

Prairie Region Council Rep Reports November 2016:

Position	Name	Page #	Rec'd by Deadline
REVP	Marianne Hladun	2	Yes
Racially Visible Persons Rep	Sam Akinsanya	33	Yes
Regina AC Rep	Satinder Bains	37	Yes
Prince Albert AC Rep	Shannon Blum	40	Yes
Southern SK Rep	Deanna Getz	43	Yes
Calgary AC Rep	Alec Goertzen	44	No
PWD Rep	Kim Haynes	45	Yes
GLBT Persons Rep	Timothy Hunt	47	No
Aboriginal Peoples Rep	Janette Husak	48	Yes
Northern SK Rep	Valerie Illingworth	49	Yes
Westman AC Rep	Glen Johnston	49	Yes
RWC Rep	Gloria Kelly	50	Yes
Southern AB Rep	Deb Kosteniuk	55	Yes
Lethbridge AC Rep	Gregory Krokosh	61	Yes
DCL Rep	Michelle Lang	62	Yes
Edmonton AC Rep	Ben Lemon	62	Yes
SE Manitoba Rep	Gus Mardli	64	Yes
Saskatoon AC Rep	Jackie Nettleton	66	Yes
Winnipeg AC Rep	Matt Tijani	66	Yes
NW Manitoba Rep	Michael Weisgerber	67	Yes

Young Workers Rep	Nathaniel Angus-Jackman	No Report
Alternate REVP	Frank Janz	No Report
Separate Employers Rep	Chad Kemery	No Report
Northern AB Rep	Murray Pruden	No Report

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

This report covers the period from the last PRC meeting.

SUPPORT OUR PORT

On July 25, OmniTrax Canada advised UCTE members working at the Port of Churchill that they were cancelling the grain shipping season and workers currently on staff would be laid off effective August 8. Workers not yet called in for the season were notified they would not be called back. And who's responsible for the decision? Former Brandon—Souris Conservative MP Merv Tweed was the President of OmniTrax Canada. It's obvious he inherited the same management style as his former boss, Stephen Harper, with disdain for workers' rights and disregard for the community.

Together with UCTE, we have been working hard for immediate solutions to address this crisis for the community of Churchill. Our members make up roughly 10 percent of the town's population. The privatization of the port was a complete failure, so we are calling on the federal government to maintain the facility as a port authority.

To date, we have been in contact with Niki Ashton (NDP MP, Churchill—Keewatinook), Judy Klassen (Liberal MLA, Keewatinook), Labour Critic Tom Lindsey (NDP MLA, Flin Flon) and Churchill Mayor Michael Spence. We've also met with Labour Critic Sheri Benson (NDP MP, Saskatoon West), Daniel Blaikie (NDP MP, Elmwood—Transcona) and Environment & Agriculture Critic Cathy Sproule (NDP MLA, Saskatoon Nutana).

Federal Liberal MPs have all refused to meet with us—specifically, Jim Carr, Minister of Natural Resources. Minister Carr has been tasked with “intelligence gathering,” but was too busy to meet with PSAC representatives because he was meeting with “stakeholders.” Apparently the Liberal caucus does not believe that workers are stakeholders too. Manitoba Premier Brian Pallister's office directed us to Cliff Cullen, Minister of Growth, Enterprise and Trade (PC MLA, Spruce Woods), but after repeated unreturned calls and a tentative meeting date that was cancelled, they have not returned requests to meet.

PSAC and UCTE have launched a campaign to #SupportOurPort, including window signs and buttons as a show of support and they are being used all over Churchill. We are also in contact with the National Farmers Union and Canadian Wheat Board Alliance. Our campaign has gained national attention in the House of Commons and the media.

We have also joined with the local community to create a Facebook group called “Support Our Port.” Many of the affected workers are members of the group, so I encourage you to join the group, sign the petition calling on the Feds to take back the

port, and leave messages of support. You can also use the #SupportOurPort hashtag on Twitter to show your solidarity.

#FIXPHOENIX

The Phoenix pay system fiasco continues to impact our members from coast to coast. The federal government has now confirmed it will not meet its October 31 deadline to clear the backlog of 80,000 cases that had accumulated as of June, due to the problems caused by the implementation of the Phoenix pay system. This has been a major priority for PSAC in the Prairies and across the country since the summer.

We held a webinar for members in the Prairies, attended by over 75 members. I want to thank all those who attended, and our guest speakers, Brother Chris Aylward and Sister Donna Lackie, for being available to answer questions. I also want to thank all the members who have been active on this issue, both online and in their workplaces, including USGE members who held an action outside the Saskatchewan Penitentiary in Prince Albert on September 15.

SAVE OUR HOT SPRINGS

It has been several years since we launched our Save the Hot Springs campaign with UNE. The campaign's goal was to raise public awareness about the Harper government's decision to commercialize three national Hot Springs (Jasper, Banff and Radium), and ultimately prevent the privatization. During the campaign, we met with First Nations leaders and held community town halls in Jasper and Radium.

On September 2, the Minister responsible for Parks Canada announced that the Agency would no longer pursue the privatization of the Canadian Rockies Hot Springs. This is a true victory for all the members within our Parks locals that took action. Thank you for your hard work and commitment, and congratulations!

PROVINCIAL POLITICS

Provincial elections were held in Saskatchewan on April 4, 2016 and Manitoba on April 19, 2016. The re-election of the Sask Party under Brad Wall means that crown corporations remain at risk of privatization—despite a campaign promise that explicitly stated otherwise—and labour rights continue to be stomped on. Meanwhile, the election of the PCs under Brian Pallister in Manitoba is equally troubling, as Pallister has already publically embarked on a campaign to slash spending and open the door to privatization. We have been working with the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour and the Manitoba Federation of Labour to build effective opposition.

The newly elected PC government under Brian Pallister campaigned on changes to the union certification rules. He kept his promise to big business and introduced Bill 7 in the Manitoba Legislature, the bill that would ban card check. It will make it harder for everyday Manitobans to join a union and opens the door to greater intimidation, bullying and harassment by employers.

I joined a full gallery of union members on June 14 to show our opposition to the bill. Even though the bill was on the order paper, the PC's didn't introduce it until the following day. The Pallister government's changes to the union certification rules are fixing a problem that just doesn't exist. Legislative Committee Hearings are expected any day now, providing us an opportunity to present our views on this anti-labour bill. PSAC is preparing a submission on behalf of our members under provincial jurisdiction and I expect to present to the committee on Oct. 27 or Nov. 1.

The Pallister government also announced in early August that they intend to pull out of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation board which will allow fishers in Manitoba to sell outside of the federal marketing board. I am currently working with UEW and UNIFOR to determine the impact to our members at FFMC and a political strategy to ensure the continued employment of our members.

CONFERENCES & EDUCATION

The inaugural Prairies Racially Visible Conference was held September 9-11, 2016 to much success. The goal was to discuss, strategize and mobilize on issues impacting racially visible members in their region, and we regard this first event as a real success.

The Prairies Regional Women's Conference was held June 11-12, 2016. Sisters gathered from across the Prairies and our main objective was to have conference participants reach out and involve other members to build our regional women's committees and mobilize to contribute collectively to social change.

The PSAC Prairie Region also hosted the first Waskawetohta (Taking Action) Conference for First Nation, Inuit and Métis activists from April 22 to 24, 2016.

We hosted a webinar in Sept. for PRC members and Component National Officers on how the process works when grievances are forwarded to PSAC after final level and how best to prepare cases being submitted to G&A. A similar webinar will be scheduled for all members.

We will be hosting a Resolution Writing webinar for Prairie members on Nov. 8.

BARGAINING UPDATES

UTE members took to the streets outside their workplaces across the Prairies to support their bargaining team and—as a result of their actions and work at the bargaining table—a tentative agreement has been reached and ratification votes took place throughout the region into early October.

In other good news, firefighters at the Winnipeg Airport Authority ratified a new collective agreement on August 10. Meanwhile, the agreement at the Edmonton Airport expires December 31, 2016, as does the agreement at Casino Regina.

The Centre for Aboriginal Human Resource Development collective agreement expired on August 7, 2015. The bargaining team has met with the employer several times and exchanged proposals. The June round of bargaining was postponed and we're currently looking at new dates.

Winnipeg Protective Services Officers at the Royal Canadian Mint are in negotiations. The Employer presented an economic offer on May 11, and we are now down to pay issues, with the next round scheduled for November 1 and 2.

Bargaining is underway at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. Priority is being given to address systemic precarious work issues, particularly for front-of-house staff.

Negotiations are also underway at the University of Winnipeg with our academic, research and English Language Proficiency units. Negotiations continue at the University of Saskatchewan to achieve our first collective agreement.

Negotiations will be starting shortly at Brandon University and are currently underway at the Winnipeg Airport Authority – GBU.

Myself along with Brother John MacLennan (UNDE Nat. President), Sister Mona Simcoe (UNDE RVP Sask/Manitoba) and negotiator Sister Dolly Ablitt attended a membership meeting on September 6 for UNDE Local 40800 in Moose Jaw. We had requested conciliation but due to timelines, we proceeded to mediation with the Conciliation Officer in mid-October. A strike vote was held prior to the mediation dates and the members provided a strong strike mandate for the team as they went into mediation. A tentative agreement was reached through the mediation process and a ratification vote is being scheduled.

NATIONAL UPDATES

The last National Board of Directors meeting took place in September. Our major focus has been the #FixPhoenix campaign, which has had incredible traction in the media and public eye. The national website has a dedicated section to fix Phoenix with regular updates and an online letter submission form that I would encourage all of you to complete.

Our other major focus has been bargaining. I am sure we can all agree that it's disheartening to see the Liberals are maintaining Harper's position at the bargaining table. In response, we've launched a series of radio and print ads appealing directly to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to make good on his word to support public service workers.

Two other areas of national focus are our new Thirsty for Justice campaign and our support for proportional representation. I have been working with Idle No More in Saskatchewan, and an independent analysis of the Husky oil spill was recently released, which I'm happy to say the PSAC is backing. On proportional representation,

the PSAC has joined the Canadian Labour Congress, other unions and Fair Vote Canada to form the Every Voter Counts Alliance. Adopting a PR system is the way to achieve electoral fairness and we support it.

Respectfully submitted,



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

**REPORT OF THE
REGIONAL EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT, PRAIRIES
TO THE
NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

October 4-7, 2016

This report covers the period from the last NBOD meeting in June.

POLITICAL ACTION & CAMPAIGNS

PORT OF CHURCHILL & NORTHERN MANITOBA

Workers at the Port of Churchill (PSAC/UCTE members) were called in to the lunchroom on Monday, July 25th with no prior warning and advised by OmniTrax Canada and advised that they were cancelling the 2016 grain shipping season and workers currently on staff would be laid off effective August 8. Workers not yet called in for the season were notified they would not be called back. Of special note, the CEO of OmniTrax Canada is Merv Tweed, former Conservative MP for Brandon.

Together with UCTE, we have been working hard for immediate solutions to address this crisis for the community of Churchill. Our members make up roughly 10% of the town's population. The privatization of the port was a complete failure, so we are calling on the Trudeau Liberals to put the Port into public ownership as a Port Authority.

To date, we have been in contact with MP Niki Ashton (NDP), MLA Judy Klassen (Liberal) and MLA Tom Lindsey (NDP Labour Critic) and Churchill Mayor Michael Spence. We've also met with MP Sheri Benson, NDP Labour Critic, MP Daniel Blaikie (Elmwood-Transcona) and Cathy

Sproule, Sask. MLA Opposition Critic for Agriculture. The federal Liberal MPs have all refused to meet with us—specifically Minister Jim Carr. Minister Carr has been tasked with “intelligence gathering” but was too busy to meet with PSAC representatives because he was busy meeting stakeholders. Apparently the Liberal caucus does not believe that workers are stakeholders in this scenario. This is yet another example of privatization (under the federal Liberals in the late 1990s) that has failed.

The Premier’s office put us to Minister Cliff Cullen but after repeated calls and a tentative meeting date that was cancelled, they have not returned requests to meet.

PSAC and UCTE have launched a campaign to #SupportOurPort including window signs and buttons as a show of support that are being used all over Churchill. We are also in contact with the National Farmers Union and Canadian Wheat Board Alliance.

We have also joined with the local community to create a Facebook group for “Support Our Port.” Many of the affected workers are members of the group so any messages of support are greatly appreciated. For those Twitter activists, please use the #SupportOurPort hashtag.

We are also whole-heartedly supporting the federal petition from Niki Ashton’s office calling on the Feds to take back the port. You can sign the petition online by going to the Support Our Port Facebook page or by visiting Niki’s website.

SAVE OUR HOT SPRINGS

Its been several years since UNE and PSAC Prairies launched our Save the Hot Springs campaign against the Harper government’s decision to commercialize the 3 national Hot Springs (Jasper, Banff and Radium). At the launch, we met with First Nations leaders and held community townhalls in Jasper and Radium to raise awareness.

On Friday, Sept. 2nd, the Minister responsible for Parks Canada announced that the Agency would no longer be pursuing the concept of commercializing the 3 Hot Spring locations. This is a true victory for UNE, PSAC Prairies and all the members of the Parks locals that took action. Congratulations!

MANITOBA BILL 7

For many years, Manitoba has avoided major labour unrest or job actions. The newly elected PC government under Brian Pallister campaigned on changes to the union certification rules. He kept his promise to big business and introduced Bill 7 in the Manitoba Legislature. I joined a full gallery of union members on June 14th to show our opposition to the Bill. In true PC fashion, even though the bill was on the order paper, the PC’s didn’t introduce the bill until the following day.

Allowing workplaces where a majority of employees have freely declared they want to join a union by signing a union card to apply for fast-tracked certification eliminates the temptation for employers to intimidate their workers. The Pallister government’s changes to the union

certification rules are fixing a problem that just doesn't exist, and only makes it harder for everyday Manitobans to join a union.

ACTIVITY ROUNDUP

Apart from the Port of Churchill, our major focus has been the Phoenix pay system and how it continues to fail our members. We held a webinar for members in the Prairies attended by over 75 members, updating them about Phoenix and the work that we have been doing. Thanks go to our guest speakers, Brother Chris Aylward and Sister Donna Lackie for being available to answer questions. Regional media coverage of the debacle and our efforts has been solid.

On behalf of PSAC members, I sent a letter to every United Way in the Prairies advising that due to the failures of Phoenix, they should prepare for lower donations and should also ensure that donors are aware of other options for giving outside of the government payroll system. The issue was also discussed with MP Sheri Benson (Saskatoon West) who is the federal NDP Labour critic.

We had a table on APTN Live Aboriginal Day at the Forks on June 25th, connecting with the community and handing out our exclusively designed Idle No More pins to the public along with other materials.

National PSAC President Robyn Benson and I were very happy to join a contingent of PSAC members and family at the first-ever Steinbach Pride rally and march. While Federal Conservative MP Ted Falk, among others, declined to participate in this historic march over 3,000 other people came to show their support.

I joined CUPW members at 2 demos along with several PSAC members in support of CUPW during their difficult round of collective bargaining.

I joined the MGEU picket line several times in solidarity with members of the MacDonald Youth Services Crisis Stabilization Local 221 in August, as the Pallister PCs refuse to make reasonable changes for workers. During a break from meetings on the Churchill issue, Sister Christine Collins (UCTE National President) and Sister Teresa Eschuk (UCTE RVP Prairies) joined me in visiting the picket line.

COMMITTEES IN ACTION

Regional Women's Committees

The Winnipeg RWC met in June to debrief the prairies RWC conference. They have made plans to have speakers for their fall meetings to discuss priorities going forward, and continue to receive large scale donations of personal items from community organizations in support of women's shelters. Winnipeg sisters will be active in the Labour Day activities leafleting and canvassing on behalf of child care.

The Calgary RWC, together with Calgary Area Council and Human Rights Committee, will participate in the Labour Day BBQ at Olympic Plaza. They are serving cake; giving out prizes for people who spin the wheel; and discussing what Labour Day means to members of PSAC with the public.

In Regina, sisters attended the first planning meeting for the Sisters In Spirit Candlelight Vigil planned for October. Sisters also participated in decorating and walking with the PSAC float/truck for the Lethbridge Whoop Days Parade, and will have a presence at the Labour Day picnic.

In Edmonton, the RWC is preparing for a seminar in December that will bring together Sisters from Northern Alberta to move forward on an agenda to address domestic violence and access to child care.

Human Rights Committees

The Winnipeg HRC committee participated in a number of activities over the summer. There was a higher than normal member turnout for the Winnipeg Pride Parade on June 5, which was really inspiring. On June 25th, the committee set up an information tent at the Aboriginal Day Festival held at the Forks. On July 9th, members travelled to Steinbach (about an hour to the East of Winnipeg) to participate in the first ever, groundbreaking Pride March in conservative Steinbach, Manitoba. The committee is now preparing for fall activities.

Area Councils

The Winnipeg AC met in June and are in the planning stages for a large presence at the Labour Day Event on September 5, hosted by the Winnipeg and District Labour Council. The Area Council supported the Human Rights Committee and participated in the Winnipeg and Steinbach Pride parade and helped with the June 8th day of action. They are currently actively planning their participation in upcoming Labour day events.

The Prince Albert and District Area Council is planning a townhall meeting on Sept. 28th to both showcase the opportunities for locals to participate in political action in their community but also around the issues of the Phoenix pay system and bargaining. REVP Marianne Hladun and Brother Chris Aylward will be attending along with FB bargaining team member, Sister Brea Lewis.

The Lethbridge Area Council is continuing their work and support of community garden and food bank projects, including the tomato project, a young chef program and completing major irrigation on the raised beds of the community garden.

REGIONAL ABORIGINAL PEOPLE'S CIRCLE

Several RAPC members participated in the Waskewetohta Aboriginal Conference in Winnipeg in April. In conjunction with NAPC, RAPC members have been supporting protest actions around the Husky energy oil spill in the North Sask. River.

PSAC Prairies facilitated several conference calls for community activists from Idle No More, Manitoba Grand Council, Council of Canadians and NAPC and the Prairie Region Council to discuss the impact of the oil spill on First Nations communities along the river. NAPC and PSAC Prairies made a donation to facilitate an independent third party assessment of the environmental and ecological damage caused from the oil spill.

We have also affirmed our support for the Kisiskatchewan Water Alliance which formed following the spill.

COURSES AND 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 10-12, 2016, in Winnipeg. Elected committee members and staff have been working hard to make these a success.

VICTORIES, BARGAINING UPDATES - MANITOBA

- UTE members took to the streets outside their workplaces across the Prairies to support their bargaining team and no doubt a result of the support of the full membership, a tentative agreement has been reached and ratification votes are scheduled throughout the region.
- Firefighters at the Winnipeg Airport Authority ratified a new collective agreement on August 10th.
- The Centre for Aboriginal Human Resource Development collective agreement expired on August 7, 2015. A June negotiating round was postponed and we are now looking at September dates.
- Winnipeg Protective Services Officers at the Royal Canadian Mint are in negotiations. The Employer presented an economic offer on May 11, and we are now down to pay issues, with the next round scheduled for November 1 and 2.
- Bargaining is underway at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. Priority is being given to address systemic precarious work issues, particularly for front-of-house staff.
- Negotiations are also underway at the University of Winnipeg with our academic, research and English Language Proficiency units.
- Negotiations continue at the University of Saskatchewan to achieve our first collective agreement.
- We requested conciliation for UNDE Local 40800 members at ATCO in Moose Jaw. Due to timelines, we will be proceeding to mediation with the Conciliation Officer mid-October. A strike vote will be held prior to the mediation dates. Myself along with Brother John MacLennan (UNDE Nat. President), Sister Mona Simcoe (UNDE RVP Sask/Manitoba) and negotiator Sister Dolly Abblit attended a membership meeting on Sept. 6th

Respectfully submitted,



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

REVP Prairies Activities

May 26	CEIU Local 30851 AGM, Edmonton
May 27	Travel to Winnipeg
May 29	Travel to Regina
May 30	Guest Speaker at USGE Prairies Regional Conference
May 30	UNCSW Debrief Conference Call
May 31	Travel to Winnipeg
May 31	NBoD Education Committee Co-Chairs Meeting via teleconference
June 1	Travel to Brandon
June 2 – 3	MFL Executive Council Meeting, Brandon
June 5	Winnipeg Pride Parade
June 5	Travel to Ottawa
June 6 – 7	AEC Meeting
June 7	NBoD Standing Political Action Committee Meeting
June 8	Tour of UTE Winnipeg Tax Centre with PSAC National President
June 8	Day of Action, various worksites visited
June 9	NBoD Briefing Conference Call
June 10	Presentation to MFL/NDP Review Committee
June 10-12	Prairies Regional Women's Conference, Winnipeg
June 11	UTE Winnipeg Tri-Local Picnic

June 14	Bargaining Rally sponsored by USGE
June 14	Manitoba Legislature for introduction of Bill 7
June 15	June 8 th Debrief of Events Conference Call
June 17	Travel to Ottawa
June 17	Parks NSCC Conference Call
June 20	AEC Meeting
June 21 -23	NBoD Meeting
June 23	NBoD Standing Education Committee Meeting
June 23	Travel to Winnipeg
June 24	NBOD via teleconference
June 24	ATPN Live Aboriginal Day Sponsors event
June 24	NBoD Standing Political Action Committee Meeting via teleconference
June 25	ATPN Live Aboriginal Day at the Forks
June 28	Prairies Bargaining Update Webinar (SV & TC)
June 29	Prairies Bargaining Update Webinar (PA/EB/FB)
June 30	Parks NSCC Conference Call
July 6	AEC Conference Call
July 7	PRC Ad Hoc Recruitment Committee Conference Call
July 9	Inaugural Steinbach Pride Parade
July 12	MGEU Picket Line Rally
July 13	Meeting with Board President of the Winnipeg Islamic Social Services Association
July 15	CUPW Rally
July 19	Meeting with Winnipeg United Way CEO and Labour Rep
July 20	AEC Conference Call
July 21	Presentation to Federal Government Service Canada Service Review Panel, Winnipeg
July 28	ATCO (UNDE 40800) RSCC Conference Call

July 28	Prairies Webinar – Phoenix Pay System
July 29	Port of Churchill Conference Call w/UCTE
July 30	Water is Life (Husky Oil Spill) Conference Call
August 4	Meeting with Daniel Blaikie, NDP MP for Elmwood-Transcona
August 4	Meeting with MB NDP MLA Labour Critic Tom Lindsey
August 4	Meeting with Churchill Mayor Michael Spence
August 4	Prairies Webinar – Phoenix Pay System
August 4	Water is Life Conference Call
August 5	Travel to Churchill
August 5	Meeting with Port of Churchill management
August 5	AEC Conference call
August 5	Port of Churchill Membership meeting
August 6	Travel to Winnipeg
August 8	UTE Day of Action at Winnipeg TSO
August 8	Conference Call with National Farmers Union and CWB Alliance
August 11	ATCO RSCC via teleconference
August 15	Port of Churchill Conference Call with UCTE
August 20	CUPW Rally in front of MP Jim Carr’s office
August 22	Port of Churchill Conference Call
August 24	NBoD Briefing Conference Call
August 24	Meeting with UVAE NVP, Deer Lodge Centre
August 25	Meeting with Univ. of Sask. Local 40004 President and Regional Rep via teleconference
September 1	Travel to Saskatoon
September 2	Conference Call with Service Canada managers re: Churchill
September 2	Meeting with Cathy Sproule, NDP MLA Saskatoon-Nutana & Agriculture critic
September 2	Meeting with Sheri Benson, NDP MP Labour Critic

September 2	Meeting with DCL 40004 U of S Local
September 5	SDLC Labour Day BBQ , Saskatoon
September 6	Travel to Moose Jaw
September 6	UNDE Local 40800 Bargaining update membership meeting
September 7	AFL Political Action Committee Planning Session via teleconference
September 8	Meeting with Prairies Racially Visible Conference Steering Committee
September 8	MFL Executive Council
September 9	Opening of the Prairies Racially Visible Conference
September 9	Port of Churchill RSCC via teleconference

**REPORT OF THE
REGIONAL EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT, PRAIRIES
TO THE
NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

June 21-24, 2016

This report covers the period from the last NBOD meeting in February.

CARE AND SOLIDARITY WITH FORT MCMURRAY

As elected representative for the Prairie Region, I want to express thanks to sisters and brothers who showed what unions are all about during the Fort McMurray wildfires. We were on the ground at Emergency Centres providing direct support for victims. Locals and components donated thousands of dollars in relief funds. I was particularly touched by our colouring book and crayon donation drive for child evacuees. This level of care and solidarity is what we are all about in the labour movement.

We all saw images of billowing flames surrounding escaping car convoys. Entire neighbourhoods were burned to the ground in this tragedy. Fortunately, no deaths or major injuries were reported. We also have to recognize the work that firefighters, emergency care workers and frontline workers did around the clock. Now is the time to help families heal, and

to help them rebuild. The PSAC Prairie Region donated \$5,000 to Red Cross relief efforts and appealed to components, locals and members to give generously; I am proud to say that everyone stepped up in a big way.

On May 11th, I had the opportunity to volunteer at the Edmonton Emergency Relief Services sorting centre with two PSAC sisters. The sheer volume of donated goods was as staggering as is the need. We spent hours sorting donations into boxes and getting them ready to ship to evacuee pickup locations. Tiring work but the spirit of the community volunteers shows true Prairie Pride. We know many members are volunteering their own time to assist and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all members and their families for doing what they can.

PROVINCIAL ELECTION OUTCOMES

Provincial elections took place in both Saskatchewan and Manitoba in April with troubling results. Brad Wall's Saskatchewan Party remains firmly in power, putting Crown Corporations at risk of privatization—despite a campaign promise that explicitly stated otherwise. In Manitoba, the 16-year NDP government was replaced by an ideologically motivated Progressive Conservative majority government under leader Brian Pallister, who has made openly homophobic and sexist remarks in the recent past. This places public infrastructure like education, health care and labour legislation at risk.

We worked closely with the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour and the Manitoba Federation of Labour on their respective provincial election campaigns. We hosted individual telephone town halls with our members in each province and circulated a newsletter to each of our members to provide them with information about the elections, encouraging them to get out there and vote. I also attended a healthcare roundtable with then-Premier Selinger with UVAE RVP for Deer Lodge Centre.

Two PSAC members and one recently retired PSAC member were NDP candidates in the Saskatchewan provincial elections. Unfortunately none were successful in being elected, but their commitment and dedication to their campaigns made us proud to call them PSAC members.

FIGHT FOR 15

PSAC Prairies was prominent in organizing a FF15 event in Winnipeg. PSAC members from the University of Winnipeg in coalition with the students union and the Manitoba Federation of Labour organized a rally and march down Portage Avenue on April 15th to recognize the International Day of Action in the fight for a living wage. Guest speakers included myself, the student union President, MFL President and community anti-poverty leaders. The event, which coincided with the Manitoba provincial election, drew over 200 people on a rainy day.

ALBERTA LABOUR LIAISON

On May 10, I had the pleasure of joining a Labour Liaison meeting in Edmonton with Premier Rachel Notley and members of her cabinet. The provincial government is working closely with the Alberta Federation of Labour and both sides are committed to quarterly labour liaison

meetings. The official meeting was followed by a meet and greet with cabinet and other members of the Alberta NDP caucus. That Premier Notley would proceed with a labour liaison meeting in the midst of the Fort McMurray fire is evidence that there is a true commitment to listen and consult with labour in Alberta.

BANGLADESH SJF SOLIDARITY TOUR

On Feb. 1-12th, I had the privilege of being a PSAC rep on a solidarity tour to Dhaka, Bangladesh. The PSAC SJF Coordinator, Brother Bob Kingston (National President, Agriculture Union) and myself along with representatives from USW, CUPE and UNIFOR were hosted by the Bangladesh Centre for Worker Solidarity. In addition to meeting with staff of BCWS and their community members, we had an opportunity to visit the sites of the Rana Plaza building collapse and the Tazreen factory fire.

We met with union leaders and most profoundly, we met with victims and family members of victims from Rana Plaza and Tazreen. The objective of the tour was to determine the level of progress on health and safety for factory workers so we also met with representatives at the International Labour Organization and the Accord. This was followed by a meeting with Bangladesh government officials responsible for health and safety of workers and the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association. A full presentation will be made to the June NBOD meeting as part of the SJF AGM.

UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (UNCSW60)

In March, I joined Sister Andree Cote, PSAC National Program Officer for Womens Issues and Sister Jeannie Baldwin at the UNCSW IN New York. CSW is an intergovernmental body of the UN dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. Participating countries and civil society organizations (including a strong labour caucus from around the world) discuss successes and gaps in the implementation of the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The priority theme for 2016 was “Women’s empowerment and the link to sustainable development.” They also reviewed the theme from the previous year, which was “The elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls.”

In addition to formal proceedings at the UN General Assembly, workshops and lectures were available in both the UN and at parallel events throughout the area around the UN building. I had the opportunity to attend sessions on sustainable development, seniors’ rights, widowhood, human trafficking, sex tourism, and effects on women in areas of conflict, to name just a few.

Two international labour caucuses were held during the first week to discuss the progress of labour’s agenda on the final draft of agreed conclusions. The event provided many opportunities to connect with Sisters (and Brothers) from labour across the globe. Once the agreed conclusions from each year are finalized, member states will develop strategies and actions to implement the recommendations. The Canadian labour delegation also had the opportunity to meet with Minister Patty Hadju, Minister for the Status of Women.

COMMITTEES IN ACTION

Regional committees and area councils in the Prairies have had a busy few months. Highlights include committee efforts around the Fort McMurray wildfires; International Women's Day; Black History Month and ongoing committee projects.

Regional Womens Committees

Calgary, Regina, Lethbridge, Edmonton and Winnipeg each honoured International Women's Day in their own way, from the annual potluck in Calgary to a free public swim in Lethbridge that drew over 140 people. In a very well received gesture, members of the Calgary RWC located in Red Deer filled and donated 26 purses to the Women's Outreach Centre of Red Deer on International Women's Day. The Regina RWC invited guest speaker Lani Elliot, a domestic violence survivor and performer in the Vagina Monologues, to speak at a recent meeting. The committee is also coordinating with a community garden and plans to donate plants and time to set this up in the North Central area of Regina, which is the most impoverished area of the city. The Lethbridge RWC organized a free public screening of Miss Representation on March 8, and the committee sponsored and co-organized a Women in Science panel on March 23.

Human Rights Committees

The Regina HRC has a new executive and is organizing for Pride Regina and an event for members with disabilities in December. The Northern Alberta (Edmonton) HRC has been organizing for the Pride rally; a Path of Light event in June for National Aboriginal Day and World Humanitarian Day in August. The Winnipeg HRC is working on setting up a Regional Aboriginal People's Circle (RAPC) as a sub-committee. The Winnipeg HRC also celebrated Black History Month in February by showing the video "Simply The Best." There are several activities lined up over the course of the next few months, including working on a bigger presence at the Pride march in June and hosting a table at the APTN Live event being held at the Forks in Winnipeg on June 25th to celebrate National Aboriginal Day.

Area Councils

The Lethbridge & District Area Council has completed its planning for the upcoming year. Approved projects include community and District Labour Council outreach projects. The Calgary Area Council had one meeting during this period, reviewing and discussing their budget and upcoming actions.

The Saskatoon Area Council participated in the Day of Mourning ceremony in Saskatoon. The keynote speaker for the Saskatoon & District Labour Council memorial was Brother Jesse Todd, a member of PSAC Agriculture Union and Chair of the Sask. Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization. The Area Council was also actively engaged in the Saskatchewan provincial elections up to the day of the vote on April 4, holding a "meet and greet the provincial candidates" pancake breakfast in Saskatoon. One of the two PSAC members running as NDP candidates was from Saskatoon and members were on board to support his campaign.

The Prince Albert & District Area Council worked hard with the Regional Aboriginal People's Circle to inform and bring out the vote for the provincial election; they held a pancake breakfast with a panel of provincial candidates where participants asked questions with a clear focus on Aboriginal issues.

The Winnipeg Area Council held their AGM in February. Members participated in the federal pre-budget lobby for MPs in the Winnipeg area; hosted a Federal Budget Watch at the regional office; promoted Treasury Board bargaining updates and mobilized members for the May Day rally in Winnipeg. They also had planned a candidates forum for the provincial election but when the Liberal candidate was removed as a candidate by the party leader, they were unable to provide a replacement. Not surprisingly, the PC party never responded to requests to participate so the election forum was cancelled.

COURSES AND CONFERENCES

Work is underway for our next two 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 10-12, 2016, in Winnipeg. Elected committee members and staff have been working hard to make these a success.

Our first ever Waskawetohta (Taking Action) Conference for First Nation, Inuit and Métis activists was an immense success. We welcomed 25 prairie region members to the conference on April 22 and 23 to develop an action plan for Aboriginal issues in the prairie region between 2016 and 2018, with conference participants taking on lead roles to help implement conference outcomes.

We funded a member to attend the 2016 Saskatchewan Federation of Labour Young Workers' Conference on April 29 and 30. The annual conference gives our members an opportunity to meet with other young workers and learn about issues affecting workers, developing new skills and strategizing about how to make our unions and labour movement even stronger.

In an effort to reach more members especially those outside our urban centres, Regional Rep & Health and Safety Representative Clint Wirth organized a successful violence prevention webinar and the video recording is now available online on our website and YouTube account.

In addition to these courses and conferences were ongoing local officer training (Medicine Hat, Edmonton); courses on duty to accommodate (Alberta) and bullying in the workplace (Lethbridge); Talking Union Basics courses (Saskatoon; Regina); and a course on grievance handling (Winnipeg) and facilitators training (Edmonton).

BARGAINING UPDATES

It is a very busy time for bargaining. We have been coordinating regional bargaining update meetings and conference calls for Treasury Board members across the prairies and actively promoting ratification votes for UTE members. Staff and elected representatives have been working hard to promote and mobilize for the June 8 National Day of Action and we have been

actively promoting the boycott of Public Service Week as a result of the Trudeau Liberal's slow movement at the bargaining table.

The first round of bargaining happened on March 26-28 with ATCO Logistics. The employer is looking for huge concessions around resignation pay along with changes in language affecting sick leave and benefits. Their monetary offer consisted of rollbacks and zero in the first year.

The University of Winnipeg Academic Capacity unit had its bargaining dates cancelled and postponed to the first week of May. The team and members are still actively campaigning for a living wage on campus and have collected over 500 signatures! The local played an active role in organizing and mobilizing for a demo on April 15, led by the Manitoba Federation of Labour, calling on an increase to the minimum wage to \$15/hour. We hope this will result in a better mandate for the University's bargaining team.

Bargaining started with the Canadian Museum for Human Rights in Winnipeg and dates were set through the month of May. There are some serious problems regarding precarious work, lack of job security and scheduling issues.

Workers at the Centre for Aboriginal Human Resource Development had their collective agreement expire on August 7, 2015. A call for input was issued on the week of April 7 and a notice to Bargain issued May 8. The bargaining team was elected; team meetings took place in July and September of 2015 and focus has since shifted to Aboriginal language preference and non-monetary issues. A bargaining update for members took place on April 6 and the next round of bargaining was scheduled for this May.

The input call has been issued for Aramark and bargaining will begin shortly.

Bargaining input was received for NPF Suffield; preparation meetings were concluded; and proposals are now being drafted. Dates were set for May 10 - 12 and May 31 - June 2.

An input call has been issued and notice to bargain issued at Winnipeg International Airport Authority – General Unit- UCTE Local 50600.

Bargaining continues at the University of Saskatchewan for academic workers. Negotiations have commenced and progress has been made to achieve a first collective agreement. Additional dates were scheduled in May.

Proposals were exchanged with the Edmonton Airport for the Edmonton Airport Firefighters. Bargaining will continue in May and an agreement was reached with the employer on arbitration as the dispute resolution mechanism.

A notice to bargain has been issued for the University of Winnipeg ELP. Bargaining dates are being scheduled to commence negotiations.

Bargaining is continuing for the Royal Canadian Mint - Winnipeg Protective Services Officers. This is a newly organized unit with 35 members who perform security services at the Winnipeg RCM facility. Proposals were exchanged with the employer and negotiations continued in April.

The Winnipeg Airport Authority CA expired June 30, 2015, for firefighters at the Winnipeg Airport Authority. Bargaining took place in April and is ongoing.

The Hudson Bay Port of Churchill (OmniTrax Canada) agreement expired March 31, 2016. Demands were exchanged on March 30 and 31, and dates were set for May 11 and 12. In December, 2015, media reports indicated that OmniTrax was being offered for sale. PSAC Prairies REVP and UCTE National President attempted to get information regarding the fate of the employees in the event of a sale. No response was received from two letters sent to the company CEO and both federal MPs and provincial MLAs were contacted.

Respectfully submitted,



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

REVP Prairies Activities

February 1 - 2	Travel to Dhaka, Bangladesh
February 3 - 11	Social Justice Fund Solidarity Tour
February 12 - 13	Travel to Winnipeg
February 16	SFL Provincial Election Campaign Update Conference Call
February 16	Standing Education Committee Meeting via teleconference
February 18	CEIU Local 50770 AGM
February 18	Travel to Saskatoon

February 19 - 20	Prairie Region Council Meeting
February 21	Prairie Region Council & National Officers Joint Meeting
February 22	AEC via teleconference
February 22	Travel to Ottawa
February 23	NBoD
February 23	Standing Education Committee Meeting
February 23	Conference Call with Prairies NAPC reps
February 24	NBoD
February 24	Meeting with Niki Ashton, MP Churchill - Keewatinook Aski Manitoba
February 25	NBoD
February 25	Meeting with Daniel Blaikie, MP Elmwood - Transcona Manitoba
February 26	Travel to Winnipeg
March 1	National Young Workers Working Group online meeting
March 3	SFL Central Strategy Committee Meeting via teleconference
March 5	Travel to Vancouver
March 5 - 6	UDP Step 2 – REVP Panel Presentation
March 6	Travel to Winnipeg
March 7	IWD Breakfast
March 7 - 8	MFL Executive Council
March 11	Travel to New York
March 12 - 21	United Nations Committee on the Status of Women
March 21	Travel to Winnipeg
March 22	UTE Local 50031 Bargaining Rally
March 22	Winnipeg Area Council Budget Watch
March 22	AEC Budget Day Briefing Conference Call
March 23	Prairies Women’s Conference Steering Committee Conference Call

March 24	NBoD Standing Education Committee Meeting via teleconference
March 29	MB Healthcare Roundtable
March 29	SK Provincial Election Telephone Town Hall
March 30	PRC Finance Committee via teleconference
March 30	UVAE Local 50022 AGM
March 31	Travel to Saskatoon
April 1	Meeting with PRC Young Worker Rep via teleconference
April 1	Door Knocking with Sask. Prov. NDP Candidate (and PSAC member), Jesse Todd
April 2 - 3	SK Agriculture Union Regional Seminar
April 4	Vacation – Volunteer for Sask. Provincial Election
April 5	Travel to Winnipeg
April 5	Multi-Local Bargaining Update Meetings
April 6	Multi-Local Bargaining Update Meetings
April 7	Meeting with PRC Finance Committee
April 7	Travel to Edmonton
April 8 - 10	Federal NDP Convention
April 10	Travel to Ottawa
April 11 - 12	AEC Meeting
April 13	AFL Political Action Committee Meeting via teleconference
April 13	MB Provincial Election Telephone Town Hall
April 14	NBoD Political Action Committee Meeting
April 14	Travel to Winnipeg
April 15	UWSA Fight for 15 Living Wage Rally
April 20	Prairies Organizing Conference Call
April 22	Waskawetohta Conference - Opening Remarks & Dinner
April 24	Waskawetohta Conference – Lunch & Closing Remarks
April 26	Prairies Staff Conference

April 27	SFL Central Strategy Committee Meeting via teleconference
April 27	Winnipeg Area Council Meeting
April 28	Day of Mourning Candle Light Memorial
April 28	Brandon University DCL 55601 AGM
May 2	Travel to Regina
May 2	Prairies Organizing via conference call
May 3	CLC Webinar on Article 4 Process
May 3	Regina HRC Meeting
May 4	Regina RWC Meeting
May 5	Multi-Local Bargaining Update Meetings
May 6	Travel to Winnipeg
May 7	Travel to Ottawa
May 7	UNDE 50 th Anniversary Event
May 9	AEC Meeting
May 9	Standing Education Committee Co-Chair meeting
May 9	Travel to Edmonton
May 10	AEC Meeting via teleconference
May 10	Labour Liaison Committee Meeting with Premier Notley and Cabinet Ministers
May 11	Volunteer at Edmonton Emergency Relief Centre
May 11	Edmonton Area Council Meeting
May 12	Travel to Regina
May 13	DCL Local 40005 AGM (two meetings)
May 13	Travel to Winnipeg
May 14	Travel to Ottawa
May 15	NDP Federal Council Meeting
May 15	Travel to Winnipeg
May 17	Meeting with Cindy Murdock – CLC Manitoba Regional Rep

May 17	Meeting with Kevin Rebeck – MFL President
May 24	G & A Webinar with Prairies National Officers and PRC
May 25	Travel to Edmonton

**REPORT OF THE
REGIONAL EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT, PRAIRIES
TO THE
NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

February 23-26, 2016

This report covers the period from the last NBOD meeting.

NEW YEAR, NEW MANDATE

With the election of Justin Trudeau and the new Liberal government, Prairies members are looking forward to open dialogue with MPs and are eager to participate in PSAC’s national lobbying 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. We hope we can maintain that momentum for the provincial elections in Saskatchewan (April 4, 2016) and Manitoba (April 19, 2016).

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 have many members in both provinces under provincial jurisdiction and there is a definite threat to these members from 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 increasingly at risk. The alternative is truly frightening; with the Progressive Conservatives promising wide reaching cuts to public services, privatization of profitable Crown Corporations and a right-wing agenda on social issues.

We need to coordinate activities to ensure that our members are aware of the issues, the impact of the various parties on our members, the impact to ALL members who reside in both provinces and to ensure that our 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.

We will also be participating in the Federation of Labour campaigns in both provinces, including the Own It! Campaign from the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour and the Working Families Manitoba Campaign from the Manitoba Federation of Labour. Visit their websites for more information on these important campaigns.

Letters of introduction have been sent to all Members of Parliament in the region. Several have indicated they would like to meet to discuss our priorities and concerns.

A webinar was held on January 26 for PRC members, national officers and area councils and regional committees (RWC, HRC, RAPC) to discuss implementation of the national lobby campaign. A webinar for all members will be scheduled for mid-February.

All area councils will be contacting locals to recruit members for lobby teams and will be adding a standing agenda item for meetings to review lobby reports.

COMMITTEES IN ACTION

Regional committees and area councils in the Prairies have had a busy few months. Many committees hosted holiday open houses for members and volunteer appreciation events for the dedicated activists who supported our election activities and are involved year-round. These events were in addition to committee members' ongoing engagement within their communities.

Committees and area councils participated in Remembrance Day events throughout the region. In Edmonton, members from the HRC, RWC and Area Council attended ceremonies to pay their respects and lay wreaths. The Saskatoon Area Council and RWC purchased a wreath and participated in the Remembrance Day ceremonies in Saskatoon.

Prairie sisters continued their involvement in December 6 events honouring the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. The Saskatoon RWC held an event at the regional office to commemorate the 26th anniversary with a candlelight vigil and photo display. The PRC RWC Rep Nancy Johnson gave a presentation, which provided insight into why we celebrate that date and the work that the PSAC has been involved in to raise awareness. PSAC's Women's Forum was also discussed, including how PSAC can move forward to bring this

issue to the members through formal education. In Winnipeg, RWC members took part in the MFL's memorial luncheon. Lethbridge sisters also participated in their local event.

It was also the season of giving, as evidenced by our committees' involvement with and donations to local charities. Hot chocolate and cookies were provided to the Metis Friendship Center for their Christmas Dinner on behalf of the Saskatoon RWC and Area Council. The Winnipeg RWC made an annual donation to Kent Road School in support of the breakfast program and supported the MFL Christmas Tree Project, which supports children in need. The Edmonton RWC held a toque and socks drive. Committee members delivered hundreds of toques, socks and toiletries to Mustard Seed to be delivered to the homeless during the holidays.

The Calgary Area Council held a CLIFF film night to watch and review a series of short films developed for the International Labour Film Festival. The Edmonton RWC hosted a domestic violence information session with a guest speaker from United Way.

While outside this particular NBoD reporting period, I must mention an important activity that wasn't included in the October report. Saskatoon RWC members participated in Sisters in Spirit vigils held on October 4, marking the 10th anniversary for the Saskatoon event. The Saskatoon RWC was recognized at the event for their support over the years in raising awareness on the issue of missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls. PSAC members have participated in searches and provided food and refreshment to volunteers. In Lethbridge, RWC members once again participated in the local Sisters in Spirit and Take Back the Night events.

COURSES AND CONFERENCES

Over 60 members attended seven regional education meetings over the past couple months to provide feedback and suggestions for union education. Members applauded PSAC education for providing the chance for members to meet other members from outside their locals and components and to learn from each other. 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.

The 2015 Prairie Region Health & Safety Conference was held November 21-22, 2015 in Winnipeg with over 60 PSAC members in attendance from across the Prairies. Members were treated to a rousing and informative keynote speech by Dr. Leigh Quesnel on the topic of "Towards a Healthy Workplace: Understanding Psychological Harassment and Bullying." Dr. Quesnel specializes in such areas as workplace wellness, creating respectful workplaces, managing bullying and psychological harassment, and stress management, among others. We've posted his speech on the Prairies website.

Over the course of two days, members participated in three workshops, including: Representing Members with DI and WCB Concerns, Medical Privacy - What Info the Employer is Entitled to and When, and Mental Health First Aid. On Sunday afternoon, Brother Bob Kingston gave a presentation on violence prevention in the workplace.

Over 20 Prairies members participated in the popular Unionism on Turtle Island course December 12-16, 2015 at the PSAC Edmonton Regional Office. This course was 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 two 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.

BARGAINING UPDATE

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 their 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 on February 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. We're thrilled to have this solidarity.

The University of Saskatchewan unit, consisting of teaching assistants, research assistants and fellows has elected a bargaining team and prepared the initial package of demands for a first collective agreement. Dates to exchange demands are being confirmed for March through April.

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, with the next round scheduled for February 2016.

We exchanged proposals with the Winnipeg Airport Authority (FR) on November 27, 2015. Our next round is scheduled for March 2016.

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

Additionally, the input call for Aramark Canada Ltd at 15 Wing Moose Jaw was issued on January 12. The notice to bargain was issued on January 25 for Staff of the Non-Public Funds, CFB Suffield, Alberta. The notice to bargain for the Edmonton Airport Authority for both Firefighters and Fire Captains was issued November 25.

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. Provincial and federal governments must act now and invest in the social services and resources needed in this community along with so many northern communities across Canada. Every Canadian deserves to live in a safe and respectful community.

Respectfully submitted,



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

REVP Prairies Activities

September 28 - 29, 2015	MFL Executive Council
September 29	Elections Group Conference Call
September 29	Supporting our Allies Committee Conference Call
September 30	Travel to Regina
September 30	Moderate Area Council Candidate Forum in Regina-Lewvan
October 1	Travel to Winnipeg
October 1	Letter Writing Webinar
October 4	Travel to Ottawa

October 5	Parks Bargaining Team Caucus
October 5	CLC /AFL Federal Election Conference Call
October 6	AEC Meeting
October 6	NAPC By-election Process Meeting
October 6	Travel to Winnipeg
October 7	Prairies Federal Election Telephone Town Hall
October 8	Review of PRC Audit with PRC Finance Committee and Auditor
October 8	Travel to Edmonton
October 9	Meeting with AFL Interim President
October 9	Meeting with Alberta Minister of Agriculture – Oneil Carlier
October 10	CLC Door Knocking Edmonton-Griesbach (Volunteer)
October 11	Travel to Winnipeg
October 13	Travel to Lethbridge
October 13	Meeting with Maria Fitzpatrick, MLA Lethbridge East
October 13	Meet & Greet with the National President hosted by the Lethbridge & District Area Council
October 14	Persons Day Breakfast
October 14	Tour of Research Station AGR Local 30048
October 14	Meeting with Cheryl Meheden, Federal NDP Candidate, Lethbridge riding
October 14	Lethbridge District Labour Council Meeting
October 15	Travel to Winnipeg
October 16	UEW Prairies Regional Conference
October 18	Travel to Saskatoon
October 19	Federal Election – Outside Scrutineer in Saskatoon-Grasswood (Vacation)
October 20	AEC Conference Call
October 20	Meeting with Saskatoon Univ. of Sask. Organizing Team
October 21-23	SFL Convention

October 26	AEC via Conference Call
October 26	Speaker at ASPA Lunchtime Rally
October 27	Travel to Ottawa
October 27-28	NBoD Meeting
October 29	Travel to Saskatoon
October 30	RCM NSCC via Conference Call
October 30	Travel to Winnipeg
November 2	Meet with Keynote Speaker for Prairies H & S Conference
November 5	Meeting with CCPA MB
November 5	Travel to Brandon
November 5	Brandon University Local 55601 AGM
November 5	Travel to Winnipeg
November 9	PRC H & S Committee Conference Call
November 10	Meeting via Conference Call with U of S Local 40004 President
November 12	Meeting with UNE National President & MB RVP
November 12	Travel to Regina
November 13	SFL Political Strategy Meeting
November 13	Travel to Winnipeg
November 15	Travel to Moose Jaw
November 16	NHU SK Regional Conference
November 16	AEC via teleconference
November 16	NBoD Collective Bargaining Committee via teleconference
November 16	Travel to Regina
November 16	SK NDP Labour Reception
November 17	Special NBoD Meeting via teleconference
November 17	AEC Meeting via teleconference
November 17	Travel to Winnipeg

November 18	Travel to Calgary
November 18	GSU Local 30401 AGM
November 18	Travel to Edmonton
November 19	AFL Political Strategy Meeting
November 19	GSU Local 30001 AGM
November 19	Travel to Winnipeg
November 21 - 22	Prairies Health & Safety Conference
November 25	SRG Strategy Conference Call
November 25	Travel to Edmonton
November 26	PRC Committee Meetings
November 26	CEIU Local 30851 AGM
November 27 - 29	Prairie Region Council Meeting
November 29	Travel to Winnipeg
December 3 - 4	MFL Executive Council Meeting
December 4	NBoD Retreat Conference Call
December 4	Travel to Brandon
December 4	Brandon United Way Christmas Tree Auction
December 5	Travel to Saskatoon
December 6	Dec. 6 th Remembrance Vigil at the Saskatoon RO
December 7	Travel to Winnipeg
December 10	National Area Councils' Conference Call
December 10	Travel to Ottawa
December 11 - 13	PSAC National Women's Forum
December 14 - 15	NBoD Strategy Session
December 15	Young Worker Planning Meeting
December 15	Prairies RV Conference Planning Meeting
December 16	AEC Meeting

December 17	Travel to Saskatoon
December 17	Meeting with National President & Cam Broten, Sask. NDP Leader
December 18	U of S Bargaining Local 40004
December 19	Travel to Winnipeg
December 21	UNE Local 50235 AGM
January 8, 2016	AFL Political Strategy Meeting via Conference Call
January 10	Travel to Ottawa
January 11 - 12	AEC Meeting
January 12	RV Prairies Conference Steering Committee Conference Call
January 13	Standing Education Committee Co-Chair Meeting
January 14	CLC Meeting re: UNCSW
January 15	Bangladesh Participants Skype Call
January 15	Mint Ratification Meetings
January 16	Travel to Winnipeg
January 18	NBoD Collective Bargaining Committee via Conference Call
January 20	Interview by Red River College, Labour Studies student
January 20	Winnipeg Area Council Meeting
January 25	AGR Local 50056 AGM
January 26	Special NBoD Meeting via Conference Call
January 26	National Lobby Campaign Webinar
January 27	Treasury Board Mobilization Meeting - Winnipeg
January 28	Treasury Board Mobilization Meeting – Brandon via Conference Call
January 28	Interview by Red River College, Labour Studies students
January 28	Young Worker Working Group Meeting
January 29-30	Manitoba/NWT Ont. AGR Union Regional Seminar

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

1. **Date of Meeting:**

2. **In person**

Teleconference

3. **Aboriginal**

Access

PRIDE

RV

Women

Component

January 12, 2016 - Teleconference:

Participate on the first Steering Committee meeting for the first PSAC Regional conference for RV members.

February 19 – 22, 2016 – Saskatoon:

Attended PRC meeting in Saskatoon.

May 5 – 6, 2016 - Ottawa:

Invited and attended the Steering committee meeting for the National Human Rights Conference taking place at the Sheraton Centre in Toronto. At the meeting the committee was presented with the general theme of the Conference from the perspective of the RV members and we were asked to provide input. This was a one day meeting and we spent the whole day trying to iron-out the theme as well as the subject matter of the workshops.

May 30, 2016 – Teleconference:

Participate on the Steering committee for the PSAC Regional Conference for the RV members.

June 18, 2016 – Calgary:

Attended the “**Calgary IKEA Summit**”. Ikea summit was a meeting called by the Calgary Area Council Chair of all the local committees’ executives. The purpose of the meeting was to brainstorm and come up with ideas on how to reach members and get them more involve in participating in union activities. Out of this summit came the idea of “Ice Cream” day. Simply put, the committee will go to as many locals as possible during their lunch time serving them with Ice cream while engaging them at the same time in conversation of how, why and what they can be involve in their union. The result of this was the Ice cream day of September 29th at the Harry Hays building – which turns out to be a huge success by any interpretation.

June – August 2016:

Worked on organizing the very first PSAC Regional Conference for the RV members..... was an experience to remember!

☐ September 9, – 11 2016 – Regional RV Members’ Conference:

In a nutshell, the conference brought together more than forty members from the RV group for about three full days. Based on the feedback from the attendees, the event was really appreciated and welcome and everyone is looking forward to 2019 for the next triennial event. **Report for the event is still being prepared and it is my hope that you would be able to read it by January PRC meeting or perhaps at the convention.**

☐ September 20 – 21, 2016 – National Human Rights Committee Meeting:

Day one of the meeting was on September 20 at the Westin Hotel in the British Columbia Room. This meeting was among the 7 regional representatives for the PSAC RV members. The meeting was chaired by a National Human Rights Officer who has the portfolio of the PSAC RV members – Seema Lamba.

The meeting started once again by conducting an introduction of the participating members because another one of the originally elected representative had left and have a new replacement coming to the meeting for the first time.

The discussion at the meeting revolves around the following agenda items:

- Identification and Review of Priorities for 2016-2018 PSAC cycle such as
 - a. Regional Updates -- which focus on Educational products – specifically, a course that has been designed and available in the regions for offering. The name of the course if my recollection is right is – “Representation of Racialized Members in the Workplace”.
 - b. Emerging Issues – this discussion focus mainly on how to communicate within our region and among the National working group (W/G). Some of the people raised the issue of not having a data base to communicate with. Suggestion was made to make use of the regional communication officer to send out information on behalf of the regional representative to Racialized members in the region. It was also decided that the new Racialized regional conference is a good way to build a data base for regional members by the representative and we all agreed. It is hope of all in attendance that the conference will ease the communication problem.
- Update on the Regional Conferences for racially Visible Members. This discussion was to find out from the three region that has completed the conference prior to this meeting – i.e. Ontario, British Columbia and Prairie region. All three reps reported that the conference was a success and based on the feedback from the participants delegates, it was worth fight to achieve it and they are all looking forward to the next one.
- Update on the Upcoming National Conference for Racially Visible Members in March of 2017. Discussion focused mainly on the deadline for members to apply as delegates to the conference as well as introducing the Steering committee of

the Conference to the rest of the W/G. Discussion also introduce the resolution committee members which default is the three other members of the W/G that are not part of the Steering committee. Also discussed was the deadline for submitting resolution in order to be accepted for the conference.

- Equity Days – the following days were discussed in terms of what activities should be carried out or not carried out:
 - 1) December 10th – International Human Rights Day
 - 2) Black History Month
 - 3) Asian History Month
 - 4) March 21st 2017 – International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

We had discussion on each of the days above but didn't really come to a conclusion as to which one we were going work on. As a W/G, we are to individually look for stories of individual or event in the community that we can use to put together something for December 10, 2016 – deadline for submission is October 30, 2016.

Secondly, W/G is to research on all ethnicities for story to present for March 21st 2017.

As a committee, we are to review the Public Service Employee Survey on Treasury Board web-site. We need to have a Teleconference on Employment Equity issues.

Day two of the meeting was in the plenary with all the five equity groups and the components representatives in one room. This part of the meeting was co-chaired by **Larry Rousseau** and **Donna Lackie**.

After the usual routine, the day began with Panel to present a “Year in Review”.

As part of the report was the report on the Racialized members conferences for which three of the seven regions has been completed. Seema Lamba the national Human Rights Officers in charge reports as follow:

- ✓ That the conferences were extremely successful
- ✓ Among issues identified is Precarious Employment of racialized members
- ✓ Underemployment of members
- ✓ Employment Equity
- ✓ Through the conferences, a safe space has been created that allows members to speak freely without holding back on their feelings
- ✓ Also the conferences has allowed for building of networking in the region among the racialized members

Another member of the panel presented on Mental Health Issue.

- ✓ She reported that the approach focus on Joint participation of Task Force
- ✓ Use of existing personnel in the workplace
- ✓ Using Employment equity approach

- ✓ Increasing number of disability is being claimed members
- ✓ Significant number of disability claims being filed are for mental issues
- ✓ Disproportionately number of claims are filed by women – twice as much as that filed by men
- ✓ About 6,000 employees were terminated by employers in 2015 for health/disability related reasons.

Updates on Collective Bargaining:

There has been 11 sessions with the government – 5 of the sessions were with the new Liberal government and the same proposal of the Conservative government is still on the table.

The FB table appears to have a slight improvement last week (September 11 – 17). So there will be a return to the table by the group. If nothing happen at this session, we should be prepared to “stand up and fight”. We were advised to go back to our locals and start talking about solidarity and be prepared for fight for our right. We will await and see what happens with the CIU. If we’re not call back in good time we will be applying for PIC (Public Interest Commission). Application to PIC would most likely take until Spring of 2017.

We have not yet declared an Impasse but the way things are going, this may be the only way we’re going to move forward if the employer doesn’t change his attitude. For now, we should be talking about training people for strike at our locals just to give the management something to think about.

But if nothing comes out of the FB session in October, then we’ll move quickly to mobilize for strike training.

■ September 26, 2016 – Calgary HRC Meeting:

Attended the Calgary Human Rights Committee meeting at the Calgary Regional Office. Discussion at the meeting included:

- ✓ Volunteering at the Calgary Drop-In Centre
- ✓ Debating and voting on proposed resolution to be submitted to the National Human Rights Conference
- ✓ Discussion on sponsoring meal for the drop-in Centre.

For details of discussion on the meeting, see the minutes of the meeting on the website.

■ September 27, 2016 – By-law Committee:

Attended the By-law committee meeting on the. Highlights of discussion included:

- ✓ Second Alternate REVP
- ✓ PRC Audited Financial statements
- ✓ A/REVP duties
- ✓ Area Council/Regional Committees – Financial Reporting
- ✓ Other general discussion.

■ September 29, 2016 – “Ice Cream” Day - Calgary:

In collaboration with the Calgary Area Council, Regional Women Committee and the Calgary Human Rights Committee, we set up the PSAC tent at the Harry Hays building and reached out to all the locals in the building. Detail of the event is available in the Area Council chairs’ meeting to the council.

■ October 13, 2016 – Meeting with the REVP – Calgary:

Executives of the Area Council as well as those of the committees in Calgary met with the REVP at the regional office. The meeting was called by the REVP and it was meant to discuss the requirements that has to be met in order to get subsidized funding for elected delegates to the up-coming regional triennial. Also the discussion focuses on allocation of delegates by locals, area councils and committees.

Sam Akinsanya RVM Representative – Prairie Region

**Satinder Bains
Regina Area Council Rep
Prairie Region Council November 2016**

February 2016 – November 2016

I continue to attend meetings and work with the Regina Human Rights and Regina Area Council committees on regular bases. Continued to participate in on the PRC conference calls and the PRC By-law committee, also keep up to the current events and issues in our regions and the PSAC.

February 4th and 6th made phone call to our members to get involved and lobby or meet their local Members of Parliament asking them to reinvest in federal public services and to respect collective bargaining rights.

February 10th attended the PSAC lobbying workshop and continues to work with Area Council and other activists to ensure they are given the opportunities, resources and support needed to effectively lobby MPs and encourage members to recruit other members in their riding to assist them.

February 23rd attended the Regina Human Rights AGM

March 5th attended the Federal Liberal Convention in Saskatoon. This provided me the opportunity to meet Ralph Goodale Liberal MP Minister of Public Safety and Emergency

Preparedness in person. We were able to discuss and remind him that, apart from the RCMP, USGE represents all of Canada's federal parole officers, Aboriginal Liaison officers, teachers and others who support the rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders into the community. There have been many cuts and changes to programs that could compromise public safety. He needs to know about these changes. We want to work with him towards positive solutions!

March 9th attended the Regina Area Council AGM

August 9 –14th- I attend the 2016 World Social Forum in Montreal from August 9th to the August 14th. The Forum was well attended with thousands of delegates from all over the world, I had the honor of meeting activists from China, India, Puerto Rico, Italy, Germany just to name a few places. On a daily basis we had opportunity to attend so many different seminars, classes and rallies to get informed, network and share common problems we are facing around the world. I attended eight different forums and seminars and I feel Trade Unions for Democracy and Blue community Project were the most important for me as they affect our communities, environment, jobs and the future of our country and the world.

TRADE UNIONS FOR DEMOCRACY;

As we are facing an energy emergency, fossil fuel use is rising, temperatures are going up as we can all see and feel the effects around us, droughts, wildfire, tornados and flooding are common news in Saskatchewan and around the world. The air quality is affecting our health in major large cities in Canada and especially in the third world countries where there is no laws if there are laws they are not enforced due to corruptions or activists are simply killed. If this trend continues the human civilization is in real danger.

This workshop we debated and discussed transition to renewable energy over a period of two to three decades, as union jobs in fossil fuels would be protected and millions of new jobs would be created. Also to develop high impact union educational material to encourage debate and help create a network to analyze the energy and climate issues.

BLUE COMMUNITY PROJECT:

There is nothing more important than clean water and how we need clean water to survive and for economic, social, cultural purposes. Countries around the world including right here at home need to take action right now. These projects ensure clean, safe water source and reliable public services for generations to come.

The Blue communities are to encourage municipalities and Indigenous communities to recognizing water and sanitation as Human Rights. They want to ban and phase out the sale of bottled water and promote publicly financed. Owned and operated water and waste water services. If we do not take action the poor people around the world will not be able to have access to clean water to drink and we will also not afford to buy water as multinational companies will profit from our basic need.

As I mentioned there were so many classes, seminars and rallies to attend and write about these two are affecting my family, community, country and the world as we speak.

September 9th -11th

As PRC we made history in our Prairie Region and help provide representation for Racial Visible members and its members with diverse activists and the most current professional knowledge and skills. We had our first Prairies Racially Visible conference from September 9th to the 11th 2016 in Winnipeg Manitoba. We had great keynote speakers including PSAC President Sister Robyn Benson and REVP Sister Marianne Hladun and members of Canadian Labor Congress Human Rights. For me the conference explored ways to renew the labor movement, celebrate our diversity and better understands the changing nature of work which our members will be facing. The Conference also facilitated and offered exciting workshops and programs to improve the lives of all Canadians and the future of the labor movement.

I was able to meet with my peers and find out what's working as well as what isn't working at other departments and organizations. We connected during the conference at networking sessions and also after the conference, to continue sharing solutions and ideas to improve our respective workplaces.

In Solidarity,

Satinder Bains

Regina Area Council Rep

Shannon Blum
Prince Albert Area Council Rep
Prairie Region Council November 2016

I had a relatively busy first full term on the PRC. I have enjoyed my time and the opportunity to work with other components and organizations throughout the last few months.

On March 12th, 2016 the PA-AC had an all Candidate's Forum and Pancake Breakfast for our community just before the Provincial Elections. We held it at the Prince Albert Friendship Center and were privileged to serve and speak to approximately 100 people and candidates from both major parties. The debate was somewhat heated at times, with topics such as Health Care, the Victoria Hospital and Elder Care being front and center. We consider the event a complete success.

On April 28th, 2016 I attended my first Regional Labour Management committee for CSC.

On May 18th, I joined Valerie Illingworth (our new Sask North Geo Rep) at the Saskatoon Office to phone every president of every local in our province to recruit for and get a promise of action for the June 8th day of action to support our bargaining team. The Day of Action was a roaring success with over 75 members out there chanting and holding signs at Saskatchewan Penitentiary, and 100's of other locals and members taking some initiative and a picture. Our bargaining teams say that this sort of support is a validation of the hard work they do, a reminder of why they do it, and it's intimidating as they print out the pictures and put them on the wall behind them in bargaining sessions so the employer knows they have our support.

May 29-31, 2016 I participated in the USGE Regional Conference. There were several guest speakers in addition to component business, including a briefing on the Staffing Complaint Process, and a guest motivational speaker by the name of Darci Lang who spoke about the 90% principal of positivity both in the union and at your workplace. She was fabulous and we should consider getting her for other union events. As well during the conference I was asked to allow my name to stand as alternate for the USGE National Health and Safety Committee and I was honored to accept.

June 2-5th, 2016 I was privileged to participate in PSAC Facilitator Training in order to become an alliance facilitator. I am still working towards final credentials in the area and hopefully will be working with my regional office in Saskatoon very soon to do some presentations on Grievance Handling. I will also be looking for topics to develop a short lunch and learn course around in a workplace or in my community and suggestions for needed topics are very welcome.

June 10-12th, 2016 was the PSAC Regional Woman's Conference in Winnipeg. I met some truly incredible women, heard about some serious concerns for our female membership, such as lack of medical expense coverage for birth control of choice,

amongst other things. One thing that particularly stuck with me were the statistics of sexual assault of a woman in Canada because I had no idea they were so high! 1 in 4 women, 1 in 4 of our sisters, has been sexually assaulted, and of those women only 6 in 100 will ever report it. This statistic in a country like Canada is a tragedy brothers and sisters!

June 20th, 2016 I enjoyed participating in my first meeting of the PRC Education committee. We discussed many topics including where education is now, where we believe it should be heading in the next few years, and what types of courses we would like to see. We also spent a significant amount of time discussing the challenges of providing training in small locals, or where interests might be waning.

Sept 15th, 2016 I worked with Saskatchewan Penitentiary to organize an informational plant gate surrounding Phoenix to raise attention to the continuing issue. All components were invited to attend, although no others chose to do so this time. USGE pitched in for coffee and muffins/donuts for all members and RVP's Barry Stolar, Jackie Oswald and Frank Janz were present to support us. Traffic was significantly delayed and the event was covered by CTV News, the Prince Albert Daily Herald and PANow. All articles showed significant sympathy for public servants who are not being paid, or who are being paid incorrectly.

Sept 24-25th, 2016 I attended a course on Violence Prevention in the Workplace at the Saskatoon Regional Office. Brother Clint Wirth was the instructor and I learned a lot about the process as outlined in the Canada Labour Code and Regulations. I also learned that this can be a valuable tool against bullying in the workplace.

Sept 28, 2016 the Prince Albert & District Area Council hosted a town hall. National Executive Vice President Chris Aylward was there to give a briefing and Q&A on phoenix, Sister Marianne Hladun was there to give an update on the region and answer general questions including specifics on bargaining in components and directly chartered locals and Sister Brea Lewis was present to give a briefing on bargaining, how its going and what to expect in the near future. The event was attended by approximately 50 people and was well received.

October 15th, 2016 I attended and spoke at a pilot program course on Staffing in the Public Service at the Saskatoon Regional Office. Our guest speakers were Erin Chuey who was there to present the staffing process, and answer questions from the employer's perspective, Satinder Bains was present to speak about the PSLREB complaint process and how it proceeds and I was there to speak about what going through a complaint is like from the employee's and/or shop steward's perspective. I was reminded once again of the level of knowledge and expertise in our Regional Office staff members, and just how important in classroom training is, despite the difficulties, particularly in the region as widely spaced and diverse as ours. Classroom training offers so many opportunities that no other training provides, including getting to know people from other components and locals, and what their challenges and concerns are.

The PA-AC has met 3 times since the last PRC in February in March, August and September, our AGM is scheduled for November 15th at which time we will be electing a new executive and PRC Representative so this may be my first and last report!

Should I be elected as PRC rep again, it is my intention to attend each components AGM, provided they allow it, and speak on the importance of the Area Councils.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shannon Blum', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Shannon Blum

President USGE Local 40023, 4A023, 4B023
Secretary Treasurer PA-AC
PRC Rep for PA-AC
Education Committee
Alternate USGE National Committee
Informal Conflict Resolution Steering Committee
Local and Regional OSH committee member for CSC

Deanna Getz
Southern SK Geographical Rep
Prairie Region Council November 2016

Fellow members, it's been a challenging year with both Federal & Provincial elections. As a PRC rep, I volunteered to call members to participate in training for the National Lobbying Campaign. I also assisted with designing picket signs for the National Day of Action.

I worked with SFL and Area Council on provincial election events such as helping with organizing the SFL Provincial Election Forum. I assisted on the community garden project for the Women's Committee. The Women's Committee donated plants and seeds to the community garden that allows low income families to enjoy fresh vegetables and garden produce.

I assisted Brother Bains and the Area Council with the planning of three events centered around political action and the budget was forwarded to Marianne for review. As per Marianne's request, I assisted the Human Rights Council by sitting in on regular meetings, assisting with budgets for upcoming events, assisted with planning events focussed on human rights issues, and offered guidance on requirements from PRC such as holding a minimum of four meetings a year to ensure the committee could get back in good standing.

I received feedback from members not happy with the Townhall auto calls. Members are not getting called after providing their contact information. Other members are getting a call but do not have the option to join the Townhall call. PRC needs to look into this issue to encourage members participation.

To end the year I was invited to the UTE National Presidents Conference. Here I heard from members dealing with issues such as a student bridging, Phoenix pay issues, perpetual staffing processes, and changes to the staffing using a new national staffing initiative.

I will be meeting with the Communications Committee prior to our PRC meeting in Calgary in November.

Respectfully submitted,
Deanna Getz
Southern Saskatchewan Geo Rep

Alec Goertzen
Calgary Area Council Rep
Prairie Region Council November 2016

This report is for the period of February to October 2016

March 2016

- Participated in Finance Committee conference call

April 2016

- Finance Committee Meeting – Winnipeg, MB. Our purpose was to review of Regional Committee 2016 Budget requests for allocation funding dispersal.

May 2016

- Attended the CAC meeting May 17

September 2016

- Participated with members at annual Labor Day BBQ event coordinated with Calgary District Labor Council.
- Attended the membership outreach together with reps from RWC and HRC. The event purpose was to discuss each committee mandate and invite members to get involved with Calgary Committees. It was a sunny September day to serve up ice cream as a special treat.

October 2016

- Attended a meeting with the REVP to discuss Prairies convention and upcoming campaigns/activities from NHQ
- Attended general meeting of CAC on Oct 18

Regards

Alec Goertzen

Kim Haynes
Persons with Disabilities Rep
Prairie Region Council November 2016

1. Date of Meeting: 21 – 22 September

2. X in person Teleconference

3. Aboriginal Access PRIDE

RV Women Component

4. Brief Summary of Meeting: Day 1 was the NHRC Plenary gather – Welcome & Intro, then a review of the year gone by. After lunch we chatted about the Liberal Gove't accountability & what has & has not been done &/or started. Concluding with our (PSAC) priorities.

Day 2 We broke out into our groups – Members with Disabilities. Region gave an Update. Discussed emerging Issues such as Collective Bargaining, Membership engagement, Policial Action, Privation, Tree Trade, Health & safety, Equity rights & the dreaded “Phoenix Pay” system. Mental Health and Health & Safety in our work place. Building networks.

5. Campaign & Issues Updates: Really liked the idea of sending our Newsletters with some info from PSAC website.

6. The support of visiting the ROs throughout the Area.

7. Telephone conference on U>N> “Rights of Person with Disability”

8. National Access Conference in March

9. 3 December: Int'l Day of Persons with Disabilities - 2 short Video's on Duty to Accommodated.

10. Duty to Accommodated questions

- a. Has there been any legislative changes
- b. It this Prov or Fed driven
- c. Case Law & what is “Reasonable”

➤ Link to regional or component priorities

It was really good to share & get & expand on ideals with others in this Country, however there are demographic issues. Like mine – such a big area to serve & with limited resources.

11. Suggested Actions in Region or Component

Would like to contact are the AR Councils & HR committes to see if they would feel if a Pizza or sub night would go off with a few video's on Duty to Accommodated.

12. Required Follow-Up and Timeframes:

My goal is by the end of this month to contact all RO and see if there is an interest in the above mention gathering.

One of our Goals is to review & revamp the PSAC "Duty to Accommodate" booklet.

13. Next Meeting (if known):

Will be by telephone conference = times TBT

PSAC - PRAIRIE REGION - PERSONS WITH DISABILITY

Newsletter from Kim Haynes your Prairie Rep – email kimpsac@gmail.com

7 October 2016

Last year ended with one of the most motivation conference ever, "Violence in the Work Place". Violence in the Work Places affects "all" of us!

Moving forward on "Mental Health" a much "hidden" disability, but thankfully with public awareness this disability is being shared more offend. Although sometime this disability does not get accommodate.

In June I attended a very motivating 2016 PSAC Prairies Regional Women's Conference which recapped the facts about Violence in the Work Place & Mental Health. This Conference inspired the solidarity with our sisters not only in the Prairies buy also in our local Regions.

Lastly, I was at the National Human Rights Conference where much info came to light but one of my big take away is reviewing/updating the PSAC "Duty to Accommodate" Booklet.

The duty to accommodate relates to all grounds of discrimination found under human rights legislation which includes not only disabilities but also culture, religion, family status and so on. But what is "reasonable effort, short of undue hardship". Remember that not only has the employer has the duty to accommodate but also the Union & the you "the employee"

This what Treasury Board has to say about "Disability Management in the Federal Public Services (Fundamental, Management Programs, Handling, Care, Info from our Practitioners, Wellness, Resources) <http://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/psm-fpfm/ve/dee/dmi-igi/index-eng.asp> A little bit scary!!!!

3 December was declared by the United Nations in 1992, the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. *And as I feel one of the most relevant materials for a person with any type of "Disability" is*

accommodation. I am asking Area Council Reps or Regional Office to find out if members in their area would like to meet around this time frame and watch a few video on ACCOMMODATION.

Please get back to me numbers and dates – so that I can put together a proposal of an evening of pizza or sub and some drink for great time of learning & engagement. Followed up with a short report.

Thank you for your time.

Kim Haynes

PSAC Prairie Rep for Persons with Disabilities

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

February to November 2016 – Report to PRC

May	Fairy Tales Film Festival
July 13	Annual Prairies Pride letter send out to e-mail tree recipients
Sept 04	Pride parade Calgary
Sept 18	National GLBT – Trans interviews <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Invited a “trans” member from each of the regions• Issues about the workplace• Issues with “bathrooms”
Sept 19-22	National Human Rights Meeting (Ottawa) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Worked on resolutions• “Trans” project from convention

Janette Husak
Aboriginal Peoples Rep
Prairie Region Council November 2016

Prairie Region Council February 2016 – October 2016

March 10, 2016 – RAPC committee meeting

April 22-24, 2016 – PSAC's Waskawetohta (Taking Action) Conference - Winnipeg

June 2-6, 2016 – Attended Alliance Facilitator Training Program - Edmonton

June 9-13, 2016 – Attended 2016 PSAC Prairies Regional Women's Conference - Winnipeg

June 20, 2016 – Conference call for Prairie Region Council education committee

September 20-22, 2016 – PSAC National Human Rights Committee meeting - Ottawa

September 22, 2016 – Presentation by Ricardo Segovia on “Independent Primary Assessment of Husky Oil Spill into the North Saskatchewan” – Prince Albert library

September 24-25, 2016 – Violence Prevention in Federally Regulated Workplaces Course – Saskatoon

September 28, 2016 – PSAC Prince Albert Town Hall

October 15, 2016 – Staffing in the Public Service course – Saskatoon

October 17, 2016 – RAPC Committee meeting

Nov 2-6, 2016 – PRC meeting in Calgary

In solidarity,

Janette Husak

**Valerie Illingworth
Northern SK Geographical Rep
Prairie Region Council November 2016**

I was elected Northern Saskatchewan Geographical Rep in July of this year. It has been a fairly busy year. I completed the Union Development Program in September of this year. I also completed the Alliance Facilitator Training Program. Both programs gave me the opportunity to learn more about social justice and to create relationships to support my work as Chief Shop Steward of my local. I was able to participate in the Labour Day BBQ and the Prince Albert townhall.

Respectfully submitted
Valerie Illingworth

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

Report for Feb 2016 – Nov 2016

The first event on my calendar after the Feb PRC meeting was the WMAC Annual General Meeting.

The WMAC AGM proved to be very eventful in that not only was the Vice President and Secretary Position's up for election, the President's position was also vacant as the former President had resigned for personal reasons. The Treasurer position was also vacated as our serving Treasurer was nominated and acclaimed to the position of President. Not since the inception of the Council have all positions been up for election at the same time. At this meeting I was elected to the position of Treasurer. Minutes from this meeting can be found on the PSAC Prairie Region website.

The next meeting for the WMAC was held in April with the Phoenix pay system failure dominating much of the discussion. It was noted that no workplace seems to be immune to pay issues. Minutes from this meeting can be found on the PSAC Prairie Region website.

WMAC had tentatively scheduled a meeting in June but it was rescheduled to November, after the PRC meeting in Calgary.

Not much else has happened during this reporting period as the failure of the Phoenix pay system made dealing with members pay issues a top priority.

Respectfully submitted.

Glen Johnston
WMAC Rep to PRC

**Gloria Kelly
RWC Rep
Prairie Region Council November 2016**

Sisters across the region have been busy since council last met. We currently have active RWCs in Winnipeg, Regina, Saskatoon, Calgary, Edmonton and Lethbridge with sisters actively engaged in a host of programs and activities.

In June we hosted the Regional Women's Conference in Winnipeg with approximately 60 sisters taking part. The program had a two pronged approach focusing on the priorities of child care and domestic violence. Through workshops and guest speakers the importance of these two issues to our members and our larger community was very clear. In addition to interesting work we also held a fund raiser for Nova House, a women's shelter in Selkirk, MB at which we raised an impressive \$1200 towards their capital fundraising campaign.

In September I attended the PSAC National Human Rights Committee meeting in Ottawa as part of the women's working group. A synopsis of that meeting is attached to this report as Annex A. From the meeting we were told that child care and domestic violence will remain our priorities but that a new focus on child care will be forthcoming shortly while work continues on the direction we will take on how we take the conversation on domestic violence and its impact on our workplaces to our members.

With the national equity conference coming up in early 2017 among the priorities for women to be discussed at that conference will be how do we push government for reforms that economically empower women and can we work domestically and internationally to develop tools to promote working women.

We were also told that PSAC now has a position paper on prostitution as work; it's an interesting read and did not come about easily for our leadership.

The message across the board is that we cannot let this government that has promoted itself as one that supports equality off the hook as they seem to be studying things and consulting around the clock with little of solid substance coming forth. Our RWCs are being asked to look at what elected officials are in our areas, what might be their committee commitments and areas of interest and build a directed lobby package focusing our efforts where we know there is likely to be something other than a glazed over stare and a hand shake. This we will begin to do in the coming weeks.

I have distributed the documents from the NHRC that pertain to women's committees to all the RWC presidents or their designates such that they can make the printed materials available more widely across our networks.

Each of our committees is active and looking forward to the coming year which we know will present opportunities given it is a convention year for our various components leading up to the 2018 triennial PSAC convention. We also know that many of our sisters are from the DCLs and there is good opportunity there to spread our message to an even broader community base.

A quick snapshot of what we have been up to:

All the RWCs took part in Labour Day activities in their various communities. We were visible, active and able to talk to our community members about who we are and what we do. That is so important as we need to make our community leaders understand that those of us who are public servants are indeed part of the local community, we contribute to that community, we provide services to that community and we are not some faceless bureaucracy tucked away in an office building.

In Alberta our sisters are hard at work with Calgary and Lethbridge sisters developing a major child care campaign post card campaign that they will be able to take to the community as information and support. In Edmonton a women's workshop is coming together nicely and will address issues that are of concern to our sisters in that area. We must never forget that while we have national programs and projects it is vitally important we take the pulse of our local communities and work to meet needs there as well.

In Saskatchewan the RWC in Saskatoon is in a rejuvenation mode with sisters busy planning ahead to what can be achieved in the coming year. There is a leadership change with the committee but they are moving forward. Regina continues to perk along with sisters looking for ways to attract more members and enhance our profile in the community.

In Winnipeg the RWC has focused on children and anti-poverty initiatives. The committee continues to support the Kent Road School breakfast program, is working with the Child Care Coalition of Manitoba to keep child care in the forefront, will host a speaker next week on women's health initiatives and its members work cooperatively with the area council on local projects.

Across the board our committees are busy but it needs to be said that the women who take part in the RWCs are also very strong members of their communities and share the wealth of their knowledge well beyond our union

Activities since last council meeting:

- 1 March – Winnipeg RWC AGM – re-elected as chair for 2016
- 8 March- took part in International Women's Day breakfast and lunchtime activity with the Manitoba Federation of Labour.
- 12 April – Winnipeg RWC meeting
- 10-12 June- chaired Prairie Regional Women's Conference
- 14 June – Winnipeg RWC meeting
- 1 Sept – chaired combined meeting of three Winnipeg regional committees – women, human rights and area council
- 5 Sept –provided support to the annual Labour Day picnic with both PSAC booth and lunch served by Winnipeg Labour Council – child care info distributed.
- 12 Sept- attended Manitoba Federation of Labour women's committee meeting
- 20-22 Sept – attended the PSAC National Human Rights Committee meeting in Ottawa
- 11 Oct – Winnipeg RWC meeting
- 13 Oct – Manitoba Federation of Labour Women's Committee meeting
- 20-23 Oct – attended CLC Rise Up Conference in Ottawa
- 26-28 Oct – attended the Manitoba Federation of Labour health and safety conference with focus on psychological health in the workplace.

Submitted by:

Gloria Kelly, PSAC Women's Representative

Annex A:

Campaign & Issues Updates:

Campaigns: There are at least eight on the go at the moment and there is campaign fatigue across our membership unless there is a burning interest related to impact on self. There was a feeling that PSAC needs to look at its priorities and determine which are the most important and actually rank them as it's the same group of activists working on many of them.

We need to find a means to create interest in individuals who may be willing to take on a specific project for a specific time frame but not get tied into a cycle of meetings.

In terms of women the main priority is child care and domestic violence but we also looked at cultivating strong leadership, empowering women, confronting the "isms". As part of the program in the coming year with convention cycles we need to look at how we can leverage our working relationships with community based organizations such as child care coalitions in each region to continue to profile the message. The message needs to be clear and simple such that it catches the attention of members – in child care our allies are young families and grandparents.

The next phase of the child care agenda must be discussed and approved by the AEC so we are not sure what is to come next.

Domestic violence – there is a draft action plan and it is extensive and needs study. This issue touches so many areas of the union it cannot be relegated to a women's issue. Question is how we have the conversation across the board on this issue and who we begin to train such that locals can build a resource base to support victims of violence in their workplaces.

Link to regional or component priorities

Across the board the message was one of almost everything we do at some point has an intersection with government policy, promise or funding allocation.

A big part of our role as activists will be to monitor and lobby for certain agenda items. We need to be aware of who may be our best allies and develop plans to not only create an initial awareness but how we enhance that awareness in a strategic manner. What we can do may be a function of where we are located but we must never underestimate the awareness of our communities about the services we provide and why we fight for issues that impact our communities as well as our members.

Mental Health- awareness of what is happening at the national level is important such as the psychological health and safety standards, hazardous workplaces, steering committee mandated with changing the culture of the federal public service in working with members with mental health issues.

On issues management there is a role for champions but that role must be defined and the person must have awareness beyond a figurehead title.

Suggested Actions in Region or Component

Across the board sisters said there needs to be much more training and direction on how to write proper resolutions such that they will not be ruled out of order and can be moved through committees as well as components.

With the coming convention cycles we need to connect with regional and component organizers to build in time for a briefing on specific issues such as child care, find an event where we can produce a show of strength with a local organization and ask for display space where issues information can be provided.

Closer connections with provincial child care coalitions such that we can work cooperatively on activities that create awareness

Seek out processes within our locals/components whereby we are able to create interest and awareness in a particular issue be it child care or safe drinking water. What are the cross-overs that will allow us to stretch our resources to maximum visibility and effect?

Required Follow-Up and Timeframes:

As the regional women's representative I have the following to do:

- (a) Provide sisters in all regional RWCs with a batch of reports and information from this meeting. That will be done as soon as the electronic documents are received from Ottawa
- (b) Contact with organizers of the Prairie Regional PSAC Convention to determine if booth space is available at registration evening for a childcare location and if there is an event that can be coordinated in Winnipeg as part of the convention-time line – mid-October.
- (c) As soon as we receive the list from Ottawa on what range of conventions may be taking place in this region in 2017 look at who is where and determine what might be possible in conjunction with the new child care initiative coordinator working half-time at PSAC HQ.
- (d) Prepare report for Regional Council to be an appendix to my main report on RWCs in the region.
- (e) Create connections with child care coalitions across the region such that introductions can be made to local RWCs if that has not already taken place.

Next Meeting (if known): The next connection for the team will be at the National Access Conference in March 2017 but Andre plans to organize conference calls as required on issues as they evolve. I have been placed on the resolutions committee for the women's section of the national access conference and as such will have automatic delegate status to the conference.

Deb Kosteniuk
Southern AB Geographical Rep
Prairie Region Council November 2016

ON June 8, 2016, there was a National Day of Action for Bargaining that I participated in along with other PSAC members working in the Harry Hays Building in Calgary.

ON June 9, 2016, I flew to Winnipeg and attended the Prairies Regional Women's Conference. I was part of the steering committee, but I have to say it was one of the best conferences I have been to. Speakers were excellent, the activities were on point and I was really pleased to see the attendees were really enjoying themselves.

ON June 18, 2016 the Calgary Area Council, Regional Women's Committee and Human Rights Committee met and discussed a joint project we could do for recruitment purposes for the council and the committees. The idea was to bring the committees/councils to the people, rather than invite them to join us.

ON June 25, 2016 I volunteered at the PSAC booth for Aboriginal Days located in the Indian Village on the Stampede Grounds. Victoria Norris of the Human Rights Committee organized this event, which was well attended and our tent was popular. We had a member of the Area Council volunteer as well as a member from the UTE component.

ON June 28, 2016 I joined the Awo T'aan Healing Lodge Society Sisters in Spirit Vigil planning committee in my role as Chair of the Calgary RWC.

I participated in a teleconference call the first week of July, 2016 for the ad hoc committee struck at the November 2015 PRC meeting.

ON August 8, 2016 I participated in the second Day of Action regarding Bargaining; I did not feel this event was as well attended as the June date, but did note that there were a lot of my component's members on vacation leave or on leave with income averaging that month and figured the same could be true for other components working at the Harry Hays Building.

On September 5, 2016 Area Council, Human Rights Committee, and RWC participated in the CDLC's Labour Day BBQ. We served 200 slices of cake to complement the hamburgers and hotdogs, contributed to the bbq by donating the condiments for the event, operated the tent and "wheel of fortune" game. We covered a table with craft paper and had people write down why they celebrated Labour Day or what it meant to them. This generated some conversation on the meaning/history of Labour Day. There was good attendance for this event.

I collaborated with Matthew Brett in the Winnipeg office to come up with a sticker that was to be used to seal the lunch bags for the Sisters in Spirit Vigil. The stickers combine the PSAC logo with the SIS logo and also had the theme "healing through truth and reconciliation" printed on them.

In conjunction with the Sisters in Spirit Vigil, two indigenous teenaged sisters who have participated in the Vigil for a few years to honour their murdered mother, created FOOTPRINTS: An Art project. As the estimate of murdered and missing indigenous woman is currently projected as being around 1200, the girls wanted to create a project with impact: They wanted one pair of shoes to represent one murdered or missing indigenous woman or child. The Calgary RWC women blitzed their workplaces and were able to donate 200 pairs of gently used shoes for the project. We had shoes from Calgary, Red Deer and Bowden members. The girls more than met their target, as of set up on October 4, 2016 they had over 1300 pairs of shoes. The shoes were on display in a medicine wheel arrangement at Olympic Plaza and will be donated to women and family shelters/organizations at the end of the project.

We contributed \$600 towards the cost of lunches and some supplies. We contributed the lunch bag stickers, plus brought the Idle No More slap fans which were a huge hit – none were left at the end of the rally. The rally this year was larger than previous years and garnered much media interest. Mayor Nenshi was one of the guest speakers, as well as various Elders, and community leaders in the indigenous community.

I produced my newsletter on October 16, 2016 and sent it out to all locals, the Chairs/Presidents of Area councils, HRC's and RWC's in the Southern Alberta area. The newsletter is attached.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deb Kosteniuk
Southern Alberta Geographic Representative, PRC, PSAC

October, 2016

PRC Newsletter: Southern Alberta

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

Here we are just past Thanksgiving with Halloween less than a couple of weeks away!!! It has been a busy summer and fall for Area Councils, Human Rights Committees and Regional Women's Committees.

There were a lot of activities this spring, summer and fall for our members to participate in!

A Look at Events that happened across Southern Alberta this spring to fall:

PSAC members in Southern Alberta strongly supported the June 8th National Day of Action:

Some pics from Calgary (Harry Hays), Bowden and Drumheller, Lethbridge, and Calgary Airport

Calgary participated in Aboriginal Day on June 21, 2016. Sister Vicky Norris organized a great event.

Lethbridge District Area Council had a PSAC team in the Dragon Boat Races June 28, 2016.

Some of the great signs made for, and members participating in, the August 8th Day of Action.

Sister Kristy Munns in the Lethbridge Parade promoting the Labour Day Family Picnic.

Labour Day BBQ in Calgary on the top, and Labour Day Family Picnic in Lethbridge on the bottom....look at those bouncy castles.

Calgary 2016 Pride Parade – which happened the day before the Labour Day BBQ!!! Premier Notley attended and was a vibrant presence.

Sisters in Spirit Vigil. The shoes below are FOOTPRINTS: An Art Project. Each pair of shoes represents a murdered or missing indigenous woman or child. The two teenaged girls in the last picture on the bottom right organized it, and were hoping to get 1200 pairs donated – they got over 1300 pairs! PSAC women in Calgary, Red Deer and Bowden contributed 200 pairs of shoes.

Awo T'aan Healing Lodge is the organizer of the Vigil. These are some of their community leaders drumming and singing (with support from the Raging Grannies) as they lead a parade to Olympic Plaza. This was the largest gathering yet for the Vigil.

Last Meeting of the Prairies Regional Council (PRC)

The PRC last met February 19 to 21, 2016 in Saskatoon. The Council usually does not meet over the summer, but the committees do have telephone conference meetings to deal with priority matters. As at every PRC meeting, 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!

A theme was chosen for the PSAC Regional Triennial and plans for the gala evening have been made and I think the delegates and observers attending will take part in a very meaningful evening. The Triennial will be as exciting and action packed as ever!!! Remember, it's being held in Winnipeg from April 21, 2017 to April 23, 2017 There was discussion about bringing back Webinar Wednesdays. Some topics discussed were:

Strike preparation ; e-learning and intro to the website; your contract is more than just your pay scale; occupational health and safety – what are your rights?; where do I fit into the PSAC structure (mobilizing members), what it takes to be a shop steward; how to plan an event; chemical sensitivity in the

workplace; your rights as a member; members with disabilities and ergonomics; I am a term – do I have rights?; bullying and harassment, just what is the difference?; cultural identity and respect in the workplace; duty to accommodate and return to work.

Upcoming Events for PSAC members

A volunteer evening at the Calgary Drop In Centre is being organized by the Calgary Human Rights Committee. Look for it to be held in November or very early December.

The Calgary and Lethbridge Regional Women's Committees are working on a joint project related to the need for a National Childcare Program. It's hoped it will kick off on November 20th, which is the International Day of the Child.

CLIFF is happening in November and the Calgary Area Council is working on setting up a showing of these labour themed shorts.

The National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women is December 6, 2016 and I am sure both Calgary and Lethbridge RWC's are planning events.

Lastly: please check the PSAC website for upcoming dates for meetings of the Lethbridge & District Area Council; Calgary Area Council; Calgary Human Rights Committee and the Lethbridge Regional Women's Committee as well as the Calgary Regional Women's Committee. If your committee is going to be sending resolutions to the Triennial, you need to be at the meetings to put forward your thoughts on resolutions you would like to see go forward to the Regional Triennial.

I really want to hear from you! Whether you are a committee or a Local, If you are planning an event and want me to get the word out, or if you would like to let Southern Alberta know how your event went, please contact me at kdebkosteniuk@shaw.ca or at kostend@psac-afpc.com

The Prairie Region Convention call was issued on Sept. 6th and in accordance with our bylaws, each HRC, RWC and RAPC is entitled to elect/select one delegate to attend. Some things to note include:

- Only committees in good standing are entitled to send a delegate to convention. To be in good standing, committees must have 4 meetings during 2016 and minutes must be available (either on the website or by email to the REVP). Any committee who does NOT have 4 meetings in 2016 or if minutes for 4 meetings are not provided WILL NOT RECEIVE A DELEGATE SEAT.
- A meeting notice indicating the committee will be electing/selecting their delegate should be sent out no later than 2 weeks prior to the meeting.
- Delegates from committees are fully funded by the Prairie Region so it is not necessary to have the delegate selected by the subsidy deadline. However, in order to ensure that appropriate hotel rooms are booked and travel arrangements made, please ensure that your delegate is finalized by **January 31, 2017**. Only delegates from outside of Winnipeg will be booked into the hotel.
- for committees that operate on consensus, the delegate may be 'selected' versus elected by secret ballot (in accordance with the Constitution change made at the last PSAC convention to include selection). However, if as a committee, you normally operate by the rules of order, a secret ballot election is required and you should ensure a staff member is available to assist with the vote if possible. An election for a minimum of one alternate should also be conducted in the event the delegate is unable to attend.
- for voting purposes to elect the delegate, just a reminder that for RWC'S and HRC's (including RAPC), each member of the executive may vote and for the general membership that attend, each local is entitled to one vote. If there is more than one person attending from a local they need to decide before ballots are distributed who will be voting on behalf of the local.
- After the meeting where the delegate was elected, the delegate should go online and register. The committee should also send a copy of the minutes indicating the results of the election to Sister Alison Davis at davisa@psac.com. Minutes can be sent in draft form even if they have not been presented for approval at the next meeting.

Education:

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

The education calendar for fall 2016 is posted and there are some good courses coming up for Calgary, Lethbridge, Red Deer and areas. Please take a look.

Hot Topics:

There is much talk amongst PSAC women about the fact that under the PSHCP we are only able to access one type of birth control: the Pill. For many women, the Pill is not workable option for them, and they need an alternate form of birth control such as an IUD or Depro Provera. A change to the PSHCP cannot be handled by way of a resolution to the Regional or National Triennials. But there will be a call out for changes members would like to see happen with the PHSCP. Perhaps we need to organize an awareness campaign directed at those in charge of the PSHCP so that these changes can be made now.

Next Meeting of the Prairies Regional Council (PRC)

The next meeting of the PRC will be held November 4 to 6, 2016, in Calgary.

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/>

Let's hold Mr. Trudeau to what he said about things being different for the public service and let's see bargaining in good faith really happening for federal public service employees.

Gregory Krokosh
Lethbridge Area Council Rep
Prairie Region Council November 2016

With the support of both the Lethbridge & District Area Council and the Lethbridge Regional Women's Committee, members in Lethbridge participated in the 2016 Dragon Boat Festival. This was the second year of participation and almost reached the point of two boats being required. A great time was had by all. Both members and the community got the opportunity to discuss issues.

The Council also participated with other affiliates of the Lethbridge and District Labour Council in the City of Lethbridge's Whoop-Up Days parade. Some of us could only help decorate the truck the night before while others got to participate in the parade proper. Another event where the PSAC flags were present.

Despite changing venue this year, the Labour Day Picnic was a tremendous success. Having live music pulled the people into the event. This was the first opportunity for the Council to use the new tent and recently designed PSAC Prairie Region introduction flyer. Both proved their value as people were drawn in and many discussions about the public service and the future of public service took place. The public also took away the message that Unions also do good works for the public. Possibly due to the fact that the picnic was held in a more residential area this year, I never heard so many people thanks us.

The Council also continued their work and support of the community garden and food bank. This included the tomato project, young chef program and the completion of a major irrigation project for the raised beds of the community garden.

Since becoming Regional Executive Vice-President for the Union of Taxation Employees (Rocky Mountains Region) in early February, I have had little time to devote to Council or actually be in the City as events were held. I wish to thank the membership of the Area Council, Brother David Pearson and especially Sister Krysty Munns for all their hard work and being there. Regretfully, with a new collective agreement in place my consultation duties with the Employer will begin again soon further reducing my availability.

Respectfully submitted.

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

Since the last PRC Meeting things have slowed down, well other then local issues. I want to thank Marianne on listening to the issues I presented in my last report about lack of communication about arbitration dates not getting forwarded to my local. I can say for my local this issue was fixed and it was fixed promptly.

I know the DCL at University of Saskatchewan had a welcome back to school for their members. From what I read it was a success.

I am currently brainstorming on ideas for my local around privatization whether it be a rally in conjunction with Sasktel or just leaflets about the Casino and the benefits to keep it a crown, as we know Brad Wall basically said people just have to put a price on SaskTel for it to be sold. This is and I think will always be in the backs of our minds. I know what the members feel like at SaskTel with the threat of being sold and the rumours will never go away.

I have taken part in the Pride Parade, attended the Sisters in Spirit Vigil, Walk in Remembrance of Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women. I have attended the Area Council Meetings, Human Rights Committee Meetings and The Women's Committee Meetings.

**Ben Lemon
Edmonton Area Council Rep
Prairie Region Council November 2016**

PRC Report for Edmonton Area Council Feb – Oct, 2016

- March 9 EAC Meeting at PSAC Office. Mostly this was a budget figures meeting & getting everything on the budget forms. We are thinking ahead of projects that the EAC would work on.
- March 10 Between the treasurer & myself got our 2016 budget together & sent in to PRC Finance Committee.
- April 12 Getting agenda ready for April but I had to cancel the meeting at the last minute due to being on the road for my real job.

- May 11 EAC Meeting at PSAC office. We started talking in earnest about what we wanted to accomplish with the Solidarity Brunch concept. Obviously we wanted to get as many local presidents from Edmonton to attend.
- June 15 EAC Meeting at PSAC office. More planning of Solidarity Brunch & coming up with a budget for the proposal to REVP for funding. We also picked our date for the brunch with an alternate date.
- July 8 Setting up of EAC meeting for August with PSAC office staff.
- July 12 EAC Meeting at PSAC office. We put the finishing touches on our Business Proposal for the Solidarity Brunch so we can send it in shortly.
- July 13 I reworded the proposal for the Solidarity Brunch one last time & sent it to the REVP's office.
- August 8 Resent Solidarity Brunch proposal to REVP. Apparently it did not go on July 13th. Marianne approved it that same day.
- August 23 EAC Meeting at PSAC office. We discussed the venue for the Solidarity Brunch, since we now have funding we confirmed & booked the Bistro for Oct 1st. We also picked our night in Nov. for our CLIFF night (Nov 17th). I also did minutes from tonight's EAC meeting at home.
- August 24 I attended committee training at PSAC office. Members of the EAC, Reginal Women's Committee and Edmonton Human Rights committee executive were in attendance. I also sent in the minutes from last night's EAC meeting.
- September 20 EAC Meeting at PSAC office. Final plans for the world cafe& logistics for Solidarity Brunch mostly.
- October 1 Solidarity Brunch Day, it's pouring rain & we remain hopeful that our confirmed attendees will show up as we as our guests. 19 local President's attend! Marianne is quoted as saying "I don't think we've ever had 19 local presidents in one room together".
- October 18 Next EAC meeting planned. On the agenda, a debrief of the Brunch, & details for the CLIFF night will be worked out.

Respectfully submitted by Ben Lemon, PRC representative for the Edmonton Area Council

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

This reporting is for the period of February 2016 to October 2016.

Feb 2016:

- Attended Winnipeg & Area Human Rights Committee meeting (Feb.10th)
- Attended the PRC (Prairie Region Council) meeting in Saskatoon.

March 2016:

- Attended an AGM invitation from Local 50071 (Canadian Grain Commission) on March 1st: Talked with the local about the Prairie Region Council mandate and responsibilities; Discussed the PSAC Three Priorities especially the 3rd one about the MPs Lobbying campaign.
- Met with the Portage-Lisgar MP as a part of the PSAC MP Lobbying Campaign.
- Attended Winnipeg & Area Human Rights Committee's AGM (Mar. 8th)
- Attended the 2016 Federal Budget Watch at the Winnipeg RO
- Attended Winnipeg & Area Human Rights Committee Planning meeting with new executive (Mar.22nd)

June 2016

- Attended the June 8th National Day of Action with Local 50056, Morden, MB.
- Attended the NPSW event held by USGE Manitoba on June 14th in Winnipeg
- Volunteered with the Winnipeg Area Council at the annual Manitoba Marathon in Winnipeg on June 19th. It was a great opportunity for visibility as we were 8 volunteers wearing PSAC T-Shirts and directing traffic and cheering for runners.
- Volunteered at the June 24th APTN National Aboriginal Day Celebration in Winnipeg, where Winnipeg & Area Human Rights Committee sponsored a promotional table at the event.
- Attended "Bargaining Update for PSAC Treasury Board members in SV & TC groups" Webinar on June 28
- Attended the "Bargaining Update for PSAC Treasury Board members in PA, EB & FB" Webinar on June 29

July 2016:

- On Saturday July 9th I participated with the Steinbach Pride inaugural that was supported by the PSAC Prairies along with our National President and the Prairies REVP and many other psac sisters and brothers.
- On Friday July 15th I attended the Winnipeg Supports Our Postal Workers. An event in support of sisters and brothers in the Canadian Union of Postal Workers.
- Attended the "Phoenix Update with National Officers" Webinar on July 28.

September 2016:

- On Monday September 5th I participated in the Annual Labour Day Marche and Family Picnic that was organized by the Winnipeg Labour Council. The PSAC and the Winnipeg Area Council sponsored a promotional table at the picnic. It was the largest PSAC members' participation at this annual event so far.
- Thursday September 22nd, I attended the Winnipeg & Area Human Rights Committee discussing convention and resolutions.

Looking forward to keep working with everyone on the Prairie Region Council and with each and every activist in Manitoba to keep empowering one another and keep building our union.

Respectfully Submitted

Gus Mardli

Jackie Nettleton
Saskatoon Area Council Rep
Prairie Region Council November 2016

We participated in the Day of Mourning. PSAC member Jesse Todd spoke on the dangers of asbestos. Several members of the University of Saskatchewan's drama department performed a scene from a new play documenting a group of miner's wives and their fight to improve working conditions. The full play was put on during the Fringe Festival in the summer. This year we spent some of our budget on a new wreath as the old one was getting a little bedraggled.

We participated in the Pride Parade again this year which is always a lot of fun. We handed out rainbow tattoos to the kids.

I was out of town for the annual Labour Day BBQ but other members were there (including Marianne) and we got to use our new tent. The bbq is always popular with the people from the core neighborhood and this year the crowd was especially large.

In Solidarity,

Jackie Nettleton

Matt Tijani
Winnipeg Area Council Rep
Prairie Region Council November 2016

March 2016

- Attended WAC meeting. Gave PRC Report.
- Attended Lobbying training
- Attended 2016 Budget Watch.

April 2016

- Attended multi local meeting at Union Center to receive an update on current negotiations from a bargaining team member
- Attended WAC meeting

May 2016

- Attended May Day Labour movement celebration /match
- Participated on Communication Committee conference call.
- Participated in Prairie Webinar
- Participated – conference call – PRC communication committee.

June 2016

- Participated in our national day of action on [June 8th](#)
- Participated in Communication committee Conference call meeting
- Participated in the webinar on bargaining update

July 2016

- Participated on Phoenix update webinar

August 2016

- Nothing to report

September 2016

- Nothing to report

October 2016

- Nothing to report.

In Solidarity

Respectively submitted

Matt Tijani - WAC – PRC Rep.

**Michael Weisgerber
North-West MB Geographical Rep
Prairie Region Council November 2016**

I am new to the position since the stepping down of Jennifer Grant.

I have been in contact with some of the locals within the region.

I am attempting to gain and maintain contacts with the varied and dispersed locals within the region and build on the work completed by the previous reps. The region being so spread out and varied I am learning the issues and difficulties with working within this geographical area.

I have nil to report otherwise at this time.

Respectfully Submitted

Michael Weisgerber
North-West Manitoba Geographical Rep, PRC, PSAC