple months to provide feedback and suggestions for union education. Looking ahead, we will try to incorporate some of their new ideas to make the program more effective, including offering education in a variety of times, places and formats. We also received suggestions to help promote the education program and will develop some new tools to assist. The PRC Education Committee participated in their local meetings and will prepare a draft education plan, which will be circulated for feedback before it gets finalized in the spring.

Over 20 Prairies members participated in the popular Unionism on Turtle Island course December 12-16, 2015 at the PSAC Edmonton Regional Office. Offered to both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal members as a means of sharing stories and perspectives, participants explored important issues such as the history of oppression and resistance, Aboriginal issues at the bargaining table, creating a representative workforce and opening the union to Aboriginal activists.

Work is underway for our next regional conferences. The inaugural Prairies Racially Visible Conference will be held September 9-11, 2016, in Winnipeg and the Prairies Regional Women's Conference will be held June 11-12, 2016, in Winnipeg.

The PSAC Prairie Region is pleased to host the first **Waskawetohta (Taking Action) Conference** for First Nation, Inuit and Métis activists from April 22 to 24, 2016, in Winnipeg.

LA LOCHE

Our region was shaken by the recent violence in La Loche, Saskatchewan. PSAC members throughout the Prairie Region stand together with the residents of La Loche as they mourn the victims of January's shooting. Four people lost their lives and another seven were injured in this terrible tragedy.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Hladun". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of the first name being a large, stylized capital 'M'.

Marianne Hladun,
Regional Executive Vice-President
Public Service Alliance of Canada, Prairies

**Sam Akinsanya
Racially Visible Persons Rep
Prairie Region Council February 2016**

1. **Dates of Activities: November, 2015 to February, 2016.**

2. **In person**

Teleconference

3. **Aboriginal**

Access

PRIDE

RV

Women

Component

**Meeting with REVP and PSAC Regional Coordinator (Lisa):
Nov. 28, 2015**

Met with the Regional coordinator officer and the REVP to begin discussion on the potential location and dates for the 2016 RVMs' Conference in Prairie Region.

**Follow Meeting with the REVP and Regional Coordinator (Lisa)
was had in December to discuss updates on Nov. discussion
December 15, 2015.**

Met with the REVP and the regional coordinator to discussed and reviewed potential dates and locations for the 2016 RVMs' regional Conference. However, we did not come to a decision. Rather, we deferred the decision making to the Steering committee once we have formed one.

**Inaugural Meeting of the Steering Committee for the RVMs' 2016
Regional Conference – January 12, 2016.**

Participated on the Steering committee to discuss, review and decide on location and dates for the conference. I am glad to report that after considerable discussion respecting the pros and cons of all potential dates and locations, the committee was able to agree on a location and dates. The 2016 Inaugural RVM's Regional Conference will be held in Winnipeg from September 8th to 11th, 2016.

In Solidarity,

**Sam Akinsanya
Regional Representative,
Prairie Region,
Racially Visible Equity Group
Public Service Alliance of Canada
Phone: (403) 850-3951**

Nathaniel Angus-Jackman
Young Workers Rep
Prairie Region Council February 2016

- In the short time since the last meeting of the Prairie Regional Council there has been continued growth in the regional young workers communication network. Through face-to-face communication, word of mouth and referrals, the communications network has nearly doubled in size since its creation late 2014. This has allowed for better distribution of information and opportunities for young workers within the region, and continued focus will be placed on ensuring that the network keeps growing.
- Once again, in the short term the focus will be on establishing two Young Worker Committees within the region. While this has proved challenging I am confident that in the near future this will be achievable. The establishment of these committees is a priority and I will be providing updates as we progress towards our goal.
- As a member of the National Young Workers Working Group I have continued communicating with my regional counterparts throughout the country by email, conference call and when possible in person. The group has continued to generate some fantastic ideas and initiatives. Our focus currently is on using information gleaned from the successful launch of our survey last year to continue developing various initiatives and communication strategies tailored to Young Workers. If there is interest in taking a look at the results of the survey, please contact me directly and I will be happy to share them. We will also be developing a Young Workers Handbook designed to share best practices, maintain existing communication networks and to allow subsequent Regional Young Worker reps to hit the ground running.
- I have also begun work on developing a union mentorship initiative, which aims to pair a young worker/new activist with a more experienced “mentor” with the goal of facilitating knowledge/experience transfers between the two.

Satinder Bains
Regina Area Council Rep
Prairie Region Council February 2016

I continue to attend and work with the Regina Human Rights and Regina Area Council committees and attended the meetings on regular bases. Continued to participate in on the PRC conference calls to keep up to the current events and issues in the PSAC. In January I have been out of the country but continue to keep in touch with fellow PRC Reps and monitor the upcoming Saskatchewan Provincial elections.

Deanna Getz
Southern SK Geographical Rep
Prairie Region Council February 2016

Due to our meeting late in November instead of August, there is not much to report as it was quiet over Christmas.

I attended area council meeting on January 21st as brother Satinder was away.

The All Candidates forum went well but next time we should have a Psac member there to ask questions pertaining to PSAC top three issues.

Keith spoke about the upcoming national lobbying campaign. Psac is looking for volunteers to lobby their Members of Parliament to ensure our new government keeps their word

Speaking notes will be provided and training will be given to the volunteers.

Area council is also working on ideas for encouraging members to make an informed vote on the upcoming provincial elections in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Mail outs and telephone town halls are some of the ideas so far. Marianne asked area council to present a budget for her review.

PRC communications committee held a brief meeting on January 26th to discuss any unfinished business before Jeffrey's leave on January 29th. Tents will be ordered by end of February and available for use by our components hopefully this summer.

PRC next meetings will be held on Feb 19-21st in Saskatoon.

Respectfully submitted,

Deanna Getz

Southern Saskatchewan Geo Rep

Alec Goertzen
Calgary Area Council Rep
Prairie Region Council February 2016

This report is only for the months of December/15 and January/16. With the holiday season during this time and PRC being scheduled so soon, there has not been much activity to report on.

Event Calendar

- December 7 – attended planning meeting for 2018 Prairies Regional Education Plan
- December 9 – attended Calgary AC meeting
- December 10 – Conference call with AC reps and National President, in accordance with national convention resolution GEN108
- January 26 – conference call hosted by REVP to announce National Lobbying Campaign
- February 2 – Groundhog day

Respectfully submitted

Br Alec Goertzen

Kim Haynes
Persons with Disabilities Rep
Prairie Region Council February 2016

Prairie Region Persons with Disability Representative report of 2015.

2015 has been a very busy year – with attending most of the regions meetings for support of our Union and awareness of People with Disability. So I will not waste time listing all the events that I was a part of – only give you the highlights and out comes which are what I feel the most important.

There was a lot of work for the Garden program (Edmonton Women’s Committee) – one of our Sister locating an inner city school who allowed us to make a garden. And make a garden it was from “start to finish”. This is and will continue to be a very rewarding project as the feedback from this school was so heart-warming. Sisters, Brothers, families, and Staff from the Region assisted, so please remember we all do have a role to play in helping others – and this really only took one day.

“The Path of Light” for National Aboriginal Day – was another just awesome event that took place in my region and again I was able to contribute in a very small way but in a very rewarding event. And look really forward to the upcoming years “Path of Light”.

During the National Human Rights Committee (NHRC) Meeting in November (which was a very busy & productive meeting) I was not surprise to here that the primary focus would be on Mental Health. This illness/disability effects so many of us and because most know so little about it many employers find it easy just to ignore it and hope it goes away. Another great take away with meeting such as the NHRC is the networking you can get there. I was very fortunate to walk away with other policies and action plans for back to work programs, duty to accommodate & even Employment Equity.

Concluding my educational part of this year was the Women’s Forum on Domestic Violence at Work. I really wish most if not all PSAC member can have the ability to attend a conference as this. The Agenda was jammed packed with a panel of amazing speakers – maybe just maybe too much to take in all at once. The big take away for me was how Domestic Violence transcends over to the workplace. Another shocking fact was the percent of women who experience Domestic Violence and 1 out 5 of all Canadian women that live with a disability, 40% of them experienced some form of violence in their lives. And another study states that 60% of women with disabilities are likely to experience some form of violence in the course of their adult lives.

I very pleased to share with my Region I am on a committee for a “Return to Work” (RTW) program. This committee acknowledges that each case must be rationalised individually. And of course to go hand in hand with the RTW program is the “Duty to Accommodate”. I hope to have something shortly after summer to share with my cohorts across the Nation and then to you.

Wishing all the best for 2016.

Thank you.

Kim Haynes your Region's Person with Disability Representative.

**Timothy Hunt
GLBT Rep
Prairie Region Council February 2016**

Nov 10 2016 Canadian Gay Curling Championships – donation request
Dec 07 Prairies Regional Education Plan Meeting - Southern Alberta
Jan 26 Conference call with Communications Committee – new communications officer

Janette Husak
Aboriginal Peoples Rep
Prairie Region Council February 2016

Nov 27-29, 2015 – PRC meeting in Edmonton

December 8-10, 2015 – NAPC Human Rights Activities in Ottawa

December 11-13, 2015 – PSAC Women’s Forum on Domestic Violence at Work in Ottawa

Jan 19/16 – Conference call for Prairies Aboriginal members Planning Conference

Jan 29/16 – Conference Call for Prairies Aboriginal members Planning Conference

Feb 10/16 – RAPC committee meeting

Feb 19-21, 2016 – PRC meeting in Saskatoon

I’ve also participated in PRC and NAPC conference calls. I will also be working with the NAPC male rep for Prairie Region on organizing a RAPC committee in Alberta and Manitoba and also we working on Prairies Waskawetohta (Taking action) Conference for Aboriginal members with PSAC.

In solidarity,

Janette Husak

Nancy Johnson
RWC Rep
Prairie Region Council February 2016

Attended the National Women's Forum on Domestic Violence in the Workplace in Ottawa in December. Robyn Benson along with REVP's, Marianne Hladun and Sharon DeSousa chaired the forum. There were several prominent speakers who are subject matter experts; presentations were from various community organizations and union leaders. We met to discuss how PSAC could move forward to educate our members and the role of the union and where do we go from here?

The participants were fully engaged all weekend and the highlight of the forum was when former PSAC member, now Lethbridge MLA, Maria Fitzpatrick shared her own story of being in a domestic violence relationship and the impact it has left on her and her family. There was not a dry eye in the room.

Domestic Violence at work is one of the Women's priorities and we are eager to review all the good work completed at the forum.

I have participated in two conference calls with the Women's Working Group representatives.

Mark the date...Met with Marianne and Lisa to choose a date for the Regional Women's conference that will be held in Winnipeg from June 10-12. Watch the website for updates.

Attended the Edmonton Women's Committee meeting in November and assisted them with their planning and financial reporting requirements. There was a presentation on the results of the CLC Domestic Violence survey through the United Way representative and it was very informative. PRC members Deb Kosteniuk, Michelle Lang and Greg Krokosh attended as well.

Plans are underway to attend the Regina RWC meeting in February as well as attend Winnipeg and Calgary's meetings via teleconference.

Several members attended events on and around December 6th. Saskatoon RWC hosted a candle lit vigil and we were very fortunate to have Sister Hladun attend this event.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of Women's right to vote in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. Many sisters attended events in Manitoba and there will be similar events in Saskatchewan and Alberta.

March 8th is International Women's Day and this year's theme is "Pledge for Parity," events will be held in several cities across the prairies and I would encourage you and your members to attend.

We welcome the news of the federal government launching the inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, this is long overdue and we look forward to working with the new Minister for Status of Women to ensure accountability and funding for women's programs.

I thank each and every one of our volunteer chairs and participants who are raising awareness on issues that affect women and girls and our union sisters, your work continues to make this a better place for all.

In solidarity,

Sister Nancy Johnson

**Glen Johnston
Westman Area Council Rep
Prairie Region Council February 2016**

First I must acknowledge that this report is being submitted after the deadline, no excuse on my part I did not have it ready.

In December the Council participated in the Brandon & District United Way Christmas Tree Auction for the fourth year in a row. We also had participation from retired members who did not want to miss out on an event they had been a part of in the past. Sr Hladun, the REVP, was again available to participate and her presence was welcomed by all.

I am happy to report that as a result of the efforts of all involved that we were able to raise \$25,000.00 dollars for the Brandon & District Area. A record breaking auction price was set this year as one tree went for \$7000.00 dollars.

In January I was selected to participate in the PSAC Investigator training that was held by my Component. I had wanted to apply for the initial training that was held by PSAC but a conflict in events prevented this from happening. While not directly related to my duties as the WMAC Rep, it may have an impact on the role if participation in an investigation conflicts with the duties of my office.

After receiving the official notice of the PRC meeting in January a potential problem arose within my Local when I was informed that my chain of command in the unit I am employed in did not support my Union Leave without Pay request. I am sure there will be more to report on this regardless of the outcome.

The WMAC has scheduled a meeting for the 16th of Feb in which I will attend as the Rep to PRC.

I am also hoping to attend the PRC meeting scheduled for Feb in Saskatoon.

Respectfully submitted,

Glen Johnston
WMAC Rep to the PRC

Deb Kosteniuk
Southern AB Geographical Rep
Prairie Region Council February 2016

It was a quieter period between the last PRC meeting in November 2015 and the upcoming meeting in February 2016.

December 7, 2015 I attended the PSAC Education Planning Session held in Calgary, AB.

I issued the Southern Alberta Geographic Rep newsletter on January 12, 2016 and sent it out to the locals, Area Councils, Human Rights Councils, and Regional Womens' Committees in my geographic area. I got five responses: three from locals and two from Regional Women's Committees. The responses were positive and there was a question from Lethbridge's RWC that was I was able to answer quickly, which made them happy. They are really looking forward to the Regional Womens' Conference. There is a copy of the newsletter included with this report.

On January 24, I attended the TUB/Grievance Handling course to give a brief presentation on the PRC.

I am sending out an e-mail to the other Geographic Reps with a copy of the newsletter I did and advising them of the positive responses I got.

I participated in the Communications Committee's conference call on January 26, 2016. I also participated in the National Lobbying Campaign webinar later that same night.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deb Kosteniuk
Southern Alberta Geographic Representative, PRC, PSAC

PRC Newsletter: Southern Alberta

January 2016

By Deb Kosteniuk, Southern Alberta Geographical Representative, Prairies Regional Council, PSAC

Happy New Year! I have been the Southern Alberta Geographical Representative since Sister Sherry Hunt stepped down in July 2016. Sister Sherry is working for MLA Maria Fitzpatrick and is enjoying every minute of her new job. For 2016 I will focus on timely and relevant communication between the various parts of our structure. For Southern Alberta, that means contact between Human Rights Committees, Women's Committees, Area Councils and Locals and The Prairies Regional Council and REVP Marianne Hladun.

The mandate of the newsletter is to help facilitate communications between us all. I will do my best to keep you updated on events, education and information important to PSAC members in Southern Alberta. Let's use it to promote events in your locals or committees and to share ideas among us all. I will send out the newsletter between PRC meetings. You will get an update on the last meeting and in return I would like to hear your comments, questions, or information you would like taken back to the PRC or communicated to others in our area. The newsletter will be a grassroots communication tool in the Region, and does not replace official communications from PSAC or your component.

I really want to hear from you! Please contact me at kdebkosteniuk@shaw.ca

Last Meeting of the Prairies Regional Council (PRC)

The PRC last met November 25, 2015 to November 27, 2015 in Edmonton.

Brother Frank Janz and I were sworn in at the meeting. Brother Frank Janz is now the alternate REVP, while I was sworn in as Southern Alberta Geographic Rep.

The Five PRC Committees gave their reports: By-Laws, Communications, Education, Finance and Health & Safety. All were approved by the Council; these reports are regularly posted to the website for your reading enjoyment!

Area Council Presidents were invited to a conference call on December 10th with Sr. Robyn Benson. If the President/Chair was not available, they were to ensure another executive member participates. ([AC Chairs/Presidents: looking your comments on the call](#))

Draft Audited Financial Statements for The Prairies Region were presented with Finance Committee's recommendation that same be accepted.

Planning for the next PSAC Regional Triennial was discussed. There is always a lot of work behind the scenes to ensure a Triennial is a success: Sister Hladun provided a timeline to assist the PRC in doing just that! The Triennial will be held in Winnipeg from April 21, 2017 to April 23, 2017. The website already has this posted:



The first Regional Racially Visible Conference is being held in the fall of 2016. The first step will be a callout for volunteers for the steering committee will be made. [\(This was done Dec 10, 2015 with deadline for submissions being December 21, 2015. Let me know if your submission was successful and what you see yourself doing as part of the steering committee\).](#)

Federal Election 2015

New Year, New Government, New Contract?!?!

Since Justin Trudeau was sworn in as Canada's 23rd Prime Minister, he's has already been taking action on several important issues. The Throne Speech outlined commitments requiring investment in the public service. It's a good start, and the mood among members seems hopeful for what's to come.

Interested to see how this new government will approach bargaining for our Treasury Board members? Bargaining dates are set for February 1-5, 2016 for most of the bargaining tables. UTE does not yet have a date.

Education:

Please visit the PSAC Prairies Website Education Page at <http://prairies.psac.com/events>

The education calendar for spring 2016 is still being developed, but there is one course coming up:

Talking Union Basics/Grievance Handling January 22, 2016 to January 24, 2016 •
Calgary **Sign-up Deadline: January 15, 2016**

Upcoming Events:

- **Lethbridge & District Area Council:** Last met October 13, 2015. All are welcome! For more information contact Greg Krokosh, AC Chair at Krokosg@psac.com
- **Calgary Area Council:** Last met December 9, 2015. Annual General Meeting is usually in February. All are welcome! For more information contact Alec Goerzten, AC Chair at goertza@psac.com
- **Lethbridge Regional Women's Committee:** Last met Sept 15, 2015. For more information contact Lyn Paterson, RWC Chair at lynipaterson@gmail.com
- **Calgary Regional Women's Committee:** Upcoming meeting January 18, 2016 at the PSAC Regional Office Boardroom. All are welcome! For more information contact Deb Kosteniuk, RWC Chair at kdebkosteniuk@shaw.ca
- **Calgary Human Rights Committee:** Last met November 18, 2015. All are welcome! For more Information contact Timothy Hunt, HRC Chair at hunt@psac.com

Next Meeting of the Prairies Regional Council (PRC)

The next meeting of the PRC will be held February 19 to February 21, 2016 in Saskatoon.

Check out these Web sites:

- PSAC Prairies Regional By-Laws: <http://prairies.psac.com/our-organization/prairie-region-council/prairie-region-bylaws>
- PSAC Prairies Website: <http://prairies.psac.com/>
- Alberta Could: <http://albertacould.org/>
- Rabble: News For the Rest of Us: <http://rabble.ca/>

**Gregory Krokosh
Lethbridge Area Council Rep
Prairie Region Council February 2016**

December 4-6, 2015 - Attended Violence in the Workplace training

December 07, 2015 - Attended Building the Union training

January 12, 2016 - Attended Lethbridge & District Area Council Meeting

January 13, 2016 - Attended Lethbridge & District Labour Council Meeting

January 26, 2016 - Attended National Lobby Campaign Webinar

February 10, 2016 - Attended Lethbridge & District Labour Council Meeting

February 16, 2016 - Attended Lethbridge & Area Council Meeting

**Michelle Lang
DCL Rep
Prairie Region Council February 2016**

Nothing much happening, gearing up for the provincial election. I have been in contact with my NDP Candidate Ted Jaleta.

I have a concern regarding communication from the national level down to the locals. I am not sure if this is just a problem a DCL faces or if it happens in components as well. Will be talking with Marianne about the issues and hopefully resolving them.

I have been walking in solidarity with brothers and sisters from UFCW Local 1400 while they have been on Strike for over a month now. I try to make it down at least once a week to walk the line and encourage all PSAC members not just from my local but other PSAC Locals from Regina to walk in solidarity with them.

Michelle Lang

DCL Representative

Ben Lemon
Edmonton Area Council Rep
Prairie Region Council February 2016

Nov 20 Flew to Winnipeg for Regional H&S Conference setup

Nov 21 Attended 1st Day Regional H&S Conference

Nov 22 Attended 2nd day of Regional H&S Conference then flew back to
Edmonton

Nov 26 Attended H&S committee meeting at PSAC Office in Edmonton

Nov 27 Attended PRC meeting Day 1 at Chateau Lacombe in Edmonton

Nov 28 Attended PRC meeting Day 2 at Chateau Lacombe in Edmonton

Nov 29 Attended final half day of PRC meeting at Chateau Lacombe in
Edmonton

Dec 01 Decided that there would be no EAC meeting in December & that
we would have the EAC AGM in January

Dec 07 Sent January 20th Agenda to PSAC Office who sent it out to the
executive for additions

Jan 06 I asked PSAC office send out Jan 20th EAC agenda with
instructions to think about what projects we want to do as a council
in 2016

Jan 20 Chaired EAC AGM, elections brought the same executive to the
same positions, the president position is still vacant & our projects
are decided for 2016.

Feb 17 Proposed next EAC meeting date, we have a 2016 budget now,
we'll have to get the auditors engaged. Then we can put all of the
documents & send it in before the deadline.

Respectfully submitted,

Ben Lemon

Gus Mardli
South East Manitoba Geographical Rep
Prairie Region Council February 2016

This reporting is for the period of November 2015 to February 2016.

November 2015:

- Attended the PRC (Prairie Region Council) meeting in Edmonton.

December 2015:

- Collected information from the executive on the Prince Albert Regional Aboriginal Peoples` Circle (RAPC) –such as Terms of Reference- and disseminated the info to few members in the Winnipeg area. We pondered the possibility of creating a similar RAPC committee or sub-committee in the Winnipeg area.

January 2016:

- Attended Winnipeg Area Council action plan meeting.
- Attended the Prairies Webinar on National Lobby Campaign.
- I volunteered as Area Coordinator and Attended a Treasury Board mobilization meeting at the Winnipeg Regional Office.

February 2016:

- Attended a Conference Call for the 2016 PSAC National Health & Safety Conference`s Steering Committee.

In Solidarity,

Respectfully Submitted

Gus Mardli

Jackie Nettleton
Saskatoon Area Council Rep
Prairie Region Council February 2016

Since the election and the last PRC meeting in November we haven't done too much. We purchased a wreath from the Poppy Fund for the Remembrance Day ceremonies as we always do. We partnered with the RWC to sponsor a seasonal open house for members in December. We were fortunate to have both our REVP, Marianne Hladun and our President, Robyn Benson, at our open house. PRC member Nancy Johnson gave a presentation about her participation in the Governor General's Leadership Program.

At our meeting in January meeting we discussed lobbying MPs to persuade them of the importance of our issues such as repealing the anti-labour legislation of the last government. We plan to have lobby teams of two or three people to lobby each of the Saskatoon Area MPs. Lobby training is planned for mid-February. We made plans to have our books audited for our AGM in February and we developed a plan and budget for political action activities around the upcoming provincial election that is expected to be called in early March.

In Solidarity,

Jackie Nettleton

Saskatoon Area Council President

Murray Pruden
Northern AB Geographical Rep
Prairie Region Council February 2016

Hello & Happy 2016!

We are in a new year with much to accomplish within the Union, your Union. And together we can get some needed work done in 2016 for the betterment of our work place(s), our locals in Northern Alberta & our communities we live in. Since my last report, I must say, I have been growing as an activist and also as an individual. I had some personal health accomplishments completed in the Fall of 2015, re-cooperated and now am back to help fulfill the tasks PSAC has for our membership to achieve. And I would like to thank all those members & friends for the kindness, support & encouragement over the last few months to my wellbeing. No one can say our membership is less than giving when the time calls for support.

I would like to firstly start my report by giving a warm welcome to our new Alternate REVP for the Prairies- Frank Janz. Brother Janz comes to us from USGE in Manitoba. He has been elected by the prairies this past November. After meeting with Brother Janz these past few months, I know he has the abilities & drive to give our PRC the needed leadership in his role as our new Alternate REVP. Welcome brother Janz!

Since my last formal report, I have attended the regional Health & Safety conference in Winnipeg on Nov 21- 22, 2015. The representation by membership from across the prairies was great & the concerns that many had pertaining to health & safety in the workplace we considerably similar. The few topics that seem to stem the most is defining Danger in the workplace, mental health identification & support, and office bullying amongst members but firmly from employer.

The goal of the conference was to give some foundation to strengthening Local Health & Safety committees. And also, give some guidelines to regular procedures that OHS committees should be maintaining within the workplace. The key to successful OHS committees are to understand the Canada Labor Code Part 2 and letting Local executive know they have an authority to the committees & to their worksites within the Local. Another workshop detail introduced at the conference was Medical privacy. It is the obligation of the employer & union to help membership protect their medical privacy to a degree. We have rights to medical privacy, and the employer needs to know based on the nature of the illness as opposed to diagnosis.

Some key elements to consider in the office workplace that brought some good open dialogue amongst the delegates at the conference- Asbestos being a topic of concern for many older buildings and offices across Canada. Members should have full understanding and knowledge of what is in your building. The employer may use terminology such as "tagging" areas in an office location as potential asbestos prone locations are not "OK". Members should explore & discuss with OHS committees staff representatives to have information & official letters from the employer to guarantee the

ratification of any asbestos elements in the workplace and filed with their workplace file for future reference. This is a clear indication of how important OHS committees are in a workplace. And said OHS committees are to be involved throughout the entire process of inquiries, inspections and investigations in a workplace.

Another important topic for many locals to start addressing is the new office work space 2.0. OHS staff reps should now bring this issue to their OHS committees and invest the committees to proper consultations to this new work space standard. The reason being, plain and simple, work space 2.0 is in violation with the Canada Labor Code part 2. When the initial idea of the work space 2.0 was placed upon members the employer was to have a full blueprint phase & consultation with committees of the work place standard, so that it places health and safety standards for all employees. And proper walk through and inspections need to take place by OHS on all levels to incorporate the work space setting. This has been a time commitment that has not been addressed by the standards of the Canada Labor code. A step that all OHS & Locals need to insure is being addressed for the safety our membership.

Our keynote speaker, Dr Leigh Quesnel brought so much great knowledge & insightful measures on office bullying & mental health. He has given us a step to encourage the cry for our Union to measure and fight for mental health practices. But most importantly, management bullying and harassment. This topic should not be shyed away as it inflicts stress on members, emotional & social intelligence, and mental wellbeing. It's time to invest in anti-bullying in our workplaces.

On that note, PSAC is now launching a new campaign for our members to train from- Stop Workplace Violence. It will be launched to the regions this spring, in Edmonton region it will be April 2016. Please take the time to partake in this new course. The course is designed to help answer, what is workplace violence? And the course will support the methods and ideology to action plans and legislation in place to protect from bullying and violence in the workplace.

Our OHS committees need the support of our Locals and are a meeting place of equal representation between Employer and Union. An understanding of the Canada Labor Code can be a great investment for our membership to attain. And for our members to understand that the employer is responsible to protect the wellbeing of All employees, not just the many, but All employee's health and safety.

I also attended the Unionism On Turtle Island gathering on Dec 12- 16, 2015. This gathering is a representation of our Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal members coming together to learn & share knowledge of what it is to be an Aboriginal person in Canada. The group spent a great deal of time at looking at the historical timeline of Aboriginal people, to activism and stories of unjust happenings inflicted on Aboriginal people in the past, and present. And what the future looks like for Aboriginal people, especially with topics and issues arising from land rights, the truth and reconciliation report, residential school survivors, and missing and murdered Aboriginal women. I took the time to share and present what I led in our region with the Edmonton Human Rights committee on our

walk for missing and murdered Aboriginal women- A Path of Light. And many members shared their stories of what it is to be Aboriginal persons in Canada. There were times when delegates got emotional with sharing stories and experiences, I being one of them. We watched a video of a young school girl and her mother being ridiculed and teased on a bus by a group of youth, because of the little girl's long and beautiful braided hair. And the actions that the little girl did to herself to wash away her identity by cutting her hair short because of her embarrassment of what she is. This short moment of insecurity in the film hit home & memories of my own past growing up. At the end of the day, after watching that film, I shared my memories of growing up with our circle. I shared my stories of being put down for what I was by others, rather than celebrated as a Cree person in Canadian society. And the impact it had on me to respect myself and my culture in the teenage years of my life. Aboriginal cultures are placed with respect to the land, and to our connection to the land. The effects of language loss in most Aboriginal societies have impacted the understanding to our traditions and practices. The hope is that more Aboriginal people and members take their traditions and languages back. And with that action, we can give all Aboriginal people a fighting chance for generations to come here on Turtle Island. One moment from the gathering that has brought a great moment of recollection was when we viewed the documentary "Kanesetake"- the Oka crisis from 1990. The reason I mention this, it was the point in my boyhood that I realized others in Canada do not submit to the same morals & respect of Turtle Island as I do. It was the moment I became an activist for human rights, and for my family. I give thanks to all the participants, leaders & facilitators who participated in Unionism on Turtle Island. Together we have created a network of support & knowledge that we can provide to our membership across the prairies. We now can network and help each other and our other Aboriginal members invest in our Union. Aboriginal people, we know what solidarity means. Generations of our people lived and continue to live it. Solidarity is in our spirit.

This past month, PSAC has hosted a meeting asking membership on new ideas & concerns we have with the production of Union education & training. Unfortunately, I could not attend the meeting to voice my opinion but I do encourage members to contact our Edmonton Region office if they have questions or ideas they would like to see accomplished with Union education & training. I believe, each members opinion to the needs of education should be heard and with each idea we bring to the Union creates a positive change for the betterment of our understanding. Education is power and growth.

These last few months our local PSAC committees have continued to meet in the Edmonton region. Area Council has just recently announced their new executive. And the same is said for the Edmonton Human Rights committee and Women's committee. Each committee is currently working on their year of events & working budget for 2016. I do encourage members who are interested in participating in one of our committees to please contact your local executive and/ or myself & the Edmonton PSAC office for further information. Our committees are always looking for new and vibrant ideas and member's participation to succeed each year.

This February our Bargaining teams are back at the table with the Treasury board for our new collective agreement. I ask each member to take the time to show your support to our Bargaining teams, as we are meeting on a new level of bargaining ideas because of the change in the Federal government. PSAC has recently announced and are asking members to participant in supporting our Bargaining teams & lobbying your local MPs to address important Union & Public service values. Our region will be announcing upcoming training & information sessions to help members to understand the methods of lobbying and what key elements we need our local MPs to address in Parliament. Please keep updates with the PSAC region website for future details & our local Edmonton PSAC office.

As we are approaching convention years, please start getting you Locals ready for upcoming news of the Prairie region convention. This year locals, committees and members at large should be investing their time to resolutions they would like to address to the regional convention. Resolution courses will be coming up soon in PSAC training so keep an eye on the PSAC website for dates, time & locations. But Locals should know that the next prairies convention will be held in Winnipeg, Manitoba April 21- 23, 2017 at the Fairmont Winnipeg. Now is the time to start preparing your Local to the upcoming convention as there are timelines in place for registration & participation.

As 2016 has arrived so has the list of continuous tasks that we each have to fulfill within the Union, in our workplaces and in our homes. Make the effort to enjoy some of that time as well. We are a society that revolves around time so much that we forget about our wellbeing. This year make the time for yourself in your schedule. By making time for you you're serving the self-respect each one of us deserves and maintaining good mental health. With the strain on the economy, a change in governments, fighting for our collective rights we each need to stop time for a brief moment and reflect on our achievements, our family, our communities and our union. And breathe. Please take the time to be a part of your union. But also take the time to contact me as your Regional Rep & the Area Council Rep- Ben Lemon to start working together to bring solidarity & the union community together. Let's be the voice. Let us stand together. "Step with care and great tact, and remember that Life's a Great Balancing act." –Dr. Seuss.

In Solidarity,

Murray K Pruden

Geographical Representative

Northern Alberta PRC

**Matt Tijani
Winnipeg AC Rep
Prairie Region Council February 2016**

November 2015

- Nothing to report

December 2015

- Nothing to report

January 2016

- Attended WAC meeting. Presented PSAC report.
- Participated in Webinar National Lobby Campaign Overview
- Training National Lobby Campaign
- Participated – conference call – PRC communication committee.
- Attended Agriculture component meeting

In Solidarity

Respectively submitted

Matt Tijani

WAC – PRC Rep.