

Prairie Region Council Rep Reports May 2019:

| Position | Name | Page # | Rec'd by Deadline |
|------------------------|----------------------|--------|-------------------|
| REVP | Marianne Hladun | 2 | Yes |
| Indigenous Peoples Rep | Sandra Ahenakew | 7 | Yes |
| Regina AC Rep | Satinder Bains | 8 | Yes |
| Calgary AC Rep | Alec Goertzen | 8 | No |
| Young Workers Rep | Glenn Hollyoake | 9 | No |
| Southern SK Rep | Tim Hubick | 11 | Yes |
| Northern SK Rep | Valerie Illingworth | 12 | Yes |
| Alternate REVP | Frank Janz | 13 | Yes |
| RWC Rep | Deb Kosteniuk | 13 | Yes |
| DCL Rep | Michelle Lang | 15 | Yes |
| GLBTQ2+ Persons Rep | Chris Little-Gagne | 17 | Yes |
| SE Manitoba Rep | Gus Mardli | 20 | Yes |
| Separate Employers Rep | Wanda Quennell | 22 | Yes |
| Edmonton AC Rep | Dragana Ristivojevic | 22 | Yes |
| Lethbridge AC Rep | Krysty Thomas | 23 | Yes |

| | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| PWD Rep | Shannon Blum | No Report |
| Racially Visible Persons Rep | Neha Channan | No Report |
| Winnipeg Area Council Rep | Sheilagh Hanson | No Report |
| Saskatoon Area Council Rep | Evelyn Jackson | No Report |
| Westman AC Rep | Glen Johnston | No Report |
| Northern AB Rep | Stasi L'Hirondelle | No Report |
| NW Manitoba Rep | Heather McKinnon | No Report |
| Southern AB Rep | Kristy Slattery | No Report |
| Prince Albert AC Rep | Pennie Young | No Report |

**Marianne Hladun
Regional Executive Vice-President
Prairie Region Council May 2019**

This report covers the period from the last PRC meeting.

National Bargaining

For three years, our members have shared with us the hardship and pain caused by the federal government's decision to bring in the Phoenix pay system. We have taken action, again and again, to highlight the dedication of our members to the people of Canada. Despite that, after two years of negotiations, the Liberal government has offered only 1.25 days of leave per year, for 4 years, as general compensation to every member who has fallen under the disastrous Phoenix system. PSAC could not agree to this meagre proposal. We have rejected it. Your union will continue to negotiate with the government to secure fair compensation for our hard-working members.

On the same day, we had to announce that we are declaring impasse in our contract negotiations for Treasury Board, after the Liberal government failed to make substantial progress towards a new contract. Teams representing 90,000 public service workers met with government officials from April 30 to May 2. We will not return to the bargaining table until the government shows a genuine willingness to deliver the fair deal our members deserve.

And shortly afterwards, UTE declared impasse with the Canada Revenue Agency. This is an incredibly disappointing pattern. In 2015, Justin Trudeau sent a letter to Canada's public servants promising a new era of respect. We wanted to give him the opportunity to live up to those words, and have given this Liberal government every opportunity to make things right. And our members have made sure that there is no way we can be mistaken. Member have spent the past few months ramping up pressure on the federal Liberal government to deliver a fair deal at the bargaining table.

The government has to know that federal public service workers live in every riding in this country and that we are going to hold them accountable. We are determined to achieve a new contract for our members before the next election. Our members deserve better work-life balance, job security, to close the wage gaps that exist with the private sector, and fair wages that take into account all that our members have been through.

Action in the Prairies

After more than two years of not being able to adjust membership dues because the Phoenix system could not accept our changes, the "change file" began to be processed on November 14th. On November 22nd, the Prairie Region hosted a Webinar to discuss this issue and other updates. I took questions and provided as much information as possible to members.

The 2018 Prairie Region Health & Safety Conference was held November 17-18, 2018 in Saskatoon. On Saturday, the keynote speech was given by Chalaine Senger, a registered social worker who is employed as the labour consultant with the Canadian Mental Health Association - Saskatoon Branch. She delivered a fabulous presentation on mental health, encouraging union activists to practice self-care so that we are healthy and able to assist members in need. On Sunday afternoon, Jesse Todd (Board Chair of the Saskatchewan Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization - SADA0) provided an informative session on recent changes and initiatives in regards to asbestos, and answered questions from delegates workplace asbestos issues. Clint Wirth, the PSAC - Prairie Region Health and Safety Representative, gave a presentation on cannabis and the effect of legalization on workplaces. Over the course of two days, members participated in three workshops, including: Duty to Accommodate - People with Mental Health Disabilities; Psycho-social Hazards and Mental Health Issues in the Workplace; and Mobilizing Workplaces Through Health and Safety Issues.

Every year the Women's Centre of Calgary operates a Toy Room for a two-week period and gives low income mothers the opportunity to "shop" for gifts for their children. The kids can also shop for something for their moms. This year PSAC's Calgary Regional Women's Committee volunteered to work at the Toy Room. They held a toy drive from November 13th to December 12th. On the evening of December 13th, the committee helped children and their mothers pick out gifts, wrapping them and bringing Christmas cheer.

Winnipeg Area Council members participated for a fourth year in the Santa Claus Day Parade on November 17th. The theme of the float this year was the "Here for Canada" campaign, drawing attention to the hard work of federal public service workers who continue to serve Canadians despite missed paychecks and financial hardship due to the Phoenix pay system.

On November 14th, the Lethbridge Area Council held a Payday Phoenix Pizza Picket attended by approximately 40-50 people. Even the wind was on our side making sure the flags from AGR, CIU, UTE, PSAC, CUPW and many other of our allies flew high! We also had some PIPSC, students and APSAR members attend. I was able to attend – thank you to Sister Krysty Munns for organizing the event!

On January 10th the Prairie Region hosted Treasury Board Bargaining Update Webinar. Thank you to Bargaining Team Members Nestor Galarnyk and Dawn Staruiala for your contributions! Plenty of excellent questions and good discussion as we get ready to move forward for a fair deal for our members.

Several locals took part in solidarity actions on the Third Anniversary of the Phoenix payroll system disaster on February 28th. Members held plant gates in frigid arctic weather, conducted walk-outs, or wore black in the workplace to show support for the rally in Ottawa.

On March 20th I spoke at a rally in support of CUPE 1975 at the University of Saskatchewan. We will always stand with our brothers and sisters in the labour movement when employers try to take away pensions and the right to retire with dignity.

On Monday, March 25th we received very last minute word that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau would be in town for a Liberal fundraiser. We put together a small crew and headed out to the Inn at the Forks to greet him. He managed to slip past us, but we had good conversations with many attendees, including Liberal MPs.

As part of the MFL Executive, I attended a meeting in Winnipeg with the Prime Minister and all 7 Liberal MP's from Winnipeg. I was able to convey the urgency of his government coming to the TB bargaining table with a true mandate in April. Following that, several members attended a townhall with the Prime Minister. Our members conveyed the same message and reminded him of his 2015 promises and also raised privatization and contracting out as a priority.

I was very fortunate to join our National President Chris Aylward and National Vice-President Magali Picard in Alberta as a part of the Leader's Tour. We met with members from across the province in Calgary, in Edmonton, in Jasper, in Lethbridge and Red Deer and Coutts. We saw the dedication and commitment of our members and it was inspiring.

I was pleased to host a Treasury Board Bargaining Webinar with PSAC National VP Magali Picard on April 17th. We had Bargaining Team Member Arliss Chute Ibsen on as well. We took a lot of questions and were able to thank members for stepping up with actions: lobbying MPs, holding sit-ins in their offices, and showing support for our teams at the bargaining tables.

Regina members braved the rain early in the morning April 17th to bring attention to Phoenix. There were encouraging honks of support from many commuters. The rally was attended by Casino Regina, several Regina USJE locals, and CEIU. We also had support from other unions and the Regina and District Labour Council.

Over 60 Members in Prince Albert held a morning rally Thursday, April 25th. We got good coverage from the Prince Albert Herald. I was able to attend an information session for members following the rally about Treasury Board Bargaining and other issues facing our members and also a membership BBQ at lunch to speak to members about bargaining.

With members from USJE, we visited MP Ralph Goodale's office unannounced as he has refused to meet with constituents who are PSAC members. We are awaiting a response from his office for a meeting.

MP lobbying took centre stage over the month of April in the Prairies. Our staff did a great job of mobilizing members and helping to set up meetings. I was able to directly lobby Liberal MPs Terry Duguid, Doug Eyolfson and Dan Vandal in Winnipeg. Members also lobbied other area MPs in Winnipeg.

Sister Deb Kosteniuk and Brother Alec Goertzen met with Calgary Centre MP Kent Hehr and got him to write a letter to the Treasury Board Minister! Sister Kirsten Strachey also lobbied Conservative MP Blaine Calkins (Red Deer – Lacombe) and had a fruitful discussion. In Lethbridge, Sister Krysty Thomas met with Conservative MP Rachel Harder who also wrote to the Treasury Board Minister.

Members from USJE, AGR and UHEW attended Minister Jim Carr's constituency office on March 28th. Nestor Galnaryk (SV Bargaining Team Member) spoke to the minister and relayed the frustration of our members with the speed of bargaining, lack of mandate and insulting proposals. No commitment was made but we got our message across.

On May Day Sister Deb Kosteniuk, PRC RWC Representative, Calgary RWC Chair and National HRC member, spoke on behalf of the PSAC about the challenges our members have faced during the current round of bargaining and the struggles members are still facing due to the disastrous Phoenix pay system. Sister Michelle Lang did the same in Regina. They both did our union proud!

Several locals – and more every day! – are joining the “Return to Sender” campaign - an action in the Prairies to send Justin Trudeau’s 2015 letter to public servants back to him. This is a great campaign and really seems to hit home with the membership.

The Calgary Regional Women's Committee hosted a Bear Witness Day event at the Harry Hays building on May 10th. The Regional Women's Committee explained Jordan's Principle to everyone who came, including new Canadians and even some management.

Provincial Politics

As a rule, PSAC does not endorse political parties for election. But we do ask our members to keep in mind the values that matter to us as a union: strong support for public services, respect for the rights of workers and support for the human rights of everyone in our communities. That is why endorsed the “Next Alberta” campaign promoted by Alberta’s unions. We also sent out a mailer to all PSAC members in Alberta letting them know what was at stake in this election – thank you to all the members who helped pull that together! We also sponsored three events for labour union members, 1 each in Lethbridge, Calgary and Edmonton.

Jason Kenney is the new Premier of Alberta. We will be keeping a close on his government and – as ever – we will stand with the labour movement. The Alberta Federation of Labour recently held its 2019 Convention - PSAC's VP's for the next two-year term are Krysty Thomas (AGR Lethbridge) and Kirsten Strachey (UTE Red Deer).

In Manitoba, all eyes are on a possible early election call by Brian Pallister's Progressive Conservative government – this despite fixed election legislation that is supposed to give citizens a degree of certainty as to when they will be going to the polls. We are ready to stand up for the rights of our workers under provincial jurisdiction - and all workers - in Manitoba whenever the call is made.

In coordination with UVAE, we continue to lobby the federal Minister of Veterans Affairs to intervene in the healthcare bargaining unit restructure and to ensure that veterans have access for the specialized services of Deer Lodge Centre for years to come.

Thanks to the hard work and advocacy of the labour movement and other organizations, led by the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour, Saskatchewan will be offering paid leave to victims of domestic and sexual violence who require time off from work. Victims of domestic and sexual violence will now be able to take five paid days in addition to five

unpaid days of leave; previously the law stated that they were entitled to be able to take 10 unpaid days of leave. This is a real victory for the power of organizing and mobilization by the labour movement!

Winnipeg General Strike 100th Anniversary

2019 marks the 100th anniversary of the Winnipeg General Strike. This was a formative moment for the labour movement in Canada. 30,000 workers took to the streets to draw attention to the cruelty of their working conditions, chronic unemployment and the indifference of government to the plight of working people.

At the time of this meeting, these events will have passed, but they have not yet as the time of writing. PSAC is a sponsor of the Centennial Gala dinner on May 15th; we will also have a float in the parade on May 25th where we will be joined by National President, Chris Aylward, National Vice-President, Magali Picard and all 7 Regional Executive Vice-Presidents.

Negotiations

A tentative agreement has been reached at Centre for Aboriginal Human Resource Development in Winnipeg.

Bargaining continues at the Royal Canadian Mint for both the Winnipeg and Ottawa locations. The next bargaining meeting will be held from July 8 to 12 in Winnipeg.

Bargaining continues for Winnipeg Airport Firefighters. Next dates are May 29 – 31.

Bargaining continues at the Regina Airport. The employer is looking for monetary concessions but the membership is strongly united against any concessions. Next dates May 14-16.

Workers at Bouygues Energies and Services Canada Ltd. at the Winnipeg Airport ratified their first tentative agreement in February.

After more than two years of negotiations, Research Assistants and Research Associates who are members of PSAC Local 55600 at the University of Winnipeg ratified their first collective agreement in February.

Post-Doctoral Fellows at the University of Saskatchewan were awarded a first contract by through arbitration in late January.

The CA for All National Healing Hospital in Fort Qu'Appelle, SK expired March 31, 2017. Bargaining has not yet started as a result of the provincial government's wage mandate of a 3.5% wage cut. We are in regular contact with other healthcare unions in Sask.

Bargaining continues at DCL 40005 Casino Regina, a Crown Corporation of the Prov. of Sask. While the Minister of Labour indicated in October that the mandated wage cut of 3.5% is off the table, the employer has not confirmed such with our negotiator.

Bargaining last week of February resulted in a wage offer of 0, 0, 0.5 and 1%. The bargaining team rejected the offer and has applied for conciliation.

With the announcement of the sale of the Port of Churchill and the Churchill Marine Tank Farm from OmniTrax to the Arctic Gateway Group, we are requested to resume negotiations for the Port of Churchill which expired Dec. 31, 2015. We have also served notice to bargain for the Churchill Marine Tank Farm which expired Dec. 23, 2018. We are awaiting dates from the employer.

Respectfully submitted,



Marianne Hladun,
Prairies Regional Executive Vice-President

**Sandra Ahenakew
Indigenous Peoples Rep
Prairie Region Council May 2019**

On April 2nd, the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) held its first-ever Indigenous Lobby Day on Parliament Hill, which was the first in Canadian labour history.

The event was co-ordinated by the (CLC) and saw more than 130 trade unionists and community allies meet with 78 Senators and Members of Parliament to discuss issues such as missing and murdered Indigenous women, safe drinking water, honouring residential school children, Indigenous education, and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

At the opening plenary for the event, we gathered for a traditional smudge ceremony and heard from CLC President Hassan Yussuff, as well as Sixties Scoop survivors and traditional elders. In addition, activists took in several dance performances and received training on effective lobbying.

The lobby day is a great example of solidarity in action, and I was thrilled to participate as the PSAC Prairie Region Indigenous Representative.

Satinder Bains
Regina Area Council Rep
Prairie Region Council May 2019

I continue to attend and work with the Regina Human Rights and Regina Area Council committees and attended the meetings on regular bases.

By attending our Regina Area Council and Regina Human rights committee meeting enables us to address the importance of solidarity and that concerns of the workers are shared concerns. We had discussed topics from Labor and Migration, Aboriginal Workers, Women, Workers of Color, Workers with Disabilities, Young Workers and Pride in our meetings. The message is also to encourage our members, workplace and future leaders to play active role in helping all our workers to become even more powerful in the workplace and in our communities. In our meeting we recognized which made me more determined to change the government policies which affect aboriginal and radicalized communities, for LGBT2SQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Two-spirit, Queer) communities and for the people living with disabilities and for women. I believe the message our meetings are to share and look at ways to build a strong, diverse and inclusive work force.

This is what I am taking away from our meeting not just attending them on regular bases.

In Solidarity

Satinder Bains

Alec Goertzen
Calgary Area Council Rep
Prairie Region Council May 2019

During this reporting period, I made myself available for actions to support the membership and PRC in the following ways:

May 15 – attended Area Council meeting

May 9 – participated in PRC conference call

Mar 28 – Alberta Federation of Labor training; Political Action (Provincial election prep)

Mar 27 – met with Kent Hehr, MLA Calgary Centre together with Sis. Deb Kosteniuk,
Regional Women’s Comm. Rep.

Feb 27 – attended Area Council AGM

Feb 7 – participated PRC conference call

2018

Dec 3 & 4 – participated PSAC Lobbying training

Nov 8 – attended Area Council meeting

Thank you for your support.

Alec Goertzen
Calgary Area Council Rep

submitted May 22/19

**Glenn Hollyoake
Young Workers Rep
Prairie Region Council May 2019**

I am pleased to present my first report as Young Workers Rep. I took over as Young Workers Rep in January 2019.

Winnipeg

Before I took over as Young Workers Rep, the executive of the Winnipeg YWC resigned, and the committee is now dormant. I am looking to re-establish this YWC, and there have been emails exchanged from a couple interested individuals.

Edmonton

The Edmonton YWC held their AGM on February 11, 2019. I was not able to attend because I was at work. They have plans to hold informational and social evenings for Young Workers in the near future.

Miscellaneous

In addition to other duties, I’ve been meeting with my national counterparts both formally on the monthly working group call and informally.

Currently the PSAC Young Workers Working Group is working with PSAC staff and Jamey Mills, AEC member with the Young Workers portfolio, to develop a Young Workers section on the PSAC website.

Finally, within my component, CIU, I am the 2nd Vice President & Young Worker Rep for CIU Saskatchewan Branch 40031. I attend the CIU Young Worker Conference Calls that occur periodically. These calls mostly touch on issues related to new employees/members with the classification FB-02, and the vast majority of these members are Young Workers. I also assist the other executive members in my Branch where I can, mainly helping with Membership duties, posting on our Facebook group, etc.

Activities

- January 27 2019: PSAC National Young Workers Rep Call
- March 27 2019: CIU YW Conference Call
- April 30 2019: PSAC National Young Workers Rep Call
- May 10 2019: CIU Saskatchewan 40031 Executive & Stewards Meeting, AGM

Regrets:

- February 11 2019: Edmonton Young Workers Committee AGM
- March 20 2019: Prairie Region Council Communications Committee Meeting
- March 26 2019: PSAC National Young Workers Rep Call

Upcoming:

- May 30 2019: PSAC National Young Workers Rep Call
- September 20 2019: CIU Saskatchewan 40031 Executive & Stewards Meeting, Location TBD

In Solidarity,

Glenn Hollyoake

Instagram: [@PSACPrairiesYWRep](#)

Facebook: [@PSACPrairiesYWRep](#),

Submitted after deadline

Tim Hubick
Southern Saskatchewan Geographical Rep
Prairie Region Council May 2019

It has been an active time in Southern Saskatchewan with, Phoenix pay system rallies, Lobbying and a sit in at Ralph Goodale's office. Various committee meetings and A.G.M.S. Rally to show support to postal workers. Attended vigil for murdered and missing women. Attended Trans day of remembrance. Encouraged members to take part in international Human Rights Day. well as a where has the money gone rally against Saskatchewan government. To name a few a few.

We are currently planning pride events. This year we plan on entering the parade again this year with hopes to enter a float for the first time. This will be finalised in the next few days. So will be report more for next meeting.

I have also attended workshops and training sessions put on by the RO.

Over the past the past months I have worked closely with the regional office in Regina to figure out ways to engage members.

I have attended Area council meetings. Sitting on the executive for this committee. I have guided them on some issues and worked with them on some team building. I have also chaired for Regina Human rights committee this committee is a still in stage of re-development. But has seen much success several new members showing up for meetings.

Issues that still burn strong here in southern Saskatchewan:

The fight against crowns and casino for fair collective bargaining.

The lack of involvement at members at local and committee council meetings.

Phoenix pay system.

Goals for future:

To keep working with the RO and committees to draw in more members to attend meetings.

Continue to reach out and contact with all the locals and explain the purpose of all the committees as I have heard from several members, they do not know what the committees do. Thinking of drawing up a email explaining the purpose to send out to locals to share with members.

I will keep standing up in rallies for crowns.

To keep working with SLF, RDLC, and other unions in solidarity.

To keep all members informed on upcoming events.

To keep phoenix pay system.

Keep members engaged and encourage them to contact the MP as we enter into election year inform members of election concerns encouraging members to educate themselves on the issues.

Keep members informed on bargaining updates and encourage them to support our bargaining teams.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted.

In solidarity,

Tim Hubick

**Valerie Illingworth
Northern Saskatchewan Geographical Rep
Prairie Region Council May 2019**

It has been quite busy since the last Prairie Region Council Meeting.

Events:

Prairie Region Council Meeting - November 15-16 in Winnipeg

Prairie Region Health and Safety Conference - November 17-18 in Saskatoon

Leadership Political Action Training - November 19-20 in Regina

Regional Health and Safety Conference Call- January 16, 2019

PRC Conference Call - February 7, 2019 and May 9, 2019

Treasury Board Bargaining Webinar - April 5, 2019

SLF and CLC Spring School - May 6 – 10, 2019 in Moose Jaw

Also attended many rallies on bargaining and Phoenix.

Respectfully submitted

Valerie Illingworth

Frank Janz
Alternate REVP
Prairie Region Council May 2019

I support and participate with the PSAC prairie region in all their events and activities that put forward our members concerns and issues to the government of the day and Canadian citizens at large.

In solidarity,

Frank Janz

Deb Kosteniuk
RWC Rep
Prairie Region Council May 2019

RWC's were active across our region in the fall, winter and spring doing activities that support women in our membership and our communities.

Winnipeg:

The Winnipeg RWC is struggling; the chair had been unable to hold a meeting since last October and was finally able to hold an AGM on March 20, 2019. Their goals for 2019 include participating in the National Day of Remembrance Brunch, donating towards the MFL Christmas Tree, The Provincial Council of Women's Gala and participating in the region wide No More Fairy Tales/childcare.now campaign. Chair Sheilagh Hanson hopes to take the RWC in a more political direction.

Edmonton:

The Edmonton RWC is very active. They raised funds and purchased underwear, socks, gloves and bus tickets for Kindred House, they laid a wreath at the Remembrance Day Service, and they attended the AFL Brunch for the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. They held their AGM and Open House in December, 2018. Much thanks to Patti Jessome and the past executive and welcome to Kim Cardinal and those taking positions on the 2019 Executive

Calgary:

Calgary held “A Union’s Place is in the Movies” night in September. We watched Norma Rae and the realization of the conditions of workers and the lengths some companies went to stop organization of workers was our main topic of discussion. October 4 was the Sisters in Spirit Vigil; we donated \$1000 towards the bagged lunches for participants and took part in the Vigil. This Vigil continues to grow larger and stronger each year and is now receiving mainstream media attention. In December we organized a toy drive for the Women’s Centre of Calgary, and got \$1500 in toys and gifts from locals in the Calgary area. The RWC members then volunteered in the toy room, helping women pick toys for their kids and then also getting mom a nice gift as well, wrapping them for them. We participated in the Women’s March in January. March 8, 2019 we, together with other unions and the Women’s Centre of Calgary, held a potluck dinner and celebration for International Women’s Day. Our May 10th Bear Witness Day supporting Jordan’s Principle was a great success, attended by a large number of PSAC members at the Harry Hays Building, PIPSC members, some management and even members of the general public. CRA’s employer driven equity committee celebrated the day as well and advertised our event to all members and management. Our executive remains unchanged from 2018.

Lethbridge:

Lethbridge RWC women are strongly involved in AC, and the two often meet on the same evening. Lethbridge RWC again supplied a bouncy castle for the Lethbridge Labour Day Picnic, which always is a huge crowd pleaser. Committee members made a financial contribution and attended the Lethbridge Sisters in Spirit Vigil on October 4. They participated in the Person’s Day Brunch on October 10. They donated \$300 towards CIU Coult’s food basket project. They held a social in December, and also participated in Write for Rights that same month. They participated in the Women’s March in January and served cake to members for IWD in March. Lethbridge has been progressive, with the Chair position being co-shared for a time and now being held by Kris Slattery.

Regina RWC:

The Regina RWC led their third fourth and final Mother’s Day Walk in 2018. I believe they held a pancake breakfast in conjunction with the walk. They participated in a Candlelight Vigil at St. Paul’s Cathedral for December 6th. They did a donation for White Pony Lodge to make up gift packages for women working the streets; the packages would contain items like mitts/gloves, scarves, condoms and socks and also reach out to unionized hotels to donate toiletries to the packages. They have had very good success with holding self defence courses for women, and they are looking to continue that with another course in 2019. Michelle Lang remains chair and has a great Executive behind her.

Saskatoon:

Saskatoon RWC shows good rebuilding of the committee after a period of inactivity in 2017 into early 2018. They acknowledged Orange Shirt Day Oct 30th, advocated for attendance at the LGBT Networking breakfast, learned about Babes Who Brunch and empowerment of women; participated in the childcareforall.ca campaign on November 20; contributed to and participated

in the Seasonal Social put on by Area Council; they retain their involvement with Moontime Sisters and the donation of menstrual products and are looking to participate in the MMIW walk in May 2019. Leila White has stepped down as Chair, and Corinne McKay is the new Chair.

PRC Women's Rep activities:

Sept 2018 – participated in RWC A Women's Place is in Her Union Movie Night
Sept 2018 - participated in Unions Work For Women course in Regina
Nov 2018 – participated in political action training in Winnipeg
Nov 2018 – attended PRC meeting
Dec 2018 – attended National Human Rights Committee Meeting
Dec 2018 – attended/participated in the Toy Drive drop off, Christmas Social Night
Dec 2018 – volunteered at the Toy Room, Women's Centre of Calgary
Jan 2019 – attended IWD planning committee meeting
Feb 2019 – attended IWD planning committee meeting
March 2019 – teleconference call with steering committee for Regional Women's Committee
March 2019 – attended IWD event
March 2019 – participated in lobbying at my MP's office
May 2019 – participated in May Day rally, gave speech
May 2019 – sent out newsletter to RWC chairs
May 2019 – attended Bear Witness event

** Varying dates between Sept 2018 and present – worked on reviving “No More Fairy Tales” childcare campaign; various calls and emails throughout period

**Michelle Lang
DCL Rep
Prairie Region Council May 2019**

From November 2nd to 4th, 2018 members representing Directly Chartered Locals gathered together in Montreal. DCLs have been a part of PSAC for more than 20 years and represent over 30,000 members. Sectors represented included gaming, University workers, municipal government workers, Indigenous and community organizations, research and development workers and security and law enforcement.

Together we discussed strategies to build membership strength and to win better working conditions for the members. We discussed creative ways to bargain and mobilize that we have used to win better wages and working conditions.

Chris Aylward addressed the members, stressing the importance of listening and learning from each other and being open to change so that the Union can be stronger.

From March 25th to 27th. 2019 representatives of every bargaining unit of university workers took part in a university round table discussions in Ottawa. This was the first meeting of that kind to take place. The university sector is growing and is currently around 23,000 members in 57 bargaining units across Canada.

Working conditions are highly precarious and jobs are mostly temporary which creates challenges for locals and in turn members.

Chris Aylward and Magali Picard were there to hear from members about how university locals can engage with all levels of the union and how PSAC can better support them.

Delegates asked for better communication and information-sharing, more resources and tools from the national and regional offices, and greater access to PSAC decision-making. They offered creative and innovative ideas on how we can work better together within the union.

Workshops raised several key issues:

- whistleblower protections
- top-ups to benefits (parental and disability)
- child care benefits
- job security
- wage increases, including cost of living adjustments
- wages/benefits need to compensate for tuition hikes (especially for international students)
- human rights protections

Participants also discussed challenges to getting collective agreement improvements, such as the difficulty of long negotiations when the membership are often on short contracts. They also shared ideas about how the union can build on successes. All groups showed a strong appetite for better sector coordination, nationally and regionally.

Speaking of bargaining talks with Casino Regina have broken down and will be going to conciliation. While upper management received a 23% increase in the previous year they are offering peanuts to the staff. The agreement expired December 2016 and since then we have finally got the -3.5% concession off the table. Now being offered 1.5% over 4 years is not good enough especially seeing the increase upper management received to their already over inflated salaries. Members are wondering if they do chose to strike will PSAC have our backs. The last strike left a bitter taste in some people's mouths and are scared to take that risk again. I will inquire with the right people to make sure our members are 100% informed before casting a ballot.

In Regina we held a May works week. First one we have planned. I attended the parade as well as a karaoke night. I thank Friend Sandra for bringing some delegates from the UNE conference by to have some fun. Next years will be planned for all ages and promoted through the channels to get people out.

**Chris Little-Gagne
GLBTQ2+ Rep
Prairie Region Council May 2019**

Nov 1 – 4 PRC Meeting
Nov 8 – LGBT Arm Chair Discussion Canada School of Public Service
Nov 19 – 21 PSAC Childcare Lobby in Ottawa
Dec 3 – 5 PSAC National Human Rights Committee (NHRC) meeting in Ottawa
Jan 9 – PSAC Prairies National Officer Call
Jan 10 – PSAC Prairies Bargaining Webinar
Feb 6 – Meet with PSAC Members in Churchill
Feb 7 – PRC conference call
Feb 26 – PSAC NHRC conference call
Mar 26 – Meet with Prime Minister with other union activists
May 9 – PRC Conference call
May 24 – 26 PRC Meeting
May 25 – Parade/Rally on 1919 Winnipeg Strike 100 year anniversary
May 29 - PSAC NHRC conference call
Jun 2 – Pride Winnipeg

1. PSAC LGBTQ2+ Rep Letter: Activities on the Prairies (April 5, 2019)

Members of our union family,

My name is [Chris Little-Gagné](#) and I am your elected LGBTQ2+ Representative on the Prairie Region Council. Below is very important information that can be used to engage with our members and our communities.

May 17th is the International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia. The 2019 campaign has yet to be announced, so continue to visit www.homophobia.org to get great information or print off posters. This site will help gain tools and activities on diversity and inclusion at your workplace. (Digital information should be available soon.) The past campaigns have been:

[2018 : Rights in the world](#)

[2017 : No matter the gender](#)

[2016 : Homophobia affects all ages](#)

[2014 : Homoparentality](#)

[2012 : Diversity at work pays off](#)

[2010 : Homophobia in sports](#)

[2007 : Sexual orientation is not a choice](#)

[2005 : Presumed heterosexual](#)

[2003 : Shocking ? Only for homophobes](#)

[2015 : Allies show their colors](#)

[2013 : Fighting homophobia online](#)

[2011 : Same sex couples](#)

[2008 : Homosexuality is not a disease](#)

[2006 : Homophobia is hiding](#)

[2004 : War against homophobia](#)

As we are currently entering the Pride season, below are the current events. Please let us know what PSAC committees and members are doing to show support. We would love to share photos of local pride events on the PSAC Prairies website. You can let Thomas Linner know at linnert@psac.com

Alberta

- [Jasper Pride](#): April 25 to 28
- [Edmonton Pride Festival](#): June 7 to 16
- [Lethbridge Pride](#): Dates TBA
- [Central Alberta Pride Week](#) (Red Deer): August 10 to 18
- [Calgary Pride](#): August 23 to September 2
- [Medicine Hat Pride](#): Dates TBA
- [Gay and Lesbian Association of the Peace](#) (Grand Prairie): Dates TBA
- [Fort McMurray LGBTQmunity](#): Dates TBA

Saskatchewan

- [Moose Jaw Pride](#): Dates TBA
- [Prince Albert Pride Week](#): Dates TBA
- [Southwest Saskatchewan Pride](#) (Swift Current): Dates TBA
- [Saskatoon Pride](#): June 14 to 22
- [Queen City Pride](#) (Regina): June 7 to 16

Manitoba

- [Brandon](#) Pride: June 10- 16
- [Pride Winnipeg](#): May 24 – June 2
- [Pride North of 55](#) (Thompson): Dates TBA

- [Steinbach Pride](#): July 20
- Winnipeg should also focus on [Fierte Canada Pride](#) for an activity in July 16 to 27, 2020.

I would like to remind everyone of the great PSAC campaigns ([Child Care](#) and [Pharmacare](#)). These campaigns do affect the LGBTQ2+ community as well and there could be some great tie-ins and support from the community if approached. Please contact me if you are looking at gaining more information about the [Positive Space](#) initiative and how you can bring diversity and inclusion for LGBTQ2+ members to your local/workplace.

I am working with [Canadian Virtual Hospice](#). They are developing online palliative care and grief support tools to meet a variety of needs for LGBTQ2+ patients, partners, families, caregivers, and their care providers across Canada.

They are looking for people in these communities who have had personal experiences navigating the healthcare system when it comes to advanced illness, and who are willing to share their stories or add their voices to help others, through our award-winning online tools.

They are asking people to share their personal perspectives, experiences and insights as they develop these support tools.

If you are interested in being a part of this project or would simply like some more information, please feel free to get in touch with us at Canadian Virtual Hospice.

2. PSAC LGBTQ2+ Rep Letter: IDAHOT (May 17, 2019)

Dear members of our union family:

On the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia (May 17th), the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) joins in solidarity with LGBTQ2+ workers to eradicate discrimination. On May 17, 1990, homosexuality was removed from the World Health Organization's (WHO) list of mental disorders. In 2003, Fondation Émergence created the first national day against homophobia. You can find more information on Fondation Émergence and the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia here: <https://www.fondationemergence.org/la-journee?lang=en>

This year's theme is "*Online Violence against LGBTQ2+ people has real life consequences*". Though there has been real progress made, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer and two-spirit people continue to face discrimination and harassment at work and in their daily lives – and the growing power of online hate groups is only making matters worse. So we must stay vigilant. 73% of LGBTQ2+ people have been personally attacked or harassed online.

Here in the Prairies we are watching with concern as the new United Conservative Party government in Alberta under Premier Jason Kenney has pledged to undo legislation passed by the previous government to protect Gay/Straight Alliances in schools. There is some good news. In Budget 2019 the federal government committed \$20 million over

2 years for community-based initiatives to support LGBTQ2+ people in Canada, and \$1.2 million in 2020-21 for the LGBTQ2+ Secretariat. These are positive steps, but more must be done.

That is why last year PSAC launched our campaign to build trans-inclusive workplaces. More information on these initiatives can be found here. <http://psacunion.ca/transrights>

Gus Mardli
South-East Manitoba Geographical Rep
Prairie Region Council May 2019

Greetings Union Family and Friends

A list of activities I participated in:

-November 1, 2018 – Participated in a Treasury Board Regional Strategy Session at the Winnipeg Regional Office

-November 8, 2018 – Attended Winnipeg Area Council meeting

-November 17 & 18, 2018 - Participated in the Prairie Region Triennial Health & Safety Conference in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

-December 19, 2018 – Attended the Seasonal Celebration at the Winnipeg Regional office. Great time with Manitoba activists and Sister Marianne Hladun

-January 10, 2019 – Attended Prairies Webinar on Treasury Board Bargaining

-January 15, 2019 – Attended Winnipeg Area Council meeting

-February 7, 2019 – Regretfully I couldn't Participate in an official PRC Conference Call

-March 13, 2019 – Attended Winnipeg Area Council AGM

-March 26, 2019 – Attended an event at the Manitoba Federation of Labour (MFL) while Prime Minister Justin Trudeau paid a visit to Winnipeg and met with few labour leaders (including Sister Marianne Hladun) from the MFL.

-March 28, 2019 – Participated in a sit-in lobbying at Minister Jim Carr office in Winnipeg.

-April 17, 2019 – Participated via telephone in a Winnipeg Area Council meeting

-April 17, 2019 – Attended an exclusive Webinar with PSAC National VP Sister Magali Picard and Prairies REVP Sister Marianne Hladun.

-May 9, 2019 – Participated in an official PRC Conference Call

Have a great and a productive PRC meeting everyone. Looking forward to continue working with each and every member on the PRC as well as representing locals and members in South East Manitoba in a very productive cycle.

Respectfully Submitted

Gus Mardli

**Wanda Quennell
Separate Employer Locals Rep
Prairie Region Council May 2019**

Hello All

Ever since Shaun stepped down it has been an adventure taking on the Separate Employer Rep position. In October along with the DCL Rep, Michelle Lang, we hosted the first and hopefully more of these separate employer and dcl conferences. It was a fantastic opportunity to get together and for us to discuss our issues and find out what works for us and doesn't. Our issues are similar to our federal brothers and sisters of the union. But having the provinces in charge helps things to be even more challenging in PSAC

I have been participating in the Prairie Regional Council in person and teleconferences representing us as well. One of our members who was at our conference has created an Separate Employer/DCL Facebook page on his own. If you are interested please let me know at: quennew@psac-afpc.com

I am grateful for Alison Davis for giving me a list of Separate Employer local presidents to get on contact with. If you can't to get in contact with me I am available at quennew@psac-afpc.com

Thank you and Solidarity to us all,

Wanda Quennell

**Dragana Ristivojevic
Edmonton Area Council Rep
Prairie Region Council May 2019**

I spent numerous hours in reconnecting and holding conversations with my coworkers as to why the loss of interest with their Union and what issues they felt were important to them for example: bargaining, phoenix and the two elections (the Alberta provincial and the federal), etc.

It was my honor to present Sister Elaine Gariepy who was the winner of the Prairie Member Contest with her travel voucher.

Lunch hour rallies were held outside of Canada Place in showing our support for the bargaining team. Cookies helped entice UTE members to come out.

On May 17, 2019, Justine Trudeau was expected to arrive at the Shaw Conference Centre. It was Friday, many of our UTE members are on CDO's, we all decided that we still should go out and show Justine Trudeau that we were **not** happy. We grabbed "We Support Our Bargaining Team" signs and went outside. There was a very large group of supporters for the Alberta oil and gas. They were loud. This rally was turning out to be very successful. Both Sisters Anne Juneau and Carm Chan brought with them flags, "Burn't by Phoenix shirts" and more "We support our Bargaining Team".

An Edmonton UTE committee is being created where planning and implementing future rallies will be discussed. More rallies are needed. This committee will focus on engaging more members to participate in Union activities. I submitted my name to be part of this committee as I love being at these rallies and I feel the need to increase the number of rallies, talking to MP's, etc. With these planned events, the members will see that the Union is there for them.

In Solidarity,

Dragana Ristivojevich

**Krysty Thomas
Lethbridge Area Council Rep
Prairie Region Council May 2019**

The theme of this term was Phoenix, bargaining and the Alberta provincial election.

Phoenix Actions:

Shortly after the PRC Face-to-Face meeting in November the Lethbridge and District Area Council (LDAC) organized the "Payday Pizza Picket" in support of Phoenix. This rally was held at lunchtime on November 14th outside MP Racheal Harder's office to demonstrate our frustration over the Phoenix Pay System. We had approximately 45 people in attendance from both the public and our membership. Two different media outlets (CTV and Lethbridge Herald) were present and our event ended up on the front page of the Lethbridge Herald. Ms. Harder was unable to attend but prepared a letter of support about the Phoenix issue and forwarded that to the Finance Minister on our behalf.

Bargaining Actions and Lobbying:

I participated in two bargaining webinars this term. One presented by the REVP's office and the other Magali Picard. Myself and Br. Joel Bermack (UTE) lobbied our MP, Racheal Harder on March 13 to discuss the current situation with Treasury Board (TB) and CRA bargaining. The meeting was very constructive and MP Harder followed up with a letter to Minister Joyce Murray, President of the Treasury Board encouraging her to ensure a new collective agreement is completed prior to the House rising for the next general election. Lobby reports and copies of the letter have been forwarded to the Regional Office.

On February 26, I was in Ottawa to take part in the CLC Lobby Day around pension reform and Pharmacare. There was a mandatory PSAC training session regarding bargaining lobbying. Throughout the day was scheduled to meet with three senators and one MP so I was only able to bring up TB bargaining in the meeting with the MP John Barlow, Conservative MP and Shadow Minister of Labour. Unfortunately he didn't commit to any actions but did say that going forward his party would like to have a better relationship with labour. He acknowledged that the way the Conservative Party of Canada treated Labour under Steven Harper was disrespectful and that as shadow Minister of Labour he vows to never go down that road again. He mentioned that if the Conservatives form government in the next election that he would like to start off on the right footing with labour. He mentioned that the attacks on labour through the final bills that were put through when the Conservatives were in power were not a way to build respectful relationships. He mentioned that he would welcome the opportunity to talk with the Alberta Federation of Labour on ways to work together in the future.

Alberta Provincial Election:

The LDAC promoted the Election Town Halls for Union Members that took place April 1st at the Galt Museum in Lethbridge. This event centred around What's at Stake for Alberta's provincial election. There was a panel of speakers including President of the Alberta Federation of Labour, Gil McGowan as well as other union leaders including: Heather Smith, United Nurses Association President, Mike Parker, Health Sciences Association of Alberta President, and Doug O'Halloran, UFCW 401 President. Several members of the LDAC were in attendance.

As President of the LDAC I helped to review and endorse a special edition of Union Voice: Alberta Election Edition that was sent to all Alberta PSAC members before the provincial election that took place April 16th.

I was a PSAC delegate to the 51st Constitutional Convention of the Alberta Federation of Labour that was held April 30th – May 5, 2019 in Calgary. I had the honor of serving on three committees including the general resolution committee, credentials committee and the balloting committee. The week was full of engaging and motivating speakers and workshops related to Labour's plan to combat the "Summer of Repeal" as promised by Jason Kenny and the newly elected UCP government. At convention was I elected at Vice-President to the AFL Executive Committee and Council.

Should you have any questions about my report, please contact me directly at munnsk@gmail.com or phone 403.393.2688.

Activities since last report:

- November 2-4:** Attended the PRC Face-to-Face Meeting, Winnipeg MB
November 14: Burnt by Phoenix Payday Picket, MP Racheal Harder's office, Lethbridge, AB.
November 21: Local's (AGR 30048) Annual General Meeting
November 29: Canadian Labour International Film Festival, Lethbridge
December 2-4: Political Action Training, Edmonton
December 6: National Day of Action for Violence Against Women Event, Lethbridge YWCA
December 6: Prairie PSAC Education Consultation, Lethbridge
December 10: Amnesty International Write for Rights, Human Rights Day, Lethbridge
December 11: Participated in workplace UMC meetings
January 8: AFL Conference call
January 9: Lethbridge and District Labour Council Monthly Meeting
January 10: Prairie Region Webinar on Treasury Board Bargaining
January 19: March On Lethbridge, Annual Women's March/Rally, Lethbridge
January 22: Lethbridge Regional Women's Committee – Volunteer Social
January 23-24: Alberta Federation of Labour Executive and Council Meetings, Calgary
February 4: Lethbridge and District Area Council Meeting – Regular Meeting
February 5: Local 30048 – Regular Meeting
February 7: PRC Conference call
February 13: Lethbridge and District Labour Council Monthly Meeting
February 25-26: CLC Lobby Day Ottawa, Pharmacare, TB bargaining, and Pension Reform
March 4: Lethbridge and District Area Council Meeting – Regular Meeting
March 4: Lethbridge Regional Women's Committee – Regular Meeting
March 8: International Women's Day Workplace action
March 8-10: Agriculture Alberta Regional Seminar, Lethbridge
March 12: Participated in workplace UMC meetings
March 13: Lobby MP Rachel Harder about bargaining
March 13: Lethbridge and District Area Council Meeting – Regular Meeting
March 19: Timeout Tuesday – workplace action around bargaining
March 21: National Human Rights Committee, Agriculture Union Conference call
March 22: Alberta Workers Health Centre – Health and Safety workshop, Lethbridge
April 1: Election Town Halls for Union Members, Lethbridge
April 4: Leaders Tour, Chris Aylward, Magali Picard, and Marianne Hladun, work place tour
April 10: Lethbridge and District Labour Council Monthly Meeting

April 17: Bargaining Webinar with National VP Magali Picard
April 27: PRC Finance review, all day conference call
April 28: Attended the Lethbridge Day of Mourning Ceremony, Mountain View Cemetery
April 30: Alberta Federation of Labour Executive and Council Meetings, Calgary
May 1: AFL Pre-Convention Committee Meetings
May 1: PSAC May Day Rally, Calgary AB
May 2-5: AFL Convention
May 8: Lethbridge and District Labour Council Monthly Meeting
May 9: PRC Conference Call
May 15: National Human Rights Committee, Agriculture Union Conference call

Upcoming:

May 24-26: PRC Face-to-Face Meetings, Winnipeg
May 25: Winnipeg General Strike Commemoration
June 4: Regular Meeting of the Lethbridge and District Labour Council
June 4: Regular Meeting of the Lethbridge Regional Women's Committee
June 20-24: National Human Rights Committee Face-to-Face, Agriculture Union Conference
June 24-26: AFL Strategic Planning Session

In Solidary –

Krysty Thomas
PSAC Lethbridge and District Area Council President

