

**Prairie Region Council Rep Reports July 2017:**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Page #</b>	<b>Rec'd by Deadline</b>
REVP	Marianne Hladun	2	Yes
Separate Employers Rep	Shaun Atilano	29	Yes
Regina AC Rep	Satinder Bains	29	Yes
Winnipeg AC Rep	Greg Ballendine	31	Yes
PWD Rep	Shannon Blum	33	Yes
Southern SK Rep	Tim Hubick	34	Yes
Northern SK Rep	Valerie Illingworth	36	Yes
Alternate REVP	Frank Janz	37	Yes
Westman AC Rep	Glen Johnston	39	No
RWC Rep	Deb Kosteniuk	40	Yes
DCL Rep	Michelle Lang	41	Yes
Northern AB Rep	Stasi L'Hirondelle	42	Yes
GLBT Persons Rep	Chris Little-Gagne	43	Yes
SE Manitoba Rep	Gus Mardli	45	Yes
Lethbridge AC Rep	Krysty Munns	46	Yes
Southern AB Rep	Kristy Slattery	48	Yes
NW Manitoba Rep	Michael Weisgerber	49	Yes
Young Workers Rep	Ryan Zacharias	49	No

Aboriginal Peoples Rep	Sandra Ahenakew	No Report
Edmonton AC Rep	Chris Beaton	No Report
Racially Visible Persons Rep	Phillip Chan	No Report
Calgary AC Rep	Alec Goertzen	No Report
Saskatoon Area Council Rep	Evelyn Jackson	No Report
Prince Albert AC Rep	Pennie Young	No Report

**Marianne Hladun  
Regional Executive Vice-President  
Prairie Region Council July 2017**

**This report covers the period since the Prairie Region Triennial Convention.**

I First, I want to congratulate each of you again on being elected or re-elected to serve as a representative of the PSAC Prairie Region Council. More than half of the 23 Prairie Region Council representatives are new to the council. You each bring new perspectives and ideas and I look forward to working with this new PRC to plan our way forward and ensure continued success and solidarity in the Prairies.

**Regional Convention**

As you know, the 7th Prairie Region Triennial Convention was held in Winnipeg, Manitoba from April 21–23, 2017 with a registered total of 336 in attendance, including 296 delegates, 7 guests, 4 NBoD, and 29 Observers.

Delegates passed 18 different resolutions throughout the weekend. Those regarding the *Prairie Region Bylaws* will be dealt with regionally, while all others have already been forwarded to the PSAC National Triennial Convention, scheduled to be held April 29 to May 4, 2018 in Toronto.

I'd like to thank and congratulate the Convention Host Committee for facilitating a fabulous silent auction with great prizes and raising \$3,000 for the Merchants Corner to help create affordable student housing in Winnipeg's inner city.

I also want to acknowledge the staff for their work leading up to Convention and throughout the weekend to ensure everything ran as smoothly and efficiently as it did. Convention wouldn't happen if it weren't for the staff involved and their coordinated efforts, so a big thank you goes out to all of the staff that contributed to a successful Convention.

Photos of all Convention activities have been posted on the PSAC Prairie Region Facebook page and on the PSAC Prairies website.

All regional conventions have now been held and a few new AEC officers have been elected:

- Atlantic: June 23–25, Colleen Hodder elected REVP
- BC: June 16–18, Jamey Mills elected REVP (Former BC REVP Bob Jackson did not reoffer and plans to retire)
- NCR: May 5–7, Greg McGillis elected REVP (Former NCR Regional REVP Larry Rousseau has been elected as one of the CLC's executive vice-president)
- North: June 17–18, Jack Bourassa re-elected REVP

- Quebec: April 21–23, Magali Picard re-elected REVP

Looking ahead, we need to think about location and date for the 2020 Prairie Region Triennial Convention. It will come as no surprise to those that were at Convention that we have outgrown the facilities at the Fairmont Winnipeg. With the addition of camera and lighting equipment this year, and the move to a two-tiered stage setup to align with national convention practices, the hotel convention space is inadequate for our growing needs. In a post-Convention survey, we heard complaints that the convention floor and display area was too cramped and crowded. We will now have to look into proper convention centre facilities within the region with the most number of unionized hotels in the immediate area.

## **Treasury Board**

Between March 6 and April 6, over 130 ratification vote meetings were held in more than 40 different locations across the Prairie Region. This was a huge undertaking for PSAC staff and a massive commitment for bargaining team members. I want to thank all of the staff and bargaining team members who made it possible and played a role in the positive outcome of the ratification vote.

After much delay on the part of the employer, Treasury Board and PSAC finally signed collective agreements for the PA, EB, TC and SV bargaining units on June 14. This is the result of significant pressure from our union. These agreements, which cover over 85,000 workers in the federal public service, were ratified by the membership in April. Since then, PSAC had been pushing the employer to sign the agreements.

National Public Service Week was held from June 11–17 to mark the importance of federal public service employees and recognize their service to Canadian society. During the week, members throughout the Prairie Region organized alternative NPSW events to call the employer on their hypocrisy and tell the federal government to put its money where its mouth is and demonstrate real respect, rather than empty gestures. Members proudly sported “Burnt by Phoenix” stickers and signed postcards to send to Treasury Board President Scott Brison.

The latest update on Phoenix, shows a large remaining backlog of cases. There are still 345,000 pay transactions in the system, which is about 265,000 more than they can process in any given month. Deputy Minister Marie Lemay said that there has been an increase in pay transactions because of seasonal hiring and the implementation of new collective agreements in the public service.

PSAC is committed to doing everything we can to help get our members paid correctly and on time. We will continue to push the government to take the necessary action to fix Phoenix.

## Provincial Politics

Several rallies have been held in Saskatchewan to show support for public services and stand up against cuts, austerity and this government's misplaced priorities, including one on March 8 and another on May 31.

I was in attendance at the Saskatchewan Legislature on April 26 when the government passed Bill 40, which allows for the sale of up to 49% of Saskatchewan's Crown Corporations. Union members took direct action by silently standing and turning our backs to Sask Party MLA's as they voted yes to Bill 40. Despite the obvious setback, we will continue to work with the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour and other unions to fight back against the government and their misguided priorities to privatize our Crowns.

The SFL has launched phase two of their Own It campaign to say no to the Sask Party government's budget cuts to public services and their privatization agenda for Saskatchewan Crowns. We've supported the campaign since day one, and a PSAC member working for Casino Regina was interviewed as part of the campaign sharing how privatization would affect her and her family. We've posted the video to the PSAC Prairies YouTube channel. You can also find out more about the Own It campaign at [ownyoursaskatchewan.ca](http://ownyoursaskatchewan.ca).

PSAC is actively working with other unions in Manitoba. Our priority is to ensure that members continue to be represented and that we stand in solidarity with other unions. On May 8, I presented to the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba Standing Committee on Legislative Affairs regarding Bill 29: *The Health Sector Bargaining Unit Review Act*. We have seen in other jurisdictions where representation votes are time consuming, costly and divisive. There is no need for this process to be conducted in Manitoba. While we do not agree that bargaining unit restructure is necessary to ensure quality patient care, we have participated with other health care unions in Manitoba to come to the table prepared to work with government and have presented an alternative solution to meet their concerns.

That same day, we also made a submission to the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba Standing Committee on Social and Economic Development regarding Bill 28: *The Public Services Sustainability Act*. Bill 28 will impact over 1,000 PSAC members and we called on the provincial government to withdraw the legislation and respect union members' constitutionally protected right to collective bargaining.

On March 28, I attended a Labour Liaison meeting coordinated by the Alberta Federation of Labour with Premier Rachel Notley and the cabinet. The Alberta government is currently undertaking a review of the provincial *Employment Standards Act*. The Lethbridge Area Council President attended a community consultation to provide feedback for updating provincial labour standards. We are actively participating with the AFL to prepare for the next provincial election in 2019.

Meanwhile, there has been positive update with regards to federal anti-labour legislation. Two Conservative anti-union laws, Bills C-377 and C-525, are now history with the adoption of Bill C-4. Both of these Conservative bills were an attack on working people. The bill reverses changes that were made to the *Canada Labour Code*, the *Parliamentary Employment and Staff Relations Act*, the *Public Service Labour Relations Act* and the *Income Tax Act*.

## **Respect Vegreville**

A table was set up at the Alberta Federation of Labour Convention in Edmonton on April 27–29 and information was available at the recent CLC Convention in Toronto.

On April 19, members received official notification of the relocation, although management has denied this is a workforce adjustment scenario. A rally is being planned for Edmonton in May with a focus on pressuring the federal Liberals to reverse this decision. Visit [respectvegreville.ca](http://respectvegreville.ca) to read the fact sheet, the correspondence with the Minister, and to take part in the online action.

On May 25, we held a rally outside Canada Place in Edmonton—the planned future home of the Vegreville CPC—to protest the attack on rural Alberta communities like Vegreville. Speakers included Linda Duncan, NDP MP for Edmonton Strathcona; Crystal Warner, CEIU National Executive Vice-President; Shannon Stubbs, Conservative MP for Lakeland; Jessica Littlewood, NDP MLA for Fort Saskatchewan–Vegreville; and Susan Cake from the Alberta Federation of Labour.

With recent revelations that moving the Vegreville Case Processing Centre to Edmonton will cost taxpayers millions extra, we're reaffirming the call to reverse the closure and to invest in rural Canadian communities. Global News Chief Political Correspondent David Akin first broke the news citing an internal costing analysis from Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada. The documents show Ottawa will spend \$46.6 million on renovations and leasing in Edmonton, compared to \$35.8 million to upgrade the existing facility in Vegreville.

I'd like to thank all of the PSAC members and affiliated union members who have shown their support for this campaign to date. And a special thank you to members in Ontario and Atlantic for showing support for Vegreville at their respective regional conventions. There is still work to be done. I ask that you continue to stay engaged and active with this campaign as we continue the fight.

## **Support Our Port**

Despite continued pressure, no information has been shared by the multinational corporation, OmniTrax, regarding the announced sale of the Port of Churchill. Media reports indicate a sale may be imminent but no confirmation has been provided and there has been no response from the provincial or federal government on our demand

to nationalize the Port. We are still currently in negotiations and seeking dates to return to the table.

## **Negotiations Update**

A big congratulations to our bargaining team at the University of Winnipeg for achieving their first ever collective agreement for student workers in the academic capacity on campus, including markers, teaching assistants, lab demonstrators, and tutors. Meanwhile, the University of Winnipeg Academic Research Assistants unit continue negotiations for a first collective agreement. The Royal Canadian Mint's Winnipeg Protective Services Officers also ratified their first collective agreement on March 1.

Negotiations continue with the Port of Churchill. Bargaining is also ongoing at the Centre for Aboriginal Human Resource Development, where the collective agreement expired August 2015. Notice to bargain has been issued for the SRG Security Resource Group and Edmonton Airport GBU, where both collective agreements expired on December 31, 2016.

The Casino Regina collective agreement also expired December 31, 2016. Notice to bargain has been issued and management has advised the local and negotiator of the government's wage hold for 2017-2018. The Casino is included in the government's announcements, but we are committed to negotiating a collective agreement in good faith. While PSAC as the bargaining unit was advised, we are waiting to see what the employer tables when negotiations begin.

Negotiations continue for a first collective agreement for the University of Saskatchewan Academic Capacity unit. We're still uncertain how the provincial government's mandate will affect negotiations. The University of Saskatchewan Post Docs unit are also preparing their bargaining package and negotiations are ongoing at Brandon University.

The notice to bargain has been issued for the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corp. Negotiations continue at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, with the main priority being precarious work for front line workers. The bargaining package is being finalized for Deer Lodge Centre, but we're still unsure at this time how the provincial government's wage freeze will impact negotiations. We've applied for conciliation with the Winnipeg Airport Authority where the issues of privatization and contracting out have been predominant in this round of negotiations.

Congratulations to the PSAC members working for Treasury Board on ratifying new collective agreements that contain no concessions for four bargaining units. Now we must show our support for the border services group (FB Group) as they continue to fight for respect of their critical public safety duties.

Organizing efforts are also ongoing throughout the Prairies to coincide with the national PSAC/USGE campaign to represent Civilian Members of the RCMP.

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**

**June 6–9, 2017**

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

**Regional Convention**

The 7th Prairie Region Triennial Convention was held in Winnipeg, Manitoba from April 21–23, 2017 with a registered total of 336 in attendance, including 296 delegates, 7 guests, 4 NBOD, and 29 Observers.

Delegates passed 18 different resolutions throughout the weekend. Those regarding the *Prairie Region Bylaws* will be dealt with regionally, while others will be forwarded to the PSAC National Triennial Convention. Some of the resolutions carried include: a call to increase funding for the Regional Health & Safety Conferences; a call to amend the process for area council elections for National Triennial Convention delegates; and a call to lobby the federal government with regards to legislation for survivors of domestic violence and legislation for historical DNA samples for missing persons.

An emergency resolution was unanimously passed calling for all locals of the PSAC to promote and support the ongoing Respect Vegreville campaign and stand with CEIU Local 30876 members to fight against the closure of the Case Processing Centre in Vegreville, Alberta.

Elections for all regional council positions (with the exception of the eight area council reps that were elected prior to Convention) were held throughout the weekend. More than half of the 23 Prairie Region Council representatives are new to the council and bring with them new perspectives and ideas. I look forward to working with the new council to plan our way forward and ensure continued success and solidarity within the Prairies.

Guest speakers at Convention included Sister Benson, CLC President Hassan Yussuff and MFL President Kevin Rebeck. We also held the Rally for Workers on the Friday, which featured these speakers, as well as Tom Lindsey, Official Opposition Labour Critic for Manitoba.

The rally brought out hundreds of Convention delegates to protest austerity agendas and attacks on labour. With the help and support of the Manitoba Federation of Labour, many other unions and union members from across Winnipeg came out to show their support. Various media outlets attended and covered the rally on the evening news.

The day ended with a celebration of Judy Shannon—a passionate educator, dedicated activist, and Prairies Regional Education Officer, who dedicated 23 years of services to the PSAC. Oneil Carlier, Judy's long-time friend and colleague, gave a touching tribute, which was followed by a short video of members sharing their memories of Judy.

We also announced the PRC's decision to set aside \$30,000 from deferred revenue to establish a memorial scholarship in Judy Shannon's name. The scholarship will annually fund one participant to attend the Prairie School for Union Women. Judy had been an advocate and facilitator for the PSUW for years and the scholarship will honour her dedication to education and passion for the Prairie School for Union Women.

To kick off our banquet evening, delegates had exclusive, after-hours-access to four galleries at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, including: What are Human Rights, Indigenous Perspectives, Canadian Journeys, and Protecting Rights in Canada.

Prior to dinner, delegates mingled in the Garden of Contemplation in the atrium of the museum. They also participated in the "Selfies for Social Justice" photo booth by taking photos of themselves with various human rights themed posters and filling out blank posters that asked, "What Do Human Rights Mean to You?"

Julia Peristerakis, a curator at the museum and PSAC member, gave a special welcome to the museum and the Convention Host Committee facilitated a fabulous silent auction with great prizes. They raised \$3,000 throughout the night, which will be donated to the Merchants Corner to help create affordable student housing in Winnipeg's inner city.

The night finished with the Prairie Voice Awards, which are presented to members who have provided exemplary service and have been role models or mentors. The objective is to recognize PSAC members for their commitment to the labour movement and work that benefits PSAC members in the Prairies. Eight members in total received an award, including Sister Benson who was awarded the Lifetime of Labour award for her dedication to our union and union members.

I want to acknowledge the staff for their work leading up to Convention and throughout the weekend to ensure everything ran as smoothly and efficiently as it did. Convention wouldn't



happen if it weren't for the staff involved and their coordinated efforts, so a big thank you goes out to all of the staff that contributed to a successful Convention.

Photos of all Convention activities have been posted on the PSAC Prairie Region Facebook page and on the PSAC Prairies website.

### **Treasury Board**

Between March 6 and April 6, over 130 ratification vote meetings were held in more than 40 different locations across the Prairie Region. This was a huge undertaking for PSAC staff and a massive commitment for bargaining team members. I want to thank all of the staff and bargaining team members who made it possible and played a role in the positive outcome of the ratification vote.

While these agreements achieved some significant breakthroughs on important issues, one outstanding issue weighing heavy on our members is the Phoenix pay system.

In April, it was announced that Public Services Minister Judy Foot is taking an indefinite leave of absence for personal reasons. Natural Resources Minister Jim Carr—based in Winnipeg just minutes from our Convention hotel—is filling in during her absence.

While we didn't have time on the agenda to hold a rally at his office, Sister Benson and I had the opportunity to meet with him and express our disappointment in this government for not implementing a \$75 million contingency fund to assist departments and agencies in dealing with the Phoenix pay system. I shared some of the heartbreaking realities our members have faced as a result of this government's decision to flip the switch on Phoenix when we knew it wasn't ready. We reinforced the need to get more staff and to make sure all staff have the training and support they need to ensure that our members get an accurate paycheque.

He fully acknowledged this is a government problem and they have a responsibility to fix it. He said fixing Phoenix is top priority and they are prepared to listen and work with us. We said we intend to hold him to his commitment. Our members have endured long enough and we need to see progress.

### **Provincial Politics**

Saskatchewan's latest provincial budget aims to balance the books on the backs of the province's lowest earners, including seniors and students. The Saskatchewan Party's budget outlines extensive cuts to critical programs and services, such as a 5% reduction in base operational funding for post-secondary institutions; a 6.7% cut to Saskatchewan's education budget; and the amalgamation of the province's 12 health regions to a single authority.

A devastating blow was also dealt to Saskatchewan's rural communities with the closure of the Saskatchewan Transit Company. Passenger service will end May 31 for the provincial bus

company, after more than 70 years of continuous service to 253 communities. Over 220 people will lose their jobs as a result of the closure of this Crown Corporation.

Several rallies have been held to show support for public services and stand up against cuts, austerity and this government's misplaced priorities, including one on March 8 and May 31. I was in attendance at the Saskatchewan Legislature on April 26 when the government passed Bill 40, which allows for the sale of up to 49% of Saskatchewan's Crown Corporations. Union members took direct action by silently standing and turning our backs to Sask Party MLA's as they voted yes to Bill 40. Despite the obvious setback, we will continue to work with the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour and other unions to fight back against the government and their misguided priorities to privatize our Crowns.

The SFL has launched phase two of their Own It campaign to say no to the Sask Party government's budget cuts to public services and their privatization agenda for Saskatchewan Crowns. We've supported the campaign since day one, and a PSAC member working for Casino Regina was interviewed as part of the campaign sharing how privatization would affect her and her family. We've posted the video to the PSAC Prairies YouTube channel. You can also find out more about the Own It campaign at [ownyoursaskatchewan.ca](http://ownyoursaskatchewan.ca).

On March 20, Brian Pallister's government introduced two bills that attack workers and their fundamental labour rights. The legislation calls for wide-reaching restrictions on bargaining and collective agreements and provides broad powers for the government.

Bill 28 mandates a two-year wage freeze, followed by maximum annual increases of 0.75% and 1.0% in years three and four. This applies to all employees employed in or by: the provincial government; a health organization—including Deer Lodge Centre where over 500 PSAC members work; post-secondary institutions—including the University of Winnipeg and Brandon University where hundreds of PSAC members are employed as academic capacity workers; and several other agencies, authorities and organizations. Instead of allowing savings and efficiencies to be found at the bargaining table, this government is imposing their agenda and mandating that it has to be on wages.

Bill 29 provides for the creation of seven bargaining units for each health region. This will force unions to re-organize their own members and is a blatant attempt to pit unions against one another. Despite having only just begun discussions with labour, the government felt the need to ram through legislation, making it very clear they're not interested in what we have to say. Members should be entitled to stay with the union that they chose and we will do everything to support our members at Deer Lodge Centre who are directly impacted by this attack.

PSAC is actively working with other unions in Manitoba. Our priority is to ensure that members continue to be represented and that we stand in solidarity with other unions. On May 8, I presented to the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba Standing Committee on Legislative Affairs regarding Bill 29: *The Health Sector Bargaining Unit Review Act*. We have seen in other jurisdictions where representation votes are time consuming, costly and divisive. There is no

need for this process to be conducted in Manitoba. While we do not agree that bargaining unit restructure is necessary to ensure quality patient care, we have participated with other health care unions in Manitoba to come to the table prepared to work with government and have presented an alternative solution to meet their concerns.

That same day, we also made a submission to the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba Standing Committee on Social and Economic Development regarding Bill 28: *The Public Services Sustainability Act*. Bill 28 will impact over 1,000 PSAC members and we called on the provincial government to withdraw the legislation and respect union members' constitutionally protected right to collective bargaining.

Earlier this year in February, we also submitted an analysis of issues related to the *Workers Compensation Act* in Manitoba. From November 15, 2016 to February 15, 2017, the Workers Compensation Act Legislative Review Committee 2016 asked for input from workers, employers, labour unions, industry and safety associations, key stakeholders and interested Manitobans to get a thorough understanding of the issues in order to prepare a final report for the government's consideration. The PSAC Prairie Region submitted an analysis of the issues for consideration on behalf of the more than 8,000 PSAC members living and working in Manitoba. Our submission is posted on the PSAC Prairie Region website.

On March 28, I attended a Labour Liaison meeting coordinated by the Alberta Federation of Labour with Premier Rachel Notley and the cabinet. The Alberta government is currently undertaking a review of the provincial *Employment Standards Act*. The Lethbridge Area Council President attended a community consultation to provide feedback for updating provincial labour standards. We are actively participating with the AFL to prepare for the next provincial election in 2019.

### **Respect Vegreville**

On February 13, I joined PSAC/CEIU member and Respect Vegreville campaign lead Michelle Henderson to meet with Immigration Minister Ahmed Hussen and his staff in Ottawa. We discussed how devastating the closure will be for the community and extended an invitation to visit Vegreville and meet with staff and community members. We also met with Shannon Stubbs, Conservative MP for Lakeland, and Jenny Kwan, NDP MP for Vancouver East and Vice-Chair on the Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration, who both expressed support for the Case Processing Centre to stay in Vegreville.

One month later, the Immigration Minister's staff sent a letter to PSAC reaffirming the department's plan to close the Vegreville CPC and move it to Edmonton. In response, Sister Benson wrote a letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau condemning him for "betraying rural communities." She also sent letters to all 179 Liberal MPs asking for their support, and a letter to the 39 members of the federal government's National Rural Caucus, which was created to help the government recognize the unique challenges that exist for small, rural communities.

Attached to the letter was a fact sheet, which countered some of the Minister's own arguments with facts from the union and the town.

A table was set up at the Alberta Federation of Labour Convention in Edmonton on April 27–29 and information was available at the recent CLC Convention in Toronto.

On April 19, members received official notification of the relocation, although management has denied this is a workforce adjustment scenario. A rally is being planned for Edmonton in May with a focus on pressuring the federal Liberals to reverse this decision. Visit [respectvegreville.ca](http://respectvegreville.ca) to read the fact sheet, the correspondence with the Minister, and to take part in the online action.

### **Support Our Port**

Despite continued pressure, no information has been shared by the multinational corporation, OmniTrax, regarding the announced sale of the Port of Churchill. Media reports indicate a sale may be imminent but no confirmation has been provided and there has been no response from the provincial or federal government on our demand to nationalize the Port. We are still currently in negotiations and seeking dates to return to the table.

### **International Women's Day**

Every year on March 8, union sisters take part in events and actions to celebrate and commemorate the movement for women's rights. This year, regional women's committees found new and creative ways to mark the occasion.

In Edmonton, the RWC sent out a women's day quiz to all locals in Northern Alberta. The questions came from the *PSAC Works for Women* handbook and the first prize was lunch with Sister Benson. Sisters in Red Deer also planned an activity for IWD with the Women's Outreach Centre.

Members of the Lethbridge and District Area Council supported the Lethbridge Regional Women's Committee's movie screening of *Girl Rising*. The movie night was held at the Lethbridge Public Library and showcased stories of nine girls from developing countries overcoming great obstacles to obtain an education.

The Calgary Regional Women's Committee partnered with the Women's Centre of Calgary, the Calgary District Labour Council and other unions to host an International Women's Day event. For the second year, the event was held at The Women's Centre of Calgary and was the largest IWD event yet at the Women's Centre, with about 250 in attendance. PSAC members set up a table with an interactive, spinning prize wheel, featuring questions about women in Alberta labour. Prizes included gift cards, bath and body gift baskets, and fresh fruit baskets. UFCW also contributed water bottles, lanyards, and lip balm.

To mark International Women's Day, members of the Calgary and Lethbridge Regional Women's Committees released the final postcard in their campaign for universal childcare. The committees' regional campaign encourages local MPs and MLAs in the Prairies to take action on the issue of child care and work together to create a national child care program. Visit [nomorefairytale.ca](http://nomorefairytale.ca) for more information and to participate in the online action.

### **Committees in the Community**

The Edmonton RWC launched a grocery card campaign to raise money for senior women and hopes to donate the cards to assist senior women with limited income. Members of the Edmonton RWC also attended a session on Inclusiveness and Privilege held during the AFL convention and I was honored to be part of a panel discussing what inclusiveness means in the union context.

Sisters from the Lethbridge RWC served on the organizing committee for the local solidarity event of the Global Women's March on Washington in January. Members of the Lethbridge and District Area Council were also in attendance.

In February, the Lethbridge Regional Women's Committee organized and sponsored a learn to crochet event. Local crocheters met with newcomers to Canada from Syria to teach crochet. RWC members provided instructions, yarn, hooks, and snacks. The first event was so successful that the group now meets monthly.

Members of the Lethbridge and District Area Council attended the Amnesty International Letter Writing Circle in February. Participants joined the Canadian Civil Liberties Association to write to the federal government about several issues, including: honouring international law obligations regarding the U.S. travel ban; closing the funding gap to ensure safety and support for Indigenous women and girls escaping violence; and ending the underfunding of child and family services in First Nations communities.

The Calgary Area Council held an open house for members to celebrate the 50th anniversary of PSAC. They held the event outside of the regional office in an attempt to create greater access and boost participation of the membership.

In Saskatoon, members from the Area Council laid a wreath at the April 28th event in the community in honour of the National Day of Mourning.

In Winnipeg, the Area Council participated in the annual May Day rally and march, sponsored by the Winnipeg Labour Council.

### **Negotiations Update**

A big congratulations to our bargaining team at the University of Winnipeg for achieving their first ever collective agreement for student workers in the academic capacity on campus,

including markers, teaching assistants, lab demonstrators, and tutors. Meanwhile, the University of Winnipeg Academic Research Assistants unit continue negotiations for a first collective agreement. The Royal Canadian Mint's Winnipeg Protective Services Officers also ratified their first collective agreement on March 1.

Negotiations continue with the Port of Churchill. Bargaining is also ongoing at the Centre for Aboriginal Human Resource Development, where the collective agreement expired August 2015. Notice to bargain has been issued for the SRG Security Resource Group and Edmonton Airport GBU, where both collective agreements expired on December 31, 2016.

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Congratulations to the PSAC members working for Treasury Board on ratifying new collective agreements that contain no concessions for four bargaining units. Now we must show our support for the border services group (FB Group) as they continue to fight for respect of their critical public safety duties.

Organizing efforts are also ongoing throughout the Prairies to coincide with the national PSAC/USGE campaign to represent Civilian Members of the RCMP.

Respectfully submitted,



Marianne Hladun,  
Prairies Regional Executive Vice-President

## REVP Prairies Activities

January 21–22	Prairie Region Triennial Convention Committee meetings
January 24	SFL Central Strategy Committee via conference call
January 25	RCMP Civilian Members Organizing Drive - Meet and Greet
January 26	RCSS Bouygues Energies and Services and RCSS Port of Churchill via conference call
January 26	CEIU Local 50772 AGM
January 27	2017 PSAC National Equity Conferences Resolutions Committee – National Women's Conference via conference call
January 27–28	Manitoba Agriculture Union Regional Seminar – Winkler, MB
January 29	Travel to Ottawa
January 30–31	Canadian Health Coalition Lobby Day
February 1	Travel to Winnipeg
February 2	PRC Financial Audit
February 2	Support Our Port campaign conference call
February 3	NBoD Standing Education Committee via conference call
February 3	Special NBoD meeting via conference call
February 6	Interview with Red River College students for Labour Studies
February 8	Meeting with Winnipeg Labour Council president-elect
February 9	NBoD Standing Political Action Committee meeting via conference call
February 9	RSCC for Canadian Museum for Human Rights
February 10	Manitoba Fiscal Working Group meeting (Re: Bill 28)
February 12	Travel to Ottawa
February 13	AEC Meeting
February 13	Meeting with Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship
February 14–15	NBoD Meeting
February 15	Conference call with UVAE Local 50021 Executive

February 15	Travel to Winnipeg
February 16	Health Care Bargaining Working Group meeting
February 17	Manitoba Fiscal Working Group meeting (Re: Bill 28)
February 17	Amalgamated Transit Union Memorial Rally – Winnipeg
February 20	Special NBoD Meeting via conference call
February 23	CIU Branch 50030 AGM
February 24	Manitoba Fiscal Working Group meeting (Re: Bill 28)
February 25	Travel to Edmonton
February 26	UNE Alberta Regional Seminar
February 27	Health Care Bargaining Working Group via conference call
February 27	Travel to Vegreville
February 27	CEIU Local 30876 membership meeting
February 27	Meeting with Vegreville Town Council
February 28	Travel to Winnipeg
March 1	Royal Canadian Mint Protective Security Officers Ratification Vote
March 2	MFL Executive Council
March 2	MFL/NDP Labour Liaison meeting
March 3	MFL Executive Council
March 3	Call with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada Assistant Deputy Minister
March 3	Respect Vegreville conference call
March 9	Manitoba Fiscal Working Group meeting (Re: Bill 28)
March 10	Health Care Bargaining Working Group meeting
March 10	Travel to Ottawa
March 11–12	NDP Federal Council Meetings
March 13	Travel to Winnipeg
March 13	Respect Vegreville conference call
March 15	Treasury Board Ratification Votes - Winnipeg



March 17–19	Manitoba NDP Convention
March 21	NBoD Pre-budget briefing via conference call
March 22	Manitoba Fiscal Working Group meeting (Re: Bill 28)
March 22	Federal Budget Briefing via conference call
March 22	Travel to Toronto
March 23	National Equity Conferences Resolutions Committee meeting
March 24–28	PSAC National Equity Conferences
March 28	Travel to Edmonton
March 28	AFL Labour Liaison Committee
March 29	Treasury Board Ratification Votes – Edmonton
March 29	Travel to Saskatoon
March 30	Parks NSCC via conference call
March 30	Treasury Board Ratification Votes – Prince Albert
March 31	Stop the Cuts Rally – Saskatoon
March 31	Save Saskatchewan Transit Company Rally – Saskatoon
April 2	Travel to Winnipeg
April 3–4	PRC Finance Committee allocation meeting
April 5	Respect Vegreville conference call
April 6	Health Care Bargaining Working Group meeting
April 7	Winnipeg Airport Authority RSCC
April 8	UNDE Council of Locals
April 8	Travel to Yellowknife
April 9	UDP West
April 9	Travel to Winnipeg
April 10	SJF Guatemala delegation report-Mackenzie Campbell
April 12	SFL Central Strategy Committee via conference call
April 18	NBoD Standing Education Committee-National Leadership Training via conference call

April 19	Manitoba Fiscal Working Group meeting (Re: Bill 28)
April 20	Prairie Region Council Meeting
April 21–23	PSAC Prairie Region Triennial Convention
April 24	Bill 40 Fightback conference call
April 28	Travel to Edmonton
April 28–30	AFL Convention
April 30	Travel to Winnipeg
May 1	RCMP Civilian Members organizing campaign via conference call
May 2	RCSS - Canadian Museum for Human Rights via conference call
May 2	Meeting with PRC Young Workers Rep
May 3	Special NBoD meeting via conference call
May 4	Respect Vegreville conference call
May 4	Parks NSCC conference call
May 6	Communities Not Cuts Rally – Winnipeg
May 6	Rainbow Resource Centre Gala
May 8	Manitoba Government Public Hearings on Bill 28 & 29
May 9	Travel to Toronto
May 9–12	CLC Convention
May 12	Travel to Winnipeg

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

**February 14-17, 2017**

**This report covers the period from the last NBOD meeting in October.**

**REGIONAL CONVENTION**

The deadline to register for delegate subsidies and to submit resolutions for the 2017 Prairie Region Convention was December 8, 2016.

At that time, there were 294 delegates registered. Additionally, the following were registered at the time of deadline but not eligible for subsidies: 25 alternates, 21 observers, and 6 guests.

We also received 42 resolutions, including 26 from committees and area councils, 11 from locals, and 5 from PRC. All resolutions were submitted to the Executive Office for vetting by Sister Robyn Benson. Our convention resolutions committees met on January 21 and 22, 2017, following our regular PRC meeting.

The 7th Triennial Convention of the PSAC Prairie Region will be held in Winnipeg, Manitoba, at the Fairmont Winnipeg beginning Friday, April 21, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. and concluding Sunday, April 23, at 12:30 p.m.

### **RESPECT VEGREVILLE**

On October 27, 2016, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada employees at the Vegreville Case Processing Centre were shocked to learn that the federal government plans to close their processing centre in Vegreville and relocate it to Edmonton by the end of 2018. Approximately 280 employees work in the centre, processing temporary and permanent residency applications, work permits and student permits. The employees represent approximately five percent of the population of Vegreville, a community approximately 100 km outside of Edmonton.

The closure of the Immigration Centre will have a devastating impact on the entire Vegreville community, and PSAC/CEIU are doing everything we can to stop it. We convened a steering committee consisting of local representatives and union leaders to help guide our planning and to ensure we are strategic and effective in our efforts. Sister Benson immediately sent a letter to Minister John McCallum urging him to put a stop to the plan to move the processing centre. We also launched an online action so PSAC members and Canadians can show their support. To find out more about the campaign and how you can support this rural Alberta town and the workers affected, visit [respectvegreville.ca](http://respectvegreville.ca) or “Respect Vegreville” on Facebook.

We also held a community forum on December 18. More than 400 people crowded into the Vegreville Social Centre to show their support and voice their concerns over the closure of the Vegreville Immigration Centre. Attendees asked questions, shared their concerns, and added their voice to the call for the government to Respect Vegreville and reverse their decision. Hundreds of letters were signed to be delivered to Minister McCallum and local MPs, as well as petitions from local politicians.

I'd like to thank all those that attended, as well as those that participated in the panel discussion, including: Myron Hayduk, Mayor, Vegreville; Shannon Stubbs, Conservative MP, Lakeland; Jessica Littlewood, NDP MLA, Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville; Michelle Henderson, Campaign Lead, CEIU; and Brother Chris Aylward.

With the recent cabinet shuffle, Ahmed Hussen has been assigned to Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship. We have since sent a letter to Minister Hussen's office to welcome him to the position and brief him on our previous correspondence with Minister McCallum. We've also relaunched the online action, calling on the new minister to reconsider the closure of the Vegreville Immigration Centre.

## **SUPPORT OUR PORT**

The fight to protect our port continues. On November 9, I presented to the Manitoba Federal Liberal caucus to discuss the issue of Churchill as well as other issues under federal jurisdiction such as Phoenix and the relocation of the Vegreville CPC. In December, employees of the Port of Churchill visited Parliament Hill to call on Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Minister of Transport Marc Garneau to save the port by converting the Port of Churchill into a Port Authority under federal jurisdiction. The group posed for a photo that read, "No Christmas for Churchill – Save Our Port."

I was honoured to join the workers, alongside Niki Ashton (MP, Churchill—Keewatinook Aski) and Teresa Eschuk (Regional Vice-President, UCTE Prairies/North), as we met with several MPs and staff from all parties and attended Question Period.

Immediately following our action on The Hill, we received a call from Minister of Natural Resources Jim Carr to discuss the issue, hear our concerns, and provide us with updates. After repeated e-mails and phone messages went ignored, and with little-to-no action from the government, I am certain that our very public efforts forced them to finally respond. I am very proud of the workers for sharing their stories and standing up to the employer.

## **COMMITTEES IN ACTION**

The Calgary Regional Women's Committee participated in the Sisters in Spirit Vigil on October 6, organized by the Awo Taan Healing Lodge Society. In addition to participating in the event, the committee made a donation to pay for more than 500 bagged lunches served to the participants of the vigil. The event included a rally, march, and ceremony with prayers and speeches. Two young girls showcased their "Footprints" exhibit with over 1,200 pairs of shoes, each representing a murdered or missing Indigenous woman and girl, arranged in a medicine wheel pattern in Olympic Plaza. Sisters from the Lethbridge RWC took part in their local Sisters in Spirit Vigil by participating on the planning committee and assisting with funds and volunteers for the October 4 event.

The Lethbridge RWC hosted an annual knitting event on December 5, where local knitters and crocheters made toques and scarves to donate to local organizations. The knitwear was donated to Lethbridge Family Services and the Alzheimer Society of Alberta & Northwest Territories. The committee also supported the October 18 Persons Day breakfast, where Lethbridge Area Council President Krysty Munns was a guest speaker. Members of the

Lethbridge RWC and Area Council attended the Amnesty International Lethbridge “Write for Rights” event on December 10 and the YWCA Lethbridge Candlelight Vigil for the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women on December 6.

PSAC once again supported the Canadian Labour International Film Festival. Lethbridge Area Council and RWC members hosted an event on November 14, attended by nearly 110 community members. The Calgary Area Council hosted two CLIFF film screenings to show and discuss short films from the International Film Festival. The Edmonton Area Council also held an event.

The Calgary and Lethbridge Regional Women’s Committees teamed up to take action on the issue of child care. The committees developed a regional campaign for a national child care program with the slogan, “No more fairy tales. It’s time to make universal child care a reality.” The campaign launched on December 22 with a holiday-themed online postcard and three more online postcards were developed to be released monthly. RWC members have been promoting the campaign on social media and encouraging people to take part in the online action. For more information, visit [www.nomorefairytales.ca](http://www.nomorefairytales.ca).

The Winnipeg RWC worked with the Winnipeg Area Council and the Winnipeg Human Rights Committee to create a float for the annual Santa Clause Parade. This was the first time the committees participated in the parade and it was well received by the community and the members who volunteered to do face painting and walk in the parade with the PSAC float handing out candy. Many people called out from the crowd that they were a PSAC member and showed their support for the union. Members also did face painting before the parade.

Additionally, the RWC made a donation to the MFL Labour Christmas Tree, which provides outerwear clothing to Winnipeg children in need, and purchased five tickets for committee members to attend the MFL Day of Remembrance Luncheon on December 6. The Area Council participated in the wreath laying ceremony on Remembrance Day.

In Edmonton, the RWC organized a seminar on domestic violence, which included five speakers and a raffle with proceeds going to the Ermineskin Women's Shelter. Sisters also attended a Remembrance Day event to present a wreath on behalf of the committee, as did members of the Saskatoon Area Council at their respective November 11 event. The Edmonton RWC also held a December 6 vigil to honour the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, as did the Saskatoon RWC.

On December 11, the Regina RWC hosted a women’s self-defense workshop with three self-defense instructors and dozens of participants, including myself. Members of the committee also volunteered with members of the Regina Area Council at the Unions of Regina Christmas Dinner on December 20. The event, which was hosted by the Regina & District Labour Council, fed 1,800 people and provided gifts to children in need.

The Edmonton Area Council hosted a solidarity brunch on October 1, with 35 members in attendance from 22 locals. Speakers at the event included, Gil McGowan (President, Alberta Federation of Labour President), Bruce Fafard (President, Edmonton and District Labour Council) and Oneil Carlier (Alberta NDP MLA and former PSAC Regional Representative).

The Prince Albert Area Council organized a town hall forum around bargaining and Phoenix. I attended to speak and answer questions, along with Brother Chris Aylward and Sister Brea Lewis (2<sup>nd</sup> NVP for CIU and FB bargaining team member). The event was well attended and well received by members.

For the fifth year, the Westman Area Council participated in the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Christmas Tree Auction by decorating one of twelve Christmas trees to donate to local families. The annual event raised \$38,505 for the United Way of Brandon & District.

## **PROVINCIAL POLITICS**

On October 27, the Saskatchewan government introduced Bill 40 to change the definition of "privatize," with respect to a Crown corporation. The proposed law would allow the government to sell up to 49 percent of a company without it being considered privatization. As our members at the Casino Regina are part of the Crown corporation Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority, we are very concerned and have been meeting with other unions and the SFL to participate in any campaigns to oppose privatization of Saskatchewan Crowns.

On November 1, I presented to the Manitoba government's Standing Committee on Social and Economic Development to submit PSAC's position on Bill 7: *The Labour Relations Amendment Act*. At its core, Bill 7 is not about protecting workers' democratic rights. Rather, it is directly aimed at expanding the ability of employers to interfere in the process. This legislation's purpose is to make it more difficult for workers to exercise their legal right to unionize and depress the rate of unionization in Manitoba. The full submission can be found on the PSAC Prairies website.

On December 9, I attended a press conference at the Manitoba Legislature with MP Niki Ashton, MLA Rob Altemeyer and Manitoba fishers regarding the provincial government's decision to pull out of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corp. PSAC/UEW represents the engineers at the FFMC processing centre in Winnipeg and there are concerns regarding the viability of the plant should Manitoba fishers no longer use the facility.

## **BARGAINING UPDATES**

We have an agreement in principle with the Winnipeg Protective Services Officers at the Royal Canadian Mint. The Memorandum of Settlement for their first collective agreement will be completed by the end of January followed by the ratification vote.

Employees at the Centre for Aboriginal Human Resource Development are still pushing for improved vacation allocation language and wages, and continue to fight against concessions. We're currently looking at dates for the next round.

Bargaining continues at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights with precarious work as a priority for this round of bargaining.

Bargaining is underway with the University of Winnipeg for first collective agreements for the academic workers. The bargaining team has been elected and demands are being prepared at Brandon University. Bargaining at the University of Saskatchewan is underway for a first collective agreement and we will be starting the process early this year to elect a team for the U of S Post Doc unit that was recently certified.

Several collective agreements expired on December 31, 2016, including the SRG Security Resource Group, Edmonton Airport GBU and Casino Regina. Notice to bargain has been issued and meetings with bargaining teams are underway. We expect to exchange with employers in February. Also up for bargaining in 2017 will be the Calgary Airport Authority and Deer Lodge Centre.

#### **ORGANIZING UPDATE**

On December 9, the Manitoba Labour Board issued a bargaining certificate for approximately 30 members at the Winnipeg Airport in its WASCO Energy subsidiary and at a company called Bouygues Energies and Services Canada, all of which are operating as a joint venture called "ByWA" (which is not a legal entity.) This joint venture is now operating the Airport Operations Centre, the Baggage Operations Centre and the Pass Office in positions formerly held by PSAC/UCTE members. We have also asked the Board for a decision on the true employer of these members and bargaining will commence following their decision.

#### **IN MEMORY**

We lost a dear friend in November with the passing of Judy Shannon. So many of us have worked with Judy over the years. She was a passionate educator, dedicated activist and an exceptional regional education officer. Judy had been with PSAC since before I got involved as an activist and through her support, coaching and friendship I was able to grow within the union. She didn't just educate; she built activists. And our union is better for her unwavering commitment to quality education. She will be deeply missed.

Respectfully submitted,



Marianne Hladun,  
Prairies Regional Executive Vice-President

**REVP Prairies Activities**

September 10	Prairies Racially Visible Conference
September 11	Travel to Ottawa
September 12 - 14	AEC Meeting
September 13	Joint Meeting with Regional Coordinators and Polcom's
September 14	NBoD Standing Education Committee Meeting
September 15	Port of Churchill Conference Call
September 21	Support Our Port Rally & Bargaining - Winnipeg
September 29	Education Committee Co-Chair Meeting
September 30	Conference Call with Minister Bains
September 30	Travel to Edmonton
October 1	Edmonton Area Council Solidarity Brunch
October 1	Travel to Winnipeg
October 2	Guest Speaker at UNE MB/SK Regional Seminar
October 2	Travel to Ottawa
October 3	AEC Meeting
October 3	Education Committee Meeting
October 4	NBoD Meeting
October 4	NBoD Standing Education Committee Meeting
October 4	Meeting with MP Niki Ashton, Ottawa
October 5	NBoD Meeting
October 5	Travel to Winnipeg
October 6	House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance - Pre-Budget Consultations in Advance of the 2017 Budget
October 6	Millennial Forum with Niki Ashton



October 11	MFL NDP Review Committee Meeting
October 12	Travel to Lethbridge
October 12	Lethbridge Area Council & Committee Meeting
October 12	Lethbridge District Labour Council
October 13	Travel to Calgary
October 13	Calgary Area Council & Committee Meeting
October 14	Travel to Winnipeg
October 17-18	AEC meeting via teleconference
October 20	Constitution Review Committee Meeting
October 20	RSCC Meeting for the University of Winnipeg Academic Capacity
October 21	Travel to Ottawa
October 21	PSAC Caucus at the CLC Rise Up Conference
October 23	PSAC Caucus at the CLC Young Workers Summit
October 24	Parks Bargaining
October 25	Guest at the CLC Young Workers Summit
October 25	Travel to Winnipeg
October 26	UNE Local 40811 AGM
October 26	Travel to Regina
October 27	SFL Convention
October 27	Meeting with Committee Chairs and PRC
October 28	SFL Convention
October 28	Parks NSCC via Conference Call
October 29	SFL Convention
November 1	PSAC Submission on Bill 7 to Manitoba Standing Committee on Social and Economic Development
November 2	Vegreville Campaign Conference Call
November 2	Travel to Brandon
November 2	National Day of Action - Post-Secondary Education

November 2	Travel to Winnipeg
November 2	Travel to Calgary
November 3	PRC Committee Meetings
November 4 - 6	Prairie Region Council Meeting
November 6	Travel to Winnipeg
November 8	USGE Local 50015 AGM
November 8	Vegreville Campaign Conference Call
November 9	Presentation to Manitoba Federal Liberal Caucus
November 9	U of W Membership Meeting and Bargaining Update
November 9	MFL NDP Leadership Selection Process Consultation
November 13	Travel to Ottawa
November 14	National Education Policy Meeting
November 14	Meeting with Minister Bain's staff re: Churchill
November 15	AEC Meeting
November 15	Special NBOD Meeting
November 16	AEC Meeting
November 17	Parks NSCC
November 17	Travel to Montreal
November 18 – 20	National Health & Safety Conference
November 20	Travel to Winnipeg
November 21	Throne Speech Day Rally
November 21	Meeting with PRC RWC Rep
November 21	Update Call with Niki Ashton re: Churchill
November 22	Travel to Edmonton and Vegreville
November 22	Vegreville Campaign Meeting
November 23	Meeting with Jessica Littlewood, MLA Vegreville Introduced from Gallery during Question Period
November 23	Travel to Winnipeg

November 24	NHU Local 50012 AGM
November 30	Vegreville Campaign Meeting
December 1	AEC Conference call
December 3 - 4	Edmonton RWC Domestic Violence Seminar
December 4	Travel to Winnipeg
December 6	MFL Memorial Luncheon
December 9	Press Conference at MB Legislature re: FFMC w/Niki Ashton
December 9	Travel to Regina
December 10	Regina HRC Mental Health Seminar
December 11	Regina RWC Self Defense Workshop
December 11	Travel to Ottawa
December 12	AEC Meeting
December 13	Churchill on the Hill Action
December 13	Port of Churchill Press Conference
December 13	Meeting with NDP Leader, Thomas Mulcair
December 13	Meeting with Minister Carr staff
December 13	Meeting with Minister Bains staff
December 13	Meeting with MP Randy Hoback
December 14	Constitution Review Committee Meeting
December 14	Travel to Regina
December 15	SFL Public Sector Bargaining Meeting
December 16	Regina Regional Office Open House
December 17	Travel to Winnipeg
December 18	Travel to Edmonton
December 18	Respect Vegreville Community Forum
December 19	Travel to Calgary
December 19	UCTE Local 30318 AGM

December 19	Travel to Winnipeg
December 20	UNDE Local 50704 Christmas Lunch
December 21	Meeting with Minister Carr
December 21	Meeting - Milton Sussman (CEO WRHA) with Manitoba Federation of Labour
January 4	Provincial Union Leaders Meeting
January 6	AFL Political Action Committee Meeting via Conference Call
January 8	Travel to Ottawa
January 9 - 10	AEC Meeting
January 11	Travel to Winnipeg
January 11	ByWA Conference Call
January 12	Childcare Campaign Conference Call
January 12	Manitoba Healthcare Section Union Meeting
January 13	Vegreville Campaign Conference Call
January 13	AEC Conference Call
January 16	Vegreville Campaign Steering Committee Conference Call
January 17	AGR Local 50056 AGM (Morden)
January 19 - 20	Prairie Region Council Meeting

**Shaun Atilano**  
**Separate Employer Locals Rep**  
**Prairie Region Council July 2017**

The annual May Day March is organized by the Winnipeg Labour Council in recognition of International Working Class Day. Winnipeg Area Council has been very active encouraging PSAC members to join the march. This year's march comes as governments respond to the economic crisis through calls for austerity and cutbacks to social programs, attacks on workers livelihood and pensions. We Join together with our brothers and sisters in another union groups to say: "We Are Entitled to Prosperity Not Austerity."

Since PSAC Prairie Region Triennial Convention, I am still working out building communication with every Separate Employer Locals in the Prairie Region to voice out their concerns and achieve a better workplace.

Should you have any questions about my report, please contact me directly.

Activities

May 1, 2017 – Attended May Day march at Winnipeg Memorial Park

In Solidarity,  
Shaun Atilano

**Satinder Bains**  
**Regina Area Council Rep**  
**Prairie Region Council July 2017**

I continue to attend and work with the Regina Human Rights and Regina Area Council committees and attended the meetings on regular bases. Continued to participate in on the PRC conference calls to keep up to the current events and issues in the PSAC.

May 24<sup>th</sup> attended a rally to support in solidarity with our Saskatchewan workers unions CUPE, SGEU, DCL among others unions and concerned citizens at the Legislative Building. The rally was well attended by members from all over Saskatchewan along with PSAC members and REVP Sister Hladun. We had multiple speakers whom addressed the provincial government's latest attack on workers. The Saskatchewan government has created uncertainty and fears for the public sector workers by significant layoffs, cuts and roll back in the media. The current governments have sold off and given away source of revenue and have invested in expensive projects and contracts and the only solution they have is to punish the hard working workers for the own mistakes. I was very happy to see so many people attending to take action and

stand up against the current government as this effect all workers in health care, education, social services, municipalities throughout the province.

May 27<sup>th</sup> attended the Erin Weir MP campaign baroque in Regina, had a face to face discussion regarding the Phoenix pay issues in which our tens of thousands members are effected, and also to keep up the pressure in the parliament. This is a moral responsibility of this government that our members are paid on time and its taking too long to fix this useless system. We also discussed and agreed upon to have a follow up meeting in the near future.

May 30<sup>th</sup> Made calls to Regina Area Local Presidents from the PSAC Regina Regional Office to have their members attend and volunteer for June 13<sup>th</sup> Phoenix pay System Awareness Event protest to be held downtown Regina.

June 5<sup>th</sup> Made posters and pickets signs at the Regina PSAC Regional office for the Phoenix March and Picket event on June 13<sup>th</sup> also made phone calls to local president and recruited members to volunteer to assist.

June 12<sup>th</sup> attended the Regina Human Rights Vigil at the legislative building coordinated by Brother Tim Hubick to remember the 49 people who died and 53 people seriously injured after a shooting in a gay nightclub in Orlando Florida. NDP leader Trent Weatherspoon spoke at the vigil to extend his sympathy. This also reminded us how people are filled with hatred and we should not forget and strongly condemn this inhumane act of brutality.

June 13<sup>th</sup> we did our March and Picket at Regina Victoria Park during the lunch break to bring attention to the public regarding how our members are effected by the Phoenix Pay System, we provided lunch to our members and made people aware it's the morale reasonability of this current government to correct and pay our members for the hard work they do along with the hardships and stress they are facing financially.

In Solidarity,

Satinder Bains

PRC Regina Area Council

**Greg Ballendine**  
**Winnipeg Area Council Rep**  
**Prairie Region Council July 2017**

I'll begin by thanking the members who have entrusted me with the privilege of serving on this council. I look forward to being productive, progressive and returning the pride to our region.

The day following another successful Regional Convention, I requested the contact info for the Winnipeg Area Locals from the REVP. At the time of writing this report, that contact info has not yet been provided. I intend to seek improvements as we move forward with communication and have this information available to the council representatives very soon after future conventions have concluded.

The Conservative Government in Manitoba has launched an all out attack on workers, wages and the closure of a few hospitals. Sister Michelle Lang and I attended a public forum a few days before our convention and she had an impact on the room. Most notably, she encouraged those in attendance to support the work the MLA's were doing by taking some action themselves and not relying on the elected officials to carry the load. I sent an email to my Conservative MLA asking him about the closure of my local hospital and wished him a "One and Done" term in office. I have yet to receive a reply.

On June 27<sup>th</sup>, I attended a fundraiser for my MP Daniel Blaikie. As I sit on Daniel's EDA Executive, we organized a small fundraiser which provided community members an opportunity to meet with Daniel and a few MLA's and discuss topics of interest in Ottawa as well as in our community. Many members in Winnipeg have built good relationships with the MP's in Winnipeg which has allowed us greater access to lobbying. I hope to expand our lobbyists in the area now, so that we can work to improve our workplaces and our communities.

As an elected member of the NDP Federal Council, I look forward to bringing my experience and hopefully some training opportunities to our members in advance of the next Federal election. The Federal New Democrats will elect a new leader later this Fall and our direction will soon be set before us.

May 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Winnipeg Area Council(WAC) met. We discussed our plans for our events for this year. While many of our usual events will continue, such as the May Day March, we made improvement by entering a float into this year's Pride Parade. Once again, A/REVP Frank Janz has shown his carpentry skills and numerous other members helped decorate our fabulous float! Brother Gus Mardli was elected to attend the PSAC National Convention and I was elected as the alternate.

May 6<sup>th</sup>, a number of members and staff attended the Communities Not Cuts Rally at The Forks. Members from various organizations stood together against provincial budget cuts, legislative changes and for creating a powerful movement to create positive change.

May 16<sup>th</sup>, I attended the Winnipeg Labor Council(WLC) general meeting. Although we are not affiliated, the WLC allows guests to attend. This is a great opportunity to meet with other activists and learn about the various opportunities for working together with our allies(and for good and welfare afterwards). Over the past few years, we've been building solidarity within our two organizations by attending each other's events. Of note is the 100 year anniversary of the Winnipeg General Strike in 2019. Planning is underway for this historic event in labor history.

Throughout the month of May and June, I spent numerous nights and weekends volunteering in the Point Douglas by-election. This has been an NDP stronghold which was eventually won by the NDP.

June 3<sup>rd</sup>, I attended the Manitoba NDP Provincial Council Meeting. Plans are underway for the upcoming leadership convention later this year. As always, members are encouraged to become members so that our voices are heard and so that we can be included in our democratic processes.

June 7<sup>th</sup>, the WAC met. Plans were discussed for NPSW week and volunteering with the Manitoba Marathon.

June 14<sup>th</sup>. The WAC hosted a Member Appreciation BBQ and Burnt by Phoenix rally during NPSW. Although the morning and portion of the rally started with a downpour, we served approximately 100 members. A/REVP Frank Janz led a group of rain soaked members through the streets of Winnipeg getting our message out that thousands of our members have been Burnt by Phoenix. Members enjoyed a BBQ once the sun came out and PSAC National President and I addressed the crowd on issues such as Phoenix and the Liberal Government's unwillingness to sign a number of our Collective Agreements. Is it any coincidence that our event occurred only hours before the Liberals bowed to the PSAC pressure? Who knows, but we like to think so! A few lessons were learned from this event and we plan to make improvements for 2018!

Speaking of being Burnt by Phoenix...I suffered my first wound from Phoenix. Maybe I should've knocked on wood at the rally earlier that day? It's been almost 2 weeks since I contacted the pay centre and have not received a reply. I emailed MP Scott Brison and my MP Daniel Blaikie. Brison's office replied that I should direct my email elsewhere despite his asking for Public Servants to contact him directly. Ensuring our members are paid MUST continue to be a priority for the PSAC.

June 18<sup>th</sup>, Brother Gus Mardli organized numerous members to assist with the Manitoba Marathon. Our members served refreshments to numerous marathoners and once again, continued to show our commitment to our community.

June 20<sup>th</sup>, I attended to WLC general meeting. Again, opportunities for working together with other activists and increased communication to allow increased participation were discussed.



I'm looking forward to seeing familiar faces at our first meeting of the PRC and getting to know new ones. As I stated in my introduction, I anticipate a productive term and working together to improve our region.

**Shannon Blum  
Persons with Disabilities Rep  
Prairie Region Council July 2017**

Hello Prairies!

At the PSAC Convention in April I was honored to be voted in as Representative for Persons with Disabilities. I have been an activist for several years now and I'm excited about the new opportunities this position will allow to explore further the work we can do as a Union.

Over the last few years I have come to understand that as an employer, the Federal Government has much work to do in changing the mindset of it's managers and supervisors towards people with different abilities. As an individual with an invisible disability I have personally experienced the stereo types and challenges of convincing people that yes I do have an illness, no I'm not just complaining when I ask for an accommodation and yes I will be a productive employee when provided with the unique requirements to accommodate my condition!

During my term, I have promised to champion our cause my fellow members! I must admit that I have not been as proactive as I wished, due in part to my own physical and mental challenges but I have not been idle either. Here is what I have done specific to this position so far:

- Represented 3 people in accommodation and return to work cases.
- Worked with 2 individuals who have decided to file human rights complaints.
- Worked closely with several individuals to get them mental health support after serious incidents in their home life and work life.
- Consulted with 2 other locals on issues specific to their cases, and I am traveling today to continue this work.
- Attended a "Facing Management" course.
- I have contacted PSAC about joining the working group on Mental Health that we negotiated in our collective agreement, for those that are in this group.
- I am working on a newsletter for distribution, hopefully soon.

One of the biggest challenges I see for this position is getting in contact with a sometimes reluctant group of people who self identify as a person with different abilities. So often we have been burned by this process that we don't necessarily want others to know that we have unique challenges. I am hoping a newsletter to ALL Prairies members will allow some people to self identify to me, so that I can begin a distribution list and a way for us to reach out to each other.

I feel that it is important that I be available for our membership, and I'd like to make it very clear that I am here for you in every situation, from simply a person to listen and support you as you go through a tough situation all the way to standing with you while you fight for your rights. You are NOT alone!

Sincerely,

Shannon Blum

PRC Persons with Disabilities Rep  
Local President  
Secretary/Treasure of Prince Albert & District Area Council  
sylph@sasktel.net

**Tim Hubick**  
**Southern Saskatchewan Geographical Rep**  
**Prairie Region Council July 2017**

**Since being elected.**

Since taking on the role of southern rep. I have been learning the role.

It has been a very active time in Southern Saskatchewan with rallies focused around saving our crowns from privation, rallies boycotting public service week. Mother's day walk, pride events, and National Aboriginal Day.

Over the past the past few months I have worked closely with the regional office in Regina. I have attended Area council meetings. Sitting on the executive for this committee. I have guided them on some issues and worked with them on some team building. I have also been elected to be the chair for Regina Human rights committee this committee is a stage of re-development. It has already held 2 very successful events this year which I will talk about a little more in this report.

**Events.**

May 3 area council had a regular meeting at Regina Region Office.

On May 14 Mother's Day walk took place this is an annual event that takes place every Mother's Day. This event has taken place for the last 4 years now it is to remember the murdered and missing indigenous women. This event has grown in numbers over the years.

On May 23 Area council held a special meeting to talk about how to boycott the federal government public service week. It was planned to do a phone bank to all local presidents to let them know that a walk would take place on June 13 at noon. Posters were discussed and a date to make posters was decided.

On May 24 PSAC members along with members of other unions attended a rally that took place on the Saskatchewan Legislative Building grounds to rally against the Brad Wall government and his cuts towards the crowns. (Do to medical issues I was unable to attend this rally in person)

On June 12 Regina, Human Rights Committee attended the flag raising for pride week at city hall.

On June 12 Regina, Human Rights committee held a candle light vigil to remember the 49 people who lost their life's in the Orlando night club shooting and to remember the 53 injured. There were 48 pairs of shoes collected to represent the dead and trees were given out to remember the 53 as a sign of hope. The committee wanted to focus on bringing awareness to the public that this type of hate and violence still excites.

On June 13 PSAC Area council held a walk-in boycott of the federal government public service week. Members walked in down town Regina with pick signs referring to fix phoenix pay and boycott PSW.

On June 21 National Aboriginal Day in Canada events across Southern Saskatchewan were held and PSCA members were encouraged to take part in events.

On June 22 PSAC members once again gathered together in solidarity with other unions and rallied in Moose Jaw to once again rally against the Brad Wall government and the selling of our crowns. This such action would greatly effect our members in our DCLs.

### **Goals for future.**

The goals I have for the future is to continue to learn my role.

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

To have contact with all the locals and explain the purpose of all the committees as I have heard from several members they do not know what the committees do.

I will keep standing up in rallies to stand up for our crowns.

To keep working with SLF and other unions in solidarity.

To keep all members informed on upcoming events.

To keep fighting to fix phoenix pay system.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Respectively submitted

In solidarity

Tim Hubick

**Valerie Illingworth  
Northern Saskatchewan Geographical Rep  
Prairie Region Council July 2017**

I was re-elected to the position of Northern Saskatchewan Geographic rep at the 2017 Prairie Region Triennial Convention. The convention was held in Winnipeg, Manitoba from April 21–23, 2017 with a registered total of 336 in attendance, including 296 delegates, 7 guests, 4 NBoD, and 29 Observers. It was a great tool for networking and I was able to meet many activists.

Day one of the convention, at lunch, hundreds of delegates took buses from the Fairmont Winnipeg to the Manitoba Legislative Building to protest austerity agendas and attacks on labor at the Rally for Workers. Many other unions joined PSAC at the rally and it was a successful rally which included the following speakers: Hassan Yussuff, CLC President; Robyn Benson, PSAC National President; Tom Lindsey, Official Opposition Labor Critic for Manitoba; and Kevin Rebeck, MFL President.

National public service week was held from June 11-17, 2017. UTE Local 40023 and the Saskatoon area council hosted a lunch event. We had over 150 people attend from different unions in support of the Fix Phoenix Campaign. Sandwiches, soft drinks and

cookies were handed out. We also gave out stickers and post cards and asked the members to send in their postcards

The Prairie Region Council will be meeting in Saskatoon on July 7. I will be able to meet the new council members and bring any member issues to the table.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Illingworth

Northern Saskatchewan Geographic Rep

**Frank Janz  
Alternate REVP  
Prairie Region Council July 2017**

Since my last report, efforts turned to the Prairie Region Tri Annual Convention that was held in Winnipeg in April.

I was honoured to be co-chair of the host committee along with Brother Matt Tijani. The committee included staff members Tracy Thor and Tina Matias-Bouchard, with preparation and planning beginning in November 2016.

Funds normally allocated towards the purchase of gifts (swag) from the host committee were allotted to purchasing prizes for a silent auction. In addition, many components and individuals donated prizes for this cause. Over 30 prizes were available, and \$3000 was raised.

The silent auction beneficiary was Merchants Corner, a project located at the site of the old Merchants Hotel in Winnipeg, where construction is underway to develop 30 units of student family housing. These 30 units will provide a much needed response to a long-standing problem and remove barriers to education for students with families.

I would like to thank all components and individuals who generously donated to this worthy cause.

I would also like to thank and acknowledge all volunteers who helped gather and prepare the host packages, worked the host table, boutique, silent auction and performed the multitude of tasks and duties that were asked of them. The generous sharing of your time to assist with the convention is valued and appreciated.

Thank You!

## **Volunteers**

Jennifer Barron  
Patrick Bolomey  
Amber Cote  
Vimbay Dune  
Natalie Fondren-Gasc  
Tracy Grove  
Sheilagh Hansen  
Mandie Harbridge  
Yvonne Hein  
Shelley Henn  
Dawn MacAuley  
Darlene McClure  
Susan Prymak  
Lorelei Topnik  
Nicole Papineau  
Sherri Parent  
Laura Parr  
Wanda Quennell  
Betty Ng Tsang

My sincere apologies if I have missed anyone.

I also sat as a member of the Finance Committee and we met in early April to review and approve (with conditions) the funding request for all of the 19 committees of the Prairie Region. I would like to thank the Committee members for their work. We will miss Brother Greg Krokosh and Sister Gloria Kelly from the Committee as they both provide valuable insight and guidance and shared their years and years of experience with the committee and the PRC.

I was honoured to be re-elected to the AREVP position at the convention in April. I ran on a platform of four priorities: Engagement, Activism, Community and Governance. As the AREVP, I will follow through with my plan to work on these with the PRC by putting forward ideas, motions, and agenda items in support of the priorities that were identified by members across the region.

I look forward to the next three years and prepare for the challenges ahead; I know we will achieve great things for our members throughout the region and the PSAC.

In solidarity,

Frank Janz

**Glen Johnston  
Westman Area Council Rep  
Prairie Region Council July 2017**

At the end of the 2017 Prairie Region Triennial Convention I assumed the position of the WMAC Representative to the PRC and took the Oath of Office along with the rest of the Council members and Alternates.

The first meeting of the WMAC after Convention was held on the 20<sup>th</sup> of Jun 2017 but I was unable to attend due to illness.

As the Treasurer of the Council I had submitted a question regarding the bank statements and how the Regional Office was going to deal with missing statements. As the bank is sending all statements to the Winnipeg RO is it incumbent upon the WMAC to retrieve the missing statements and if there is a cost who would be responsible to reimburse the bank.

As the WMAC Rep to PRC I will be bringing these questions to the Council meeting in Saskatoon to seek answers.

There was also a Pride Parade held in Brandon on the 17<sup>th</sup> of June, unfortunately the Council was not aware that this event was taking place until a couple of days prior to the event. Last minute attempts to get participants did not pan out but the Council hopes to be participants in future events.

Respectfully submitted,

Glen Johnston  
WMAC Rep to the PRC

Report submitted after the deadline

**Deb Kosteniuk**  
**RWC Rep**  
**Prairie Region Council July 2017**

Since becoming the Women's Committee Representative on Prairie Region Council, I have been working on a letter to introduce myself to the Regional Women's Committees. Now that I have my RWC Chairs contact list, I will be finalizing the letter and sending it shortly before PRC meets in July.

In May I met, via teleconference, with our REVP and Dolly Ablitt, the Calgary Regional Rep and reviewed the applicants for the Prairie School for Union Women. Charmaine Nelson from Edmonton was chosen as the first recipient of the Judy Shannon Scholarship, which fully covered her costs for attendance (registration, travel, loss of salary). For this year only, PSAC Prairie Region education budget provided subsidies for up to two active union sisters per province to attend the PSUW. The PSAC subsidy covered the cost of the early bird registration fee of \$850 and subsidy applicants were expected to approach their Locals and, where applicable, Components, for additional financial support (i.e. transportation, loss of salary).

I attended the AGM of Awo T'aan Healing Lodge Society on June 7, 2017. Awo T'aan organizes the Sister in Spirit Vigil in October, an event the Calgary RWC is proud to contribute to and be considered a partner.

I participated in the June 14<sup>th</sup> event organized by Calgary Area Council to boycott National Public Service Week. We served 450 Dairy Queen Dilly Bars to members at the Harry Hays Building, passed out hundreds of stickers and flyers talking about Phoenix. Every one or two member out of ten that we spoke had a story about being affected by Phoenix.

On June 24<sup>th</sup> I volunteered at the PSAC booth for National Aboriginal Week, along with other PSAC members. There was a family festival and pow wow on the former Indian Village site of the Calgary Stampede grounds. Victoria Norris of the HRC organized the event and turned the Wheel into a beautiful display of Aboriginal Art.

The federal government is handing over the reins of its long-awaited inquiry into Canada's missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls to five commissioners. They'll have the power to decide who to call as witnesses and what the review will look like. The commission will also be able to refer cases to the authorities, like the attorney general or police, for more investigation. But they can't force police to reopen cases or lay charges. I am part of a committee that has managed to secure a meeting with Marilyn Poitras, one of the five Commissioners, in July. Tonight, June 28<sup>th</sup> I will be in a meeting with stakeholders to discuss the strategy we wish to take when we meet with Ms. Poitras.

When I send out my letter to the RWC Chairs, I will be asking them to let me know what they have been doing since the Prairie Region Triennial. And I will be asking them if they have matters they would like brought forward to PRC. I will also be discussing the



national childcare program and how all RWC's need to plan some kind of activity in support of the program. New initiatives came out June 12, 2017 and we need to show our support.

Deb Kosteniuk  
Women's Committee Rep

**Michelle Lang  
DCL Rep  
Prairie Region Council July 2017**

Hello Comrades,

I want to welcome all the new members to the council as well as welcoming back the members from the previous council.

I sent out emails to the Directly Chartered Locals within the Prairies for agenda items as well as a report of what is going on within their locals. To date I have not received a reply. If I receive anything I will provide a verbal update when we meet.

I currently am attending rallies to stop the cuts in and around Regina. Unifor and SGEU are the ones to usually host these events. I had the chance to speak at a Moose Jaw Rally on June 22, 2017. I want to connect with the Regina (and Area) Area Council about putting on a rally or a demonstration in front of a MLA Back Benchers office to make it know that their seat is in jeopardy and that we won't back down until they either start listening to the public or get booted out of their seats.

Bargaining is happening I believe with some of the Universities as well as the Casino. It is going to be a tough battle but one that I refuse to back down from. They want to cut salaries do it to the top not your front line workers.

Not too much to report other than daily activities of the local. I ask that if any of my comrades on PRC know of any Rallies or Pickets to please let me know. If I can I will go out and support. I also ask that if there is a Rally for any type of privatization in any province that you go out and support as that hurts every single resident in the province.

I will sign off for now and hopefully can receive some information from the other DCL's in the Prairies.

In Solidarity,

Michelle Lang

DCL Representative.

**Stasi L'Hirondelle  
Northern Alberta Geographical Rep  
Prairie Region Council July 2017**

Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

I am pleased to be the newly elected Geographical Rep for Northern Alberta. I'd also like to thank everyone for the support I received at the PSAC Prairie Region Triennial Convention in April.

Since convention, I have stood with the members the Vegreville Case Processing Centre (CEIU) with two rallies. The first rally that took place was an impromptu rally that was held outside of the Telus World of Science Centre in Edmonton, when we became aware that the Prime Minister would be there to deliver a speech. The information was released late in the afternoon of Friday, May 19. With the help of social media and members of CEIU, we had a great group of people out to rally on the Saturday of a long weekend. The rally garnered much support from the public, and many people in attendance for the Prime Ministers speech were sporting new "Support Vegreville" buttons. There was a rally in support of Vegreville May 25 at Canada Place in Edmonton. Leading up to the event, I passed out flyers in and around Canada Place to encourage ALL members to join the rally. I believe this was another successful event in support of our sisters and brothers, that included coverage by local media.

In support of the PSAC boycott of National Public Service Week, and with the help from the Edmonton Area Council, an email was sent out to all the rural locals encouraging them to boycott NPSW and hand out ice cream and popsicles instead. A poster was included in the email for them to distribute to their members and the presidents were advised that funds were available from the Area Council to support the boycott. I supported Area Council with the creation of posters, assisted in plant gating, as well as handing out nice cool treats to members at Canada Place on June 14. On June 15, I

joined one of the RO's travelling around Edmonton in our "vansicle", handing out treats to members.

I'm currently still waiting for a listing of emails for all the local presidents within the region from the RO, and I look forward to reaching out to them all and finding ways in which I can support them. I hope to plan some meet and greet events with members in the fall, allowing an opportunity for me to hear directly from the members how I can best support them as the geographical rep.

I am looking forward to my role as the Geographical rep for Northern Alberta and working with Prairie Regional Council to foster strong relations with our members.

In Solidarity

Stasi L'Hirondelle

**Chris Little-Gagne  
GLBT Rep  
Prairie Region Council July 2017**

On April 24<sup>th</sup> I sent in an introduction letter about myself and a large amount of the Pride events in the prairies to the REVP's office. As the PSAC Prairies website is not accurate I am waiting for the PSAC to send out the letter. As of June 25<sup>th</sup> this has not yet happened.

Currently there are events happening across Canada for Pride. Pride activities are underway in the region. Winnipeg Pride parade was June 4<sup>th</sup> and was a great success. This was the first year that we had a float in the parade and our members did a great job showing PSAC in a create community light. I was not able to attend in person as I was in Ottawa. We had members attend Brandon's 3<sup>rd</sup> Pride parade on June 17<sup>th</sup>. I am waiting to hear back from the other cities within the regions. Congratulations on Flin Flon and Kenora on their first Pride activities.

Here is a clip from the letter I have created to be sent out.

**Alberta**

**Jasper Pride:** March

**Edmonton Pride Festival:** June 9 to 18

**Lethbridge Pride:** June 26 to July 4

**Central Alberta Pride Week (Red Deer):** August 13 to 23

**Calgary Pride:** August 25 to September 4

**Medicine Hat Pride:** September

**Gay and Lesbian Association of the Peace (Grand Prairie): ?**  
**Fort McMurray LGBTQmunity: ?**  
**Saskatchewan**  
**Moose Jaw Pride: May 1 to 7**  
**Prince Albert Pride Week: ?**  
**Southwest Saskatchewan Pride (Swift Current): May 29 – June 3**  
**Saskatoon Pride: June 12 to 19**  
**Queen City Pride (Regina): June 9 to 18**  
**Manitoba**  
**Brandon Pride: June 12- 18**  
**Pride Winnipeg: May 26 – June 4**  
**Flin Flon: August 18<sup>th</sup> (first Pride)**  
**Pride North of 55 (Thompson): June 10**  
**Steinbach Pride: July 15**

I have been working with the Government of Canada's interdepartmental Positive Space initiative. I highly recommend all members of the Federal Government who are allies to or members of the LGBTQ+ community attend their department's initiatives or the interdepartmental initiative. Union activists should be active in making positive change from within. Any member interested should feel free to contact me for more information.

#### **My Activities**

May 30 – sent an introduction letter to the PSAC Regional Office (Winnipeg) to have sent out to all councils and locals about myself and Pride events in the prairies  
June 18 – attended the Manitoba Marathon as a volunteer for the PSAC water station

In Solidarity,

Christopher Little-Gagné

**Gus Mardli**  
**South-East Manitoba Geographical Rep**  
**Prairie Region Council July 2017**

Greetings everyone,

It has been an honour and a privilege to be re-elected to this position at the last Prairie Region Triennial Convention. I am looking forward to work with each and every local in my geographical area this term and be their voice on the Prairie Region Council.

Here is a list of activities I participated in:

On May 1<sup>st</sup>, I participated in celebrating the International Worker Day (May Day) that was sponsored by the Winnipeg Labour Council. I promoted the event to activists in South East Manitoba and we rallied at the Legislative Building and marched to say: ***No To The Agenda Of Austerity, Privatization And Cuts To Jobs And Social Spending.***

May 3 – Attended the Winnipeg Area Council's AGM.

May 6 – I attended an event at the Forks in Winnipeg that was organized by Communities Not Cuts (<http://communitiesnotcuts.ca/>) and other unions in Manitoba.

May 30 – Attended the Human Rights Committee's meeting where we got the Pride Parade swags ready for the Winnipeg Pride.

June 4 – Participated with the decoration of the PSAC Pride Float. This was the 30 year anniversary of the Winnipeg Pride Parade. We had the largest turnout that we ever have seen for this event.

June 7 - I attended a Winnipeg Area Council's meeting.

June 14 – I volunteered at the National Public Service Week Rally that was organized by The Winnipeg Area Council. This event was to recognize the great work our members in the Winnipeg area have done and continue to do as they boycott the NPSW events held by their employers. The rally started at the Manitoba Legislature and marched to Upper Fort Garry Provincial Park. We had barbecued Hot Dogs and refreshments where Sister Benson helped with barbecuing and was the guest speaker.

June 18, Father's Day, I volunteered with the Winnipeg Area Council at the annual Manitoba Marathon event. Eleven of us PSAC members greeted and served Relay Runners at their exchange zone. We offered them Gator Aid, Water, juice boxes and bagels.

June 11 – The Winnipeg Regional Women's Committee sponsored a presentation by the Bear Clan Patrol's founder, James Favel. The presentation wasn't limited to only our

PSAC Sisters but it was open to all Brothers as well. The Bear Clan Patrol mission is to help and promote the restoration and maintenance of harmony within the community by providing safety, conflict resolution, mobile witnessing, maintaining a visible presence on the streets, providing an early response to situations, as well as providing rides, escorts and referrals. Thanks to the Regional Women's Committee for accommodating us to learn about the great things this organization has been doing.

I am looking forward to an exciting three year cycle with PRC and I wish all PRC members a productive and fun-filled 3 year term.

Respectfully Submitted

Gus Mardli

**Krysty Munns  
Lethbridge Area Council Rep  
Prairie Region Council July 2017**

I was elected Lethbridge Area Council President in November 2016. Since being sworn in at the 7th Prairie Region Triennial Convention the Lethbridge Area Council has been very busy.

We held a General Meeting May 3<sup>rd</sup> to plan our summer activities including supporting Lethbridge Pride, National Aboriginal Day, Whoop up Days Parade, Lethbridge and District Labour Council Labour Day Picnic.

In 2015 and 2016, the Lethbridge and District Area has supported a dragon boat team to be a part of the Rotary's Dragon boat festival in Lethbridge. This year we did three email call outs asking for paddlers from all PSAC components in Southern Alberta. However we were unable to generate enough interest fill a full boat. We have taken a break from this festival this year and will attempt to field a team next year as the festival is a great way for PSAC to have a community presence and allow members from across different components to get together in a team environment.

The Lethbridge and District Area Council was involved in two boycotts of National Public Service Week. The first was at an employer's Pancake Breakfast at the Lethbridge Research and Development Centre in which we stood outside the event with the "Burnt by Phoenix" banner handing out fake paycheques that were written out to the "hardworking public servants" for two pancakes, signed by Treasury Board. Local Management thought that these were clever and were going to pass them on to upper management. Our members also thought that they were a smart idea and gladly took

“Burnt by Phoenix” and #FixPhoenix stickers to wear proudly. Most of our members did not part-take in the employer’s pancake breakfast and signed the postcards to Scott Brison. The second event was also during the employer’s free hamburger lunch. Here we handed out ice cream sandwiches and started a conversation about why we are boycotting National Public Service Week explaining that that the Treasury Board contracts were still NOT signed and that the pay system was still in shambles. Finally, during National Public Service Week I reached out to my MP, Rachel Harder over the phone to request a meeting. I was advised that I needed to email my request to her; I have only received an auto email reply suggesting she will get back to me shortly.

Lethbridge Pride is a weeklong event that runs from June 19 – 25<sup>th</sup>, ending with the Pride Parade. This year the Lethbridge and District Area Council financially contributed to two crosswalks including the pride flag (rainbow coloured) and the world’s first transgendered flag (pink, white and blue) that are showcased in downtown Lethbridge. I also attended several Pride events throughout the week.

June 21<sup>st</sup> was National Aboriginal Day, the Lethbridge and District Area Council help to support the events that were taking place in Lethbridge Galt Gardens. I was lucky enough to be able to part-take in a teaching tool to share the historic and contemporary relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada called the Blanket Exercise. The LDAC also supported a Pow Wow at the Lethbridge Research and Development Centre which was organized by First Nations Co-op Students who are working at the centre. There were young drummers from the local elementary school who were learning to drum as part of their culture as well as young women who were learning the jingle dance and the fancy dance. This event was well attended by students, members of the community, management and members from AGR 30048.

This term I also attended two Lethbridge and District Labour Council Meeting and gave short verbal reports of PSAC latest activities including Phoenix, bargaining, and convention updates, as well as our plan to boycott National Public Service Week.

Should you have any questions about my report, please contact me directly at [munnsk@gmail.com](mailto:munnsk@gmail.com) or phone 403-393-2688.

### **Activities**

May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Chaired the Lethbridge Area Council Meeting
May 5 <sup>th</sup>	First call out for Dragon boat Festival
May 10 <sup>th</sup>	Attended the Lethbridge and District Labour Council Meeting
May 29 <sup>th</sup>	Attended my local’s (AGR 30048) General Meeting
June 12 <sup>th</sup>	Boycotting National Public Service Week – Pancake Plant-gate
June 13 <sup>th</sup>	Attended the community event “ <i>Pride denied: homonationalism &amp; the future of queer politic</i> ” at the CASA Lethbridge.
June 14 <sup>th</sup>	Attended the Lethbridge and District Labour Council Meeting

June 14<sup>th</sup> Boycott National Public Service Week – Burned by Phoenix Ice Cream  
Sandwich Plant-gate.  
June 18<sup>th</sup> Attended the Trans March in Lethbridge as part of Pride Week  
June 19<sup>th</sup> Attended the Lethbridge Pride Flag raising ceremony at City Hall  
(Lethbridge).  
June 21<sup>st</sup> Attended National Aboriginal Day festivities in Galt Gardens (Lethbridge)  
June 21<sup>st</sup> Attended a Pow Wow at the Lethbridge Research and Development  
Centre, organized by First Nation students working at the station.

In Solidarity –

Krysty Munns  
PSAC Lethbridge and District Area Council President

**Kristy Slattery**  
**Southern Alberta Geographical Rep**  
**Prairie Region Council July 2017**

As this is my first report it is brief as I have had limited responses from local's in my area.

CIU Local 30036 AGM was held where I was able to tell the group I had been elected to the PRC.

June 20, 2017 Port of Coultts had a "cake" for the anniversary of our group being without a contract since June of 2014.

UNDE Local 30910 CFB Suffield reports that for National Public Service week they had been asked to boycott a BBQ they collectively decided this would not work for their local as they have decent management and they don't have anything to do with the politics out in Ottawa.

They felt if management reported that ALL 400 members boycotted, Ottawa would even blink an eye at that. Instead, at the BBQ, they did a letter-to-the-MP/PM writing campaign. Their Base Commander even sanctioned it and encouraged people to sign the letters (they had form letters prepared for people to sign).

In all, they had 57 letters to their MP (a Conservative - Glen Motz) and 58 letters to Mr. Trudeau. The Local felt the letters will have more of an impact than BBQ boycotting.



**Michael Weisgerber  
North-West Manitoba Geographical Rep  
Prairie Region Council July 2017**

It is my honour to have been elected to the Prairie Region Council as the North West Manitoba Geographical Representative. With the new mandate I hope to represent the Geographical Area well and to assist in making improvements in outreach and involvement of Locals within the region.

Following from Convention in April I have been in contact with the West Man Area Council and attended their meeting on June 20, 2017. One topic discussed was the inclusion of the Brandon Pride March as an event for next year. The Area Council were not previously aware of the event until days before its occurrence.

With the list provided by PSAC Regional Office I sent out an introductory email to all Local contacts for the Geographical Area to initiate contact for the new mandate.

June 20 – WestMan Area Council Meeting

June 22 – UNDE 50704 BBQ which included Burned by Phoenix event

Michael Weisgerber  
PRC North-West MB Geographical Rep

**Ryan Zacharias  
Young Workers Rep  
Prairie Region Council July 2017**

With being the newly elected Young Worker Rep for the region, my focus thus far has been on networking with the other YW Reps across the country in order to see what methods they use when communicating with members, and developing and building onto those already established communication strategies. While there are monthly conference calls with the other Reps, the method that has worked best for me is communicating one on one with the various Reps that I have gotten to know throughout my time with the PSAC.

I have been working with REVP Marianne Hladun to develop my first address to PSAC Prairie members, primarily local presidents, which I hope will allow me to further develop a contact list of Young Workers in the region and allow me to reach out directly

to them rather than having to liaison through their locals. On top of that, I have carefully searched the PSAC and component websites to develop my own contact list with the information of union local presidents, and will be utilizing that alongside the contacts I have already established through networking at various PSAC and labour events.

In order to continue my self-development within PSAC, I have continued to attend PSAC courses as they are offered, and recently attended the *Advanced Representation Training* weekend course to further develop my skillset within my local. In response to a call-out made by my local PSAC office, I requested that more TUB courses be offered so that more newer/younger workers are able to be exposed to the union in the hope that they are able to further establish themselves in our union if they so desire.

Should you have any questions about my report, please contact me directly.

Activities

April 21-23 – Prairie PSAC Convention – Elected as Young Worker Rep

April 25 – Participated in Young Worker conference call

May 8-12 – Attended Canadian Labour Congress

May 26 – Attended Advanced Representation Training

May 30 - Participated in Young Worker conference call

May 30 – Chaired Human Rights Committee Meeting

May 31 – June 4 – Attended PSAC Union Development Program in Ottawa

June 27 - Participated in Young Worker conference call

In Solidarity,  
Ryan Zacharias

Report submitted after the deadline