

MINUTES OF THE PSAC PRAIRIE REGION COUNCIL
The Fairmont Hotel Winnipeg MB
March 12-13, 2009

Present:

Sister Robyn Benson, REVP Prairies
Sister Marianne Hladun, Alt REVP
Brother Rahil Ahmad, Southern Saskatchewan Rep
Brother Satinder Bains, Racially Visible Rep
Sister Carol Casey, Saskatoon Area Council Rep
Brother Danial Curotte, Calgary Area Council Rep
Sister Tanya Galenzoski, RWC Rep
Brother Timothy Hunt, GLBT Rep
Sister Nancy Johnson, Northern Saskatchewan Rep
Brother Glen Johnston, NW Manitoba Rep
Brother Chad Kemery, Youth Rep
Sister Nina Kiviluoma, Edmonton Area Council Rep
Brother Frank Lloyd, Persons with Disabilities Rep
Sister Heike McRae, Southern Alberta Rep
Sister Fran Mohr, Directly Chartered Locals Rep
Sister Susan Norman, Westman Area Council Rep
Brother Gerry Pendulak, SE Manitoba Rep
Brother Matt Tijani, Winnipeg Area Council Rep
Sister Mary Veilleux, Northern Alberta Rep
Brother Gerald Wieggers, Prince Albert Area Council Rep
Brother Clint Wirth, Separate Employers Rep
Sister Maggie Armstrong, PSAC A/Regional Coordinator
Sister Deanna Kimball, EA to REVP Prairies

Observers:

Sister Elaine Alt, National Health Union RVP Alberta
Brother E. Fletcher, President UCTE Local 50602

Regrets:

Sister Alisha Bigelow, Aboriginal Rep
Brother Shaun Brennand, Regina Area Council Rep
Brother David Pearson, Lethbridge Area Council Rep

MINUTES OF THE PSAC PRAIRIE REGION COUNCIL
The Fairmont Hotel Winnipeg MB
March 12-13, 2009

1. Call to Order: March 12, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Sister Robyn Benson at 9:00 am. Sr. Benson welcomed the Council and the Council had a round of introductions.

2. Adoption of Agenda and hours of session:

The agenda and hours of session were adopted.

3. PSAC Harassment Statement

Sr. Benson advised Council that at the National Board of Directors the Harassment Statement is not read allowed but is in effect for the duration of the meetings and identified the harassment coordinator as Sr. Maggie Armstrong.

4. Previous Minutes:

The following minutes were circulated and approved with the following items:

a) November 20-21, 2008 Edmonton AB

Follow up from previous minutes:

9 a) Prairie Region Convention resolutions

- General Resolution #4 – This resolution was referred to the PRC HRC, RWC & Youth Committee for review.

- General Resolution #8 - Regulation 19 will most likely be reviewed after National Convention, and Sr. Benson will request a timeline.

- Finance Resolution #38 - To be part of a Human Rights Committee or hold office must self-identify. Sr. Benson reviewed Section 15 Subsection (2) (c) of the PSAC Constitution.

9 b) PRC Bylaw changes – submitted by Sr. Benson

Suggested changes to Regulation 6 are as follows:

Removed:

6 (v.) The Representative and Alternates shall be sworn in and take office at the end of the Prairie Region Triennial Convention.

Replaced with:

6 (v.) The newly elected PRC Area Council Representative shall be the Area Council delegate to the Prairie Region Convention and be sworn in and take office at the end of the Prairie Region Convention. Save and except where the Area Council Representative is re-elected then the delegate entitlement follows Section 10 Sub-section 6 of the Prairie Region Bylaws.

6 (vi.) The Alternate to the Area Council representative shall be sworn in at their respective Area Council meeting.

MINUTES OF THE PSAC PRAIRIE REGION COUNCIL
The Fairmont Hotel Winnipeg MB
March 12-13, 2009

The wording of the Regulation will be amended to reflect these changes. All Prairie Area Councils will be advised of this process and be requested to reflect these changes in their respective Area Council Bylaws. Sr. Benson advised that the Quebec Region has wording in their bylaws similar to what is need in the Prairie Region Bylaws.

9 g) Federal Election Proportional Representation

Sr. Benson took this issue to the AEC and at this time there is not a decision made.

9 h) Intro letters were sent to the Communication committee, and the committee is developing a template.

5. Report of Elected PRC Officers:

The Council reports can be found in Appendix A. The following reports were circulated and approved by the Council:

- (a) REVP – Sr. Robyn Benson
- (b) Alternate REVP – Sr. Marianne Hladun
- (c) Northern Alberta Rep – Sr. Mary Veilleux
- (d) SE Manitoba Rep – Br. Gerry Pendulak
- (e) Winnipeg Area Council Rep – Br. Matt Tijani
- (f) Prince Albert Area Council Rep – Br. Gerald Wiegiers
- (g) Saskatoon Area Council Rep – Sr. Carol Casey
- (h) Edmonton Area Council Rep – Sr. Nina Kiviluoma
- (i) Lethbridge Area Council Rep – Br. David Pearson
- (j) Directly Chartered Locals Rep – Sr. Fran Mohr
- (k) Separate Employers Rep – Br. Clint Wirth
- (l) Aboriginal Rep – Sr. Alisha Bigelow
- (m) GLBT Rep – Br. Timothy Hunt
- (n) Racially Visible Rep – Br. Satinder Bains
- (o) RWC Rep – Sr. Tanya Galenzoski

6. PRC Committee Meetings

The Prairie Region Council committees met Thursday, March 12 at the Winnipeg Regional Office with their PSAC Regional Rep.

7. Committee Reports Committee Reports can be found in Appendix B

(a) Area Council/Political Action

Br. Wiegiers will provide a verbal report to the Leaders meeting on March 14th.

(b) Communications Committee

Sr. Hladun presented the PRC Communications report to the Council and it was accepted by Council.

MINUTES OF THE PSAC PRAIRIE REGION COUNCIL
The Fairmont Hotel Winnipeg MB
March 12-13, 2009

(c) Education

Br. Pendulak presented the PRC Education Committee report to Council and it was accepted by Council. The committee provided information to the Council on the upcoming PSAC Prairies Union School May 27 – 31, 2009 in Edmonton.

(d) Finance

Sr. Benson presented the PRC Finance Committee report to Council and it was accepted by Council. Council agreed that Council meeting will be on weekends with travel Friday am, meeting Friday pm and Saturday, and travel home Saturday evening/ Sunday morning. Council agreed to have scheduled conference calls between bi-annual PRC meetings.

(e) Health and Safety

Br. Wirth, Sr. McRae and Br. Ahmad presented the PRC Health & Safety report to Council and it was accepted by Council. The committee's main focus is the planning of the PSAC Prairie Region Health and Safety Conference in the fall 2009 in Regina SK at the Regina Inn. The committee encouraged Council to participate and encourage members to participate in events surrounding April 28th Day of Mourning.

(f) Human Rights, RWC & Youth

Br. Hunt presented the Human Rights, RWC & Youth report to Council and it was accepted by Council.

8. Finances

The December 2008 Financial Statement was presented by Sr. Benson and was approved by the Council. The December 2008 Financial Statement is attached in Appendix C.

9. Items Submitted

1) Prairie Region Council – Area Council Representative Submitted by Sr. Benson
Sr. Benson advised the Council that a Bylaws Committee will be established to review the Prairie Region Bylaws. The elections process for the Area Council Representatives will be reviewed and updated in the regulations as stated previously in the minutes.

2) How Parliament Works Submitted by Sr. Benson

The How Parliament Works handout was given to Council members for future reference.

3) Roles and Responsibilities of PRC members Submitted by Sr. Casey

The Council had a discussion about the roles and responsibilities of each Council Member. Sr. Benson clarified the difference between Geographical Representatives and Area Council Representatives. Geographic reps should liaise with the Locals in

MINUTES OF THE PSAC PRAIRIE REGION COUNCIL
The Fairmont Hotel Winnipeg MB
March 12-13, 2009

their specific regions as well as keep in contact with their PRC Area Council rep. PRC Area Council reps should provide information to and from their specific Area Council and communicate with the other PRC Area Council reps as well as with the specific PRC Geographical rep for their area.

4) E-Learning Submitted by Sr. Veilleux

Sr. Veilleux shared with the Council about E-Learning, and will be launched nationally April 7, 2009. More information can be found at www.pfac-afpc.com/etrain

5) PRC Education Proposal Submitted by Sr. Veilleux

Sr. Veilleux presented the PRC Education Committee proposal to Council on the participation of Council Members at PSAC Talking Union Basics courses and Local Officer Conferences. Proposal included the following:

- Prairie Region Council representatives be invited to make a brief (30 minute) presentation to participants at RO TUB and LOC.
- All costs associated with the PRC presentations on RO courses will come from PRC representatives' budget.
- Council members will go through the Regional Office Reps and email Sr. Benson, Sr. Davis and Sr. Kimball when they have attended, what they spoke on and any questions that came from the presentation.
- A copy of the proposal will be shared with the PSAC Regional Office Reps.

6) Prairie Region Webpage – Calendar Submitted by Sr. Veilleux

Sr. Veilleux expressed concern with the use of the Calendar of Events on the Prairies Webpage. Sr. Benson advised the Council that the calendar does not work effectively at this point and is being looked at to make it more user-friendly. Sr. Benson advised Council that if there is an event that needs to be posted to the Prairies Webpage, contact Sr. Pat Davis, Prairies Regional Coordinator with a cc to Sr. Benson and the PRC Communications Committee. The Council expressed that they would like a counter on the Prairies webpage, in order to see how many people visit the website.

7) Strategic Review of the Correctional Services Canada Submitted by Sr. Hladun

Sr. Benson advised Council that Br. John Edmunds was contacted and that she requested more information on this issue. Sr. Benson suggested that a one page information sheet be made to share with members in order to encourage them to lobby their Members of Parliament.

8) Activists' Conference Strategic Plans Submitted by Sr. Hladun

Council agreed to follow up with Human Rights Committees, Regional Women's Committees, and Area Councils on the action plans that were developed at the Activists' Conference. At the PRC meeting in September:

- PRC RWC Rep, Sr. Galenzoski, will report on the activities and plans of the RWC's in the Prairies;

MINUTES OF THE PSAC PRAIRIE REGION COUNCIL
The Fairmont Hotel Winnipeg MB
March 12-13, 2009

- PRC Human Rights Representatives (Br. Bains for Regina, Sr. Bigelow for Winnipeg, Br. Hunt for Calgary, and Br. Lloyd for Edmonton), will report on the HRC activities and plans; and
- PRC Area Council Reps will report on the activities and plans of the Area Councils. Sr. Judy Shannon is planning a follow up in the next few months as well.

9) PSAC Legal cases in the Prairies Submitted by Sr. Hladun
Sr. Benson gave the Council an update for the Region.

10) Organizing Update Submitted by Sr. Hladun
Sr. Benson gave an update to the Council on Organizing in the Region. Council agreed that if they had ideas, or contact that they would share this information with Sr. Benson and Br. Don Dudar, the PSAC Prairies Regional Organizer.

10. Roundtable Discussion

The following items were discussed:

- Access to NBoD minutes – Council agreed to advise Sr. Kimball if they do not have access to a copy of the NBoD reports through the RO or Local/Branches.
- Regulation 15 was circulated for information
- TB Ratification – work now till 2011 to mobilize the membership
- Nuclear Energy
- Winnipeg AC and Manitoba Geographic reps – privatization of Water City of Winnipeg

ADJOURNMENT

Council adjourned on Friday, March 13 at 4:30 pm. Next meeting scheduled for October 2009 in Saskatoon and will have a joint day with the PSAC Regional Office staff.

MINUTES OF THE PSAC PRAIRIE REGION COUNCIL
The Fairmont Hotel Winnipeg MB
March 12-13, 2009

Appendix A: Prairie Region Council Rep Reports March 2009

Position	Name
REVP	Robyn Benson
Alternate REVP	Marianne Hladun
Northern AB Rep	Mary Veilleux
SE Manitoba Rep	Gerry Pendulak
WPG AC Rep	Matt Tijani
PA AC Rep	Gerald Wiegers
SStn AC Rep	Carol Casey
Edmonton AC Rep	Nina Kiviluoma
Lethbridge AC Rep	David Pearson
DCL Rep	Fran Mohr
SE Rep	Clint Wirth
Aboriginal Rep	Alisha Bigelow
GLBT Rep	Timothy Hunt
RV Rep	Satinder Bains
RWC Rep	Tanya Galenzoski

MINUTES OF THE PSAC PRAIRIE REGION COUNCIL
The Fairmont Hotel Winnipeg MB
March 12-13, 2009

Robyn Benson
PSAC REVP Prairies
March 2009 Report to Prairie Region Council

First let me apologize for not being at the last PRC meeting and the first ever Activist Conference. As you know I was unable to attend because of conflicting priorities. While the PRC meeting and the Activist Conference are indeed very important so to is negotiations. We were able to secure tentative agreements for our Treasury Board and Agency Units despite the fact that the economic climate took a down turn.

I had the opportunity to travel across the Region to speak at many ratification votes. It gave me a chance to talk with members to hear their concerns about the economic climate and of course for many to thank the bargaining team members.

I am most proud of the work done by the SV group and in fact all members of PSAC around the issue of a National Rate of Pay. The NO ZONES campaign and the MP lobby achieved what we set out to do. Although we don't reach the national rate of pay until the end of this collective agreement we need never worry about this again. I cannot thank enough the members in the Prince Albert area for their dedication to this campaign and in fact their tenacity in getting it off the ground.

I want to thank all of the members of the negotiating teams for their hard work and dedication as well as thank the Prairie Region Council members for taking a leadership role with respect to the negotiations and ratification votes.

Just when we think that we can take a breather after the federal election and the negotiations the Government throws another curve ball at us. Bill C 10. This is the most regressive piece of legislation that any Government could put forward. The three elements that give rise to the most concern are the EI, Wage roll backs and Pay Equity.

Once again the Prairie Region Council members have shown phenomenal leadership. On very short notice we were all involved in rally's, MP lobby and membership mobilization. Our tactic of "hitting" the Senators at the time of writing this report seems to be working. The last update I had is that the Senators are indeed asking the hard questions and suggesting that the Government is trying to ram through this bill with little or no regard that only 27 out of the 500 pages actually have anything to do with the "budget". We need to continue the fight.

I was very honoured to represent the PSAC as an observer at the Commission on the Status of Women Fifty-Third Session of the United Nations. I worked with many Union Sisters from around the world who were there to influence changes to the "Agreed Conclusions" on the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including care-giving in the context of HIV/AIDS. I was part of the delegation from the Public Service International and worked not only with other International Unions but

MINUTES OF THE PSAC PRAIRIE REGION COUNCIL
The Fairmont Hotel Winnipeg MB
March 12-13, 2009

NGO's as well. We the PSAC held a press conference on Thursday March 5th at the entrance to the UN building after hearing Canada blatantly lie about what they are doing for Women's Equality. Information can be found on the PSAC web site.

Communications between Council Members, REVP and the Regional Office appears to be improving. Having said that there is always room for improvement and at the end of this report I will take a few minutes to discuss our needs.

One last issue that is causing me some concern is the matter of "joint" committee meetings. I am sure that you are all aware that the PSAC constitution is very clear about the make up of the committees and the roles that each have in the Region. To be clear joint meetings are not sanctioned by the PSAC and as such we will have a broader discussion to ensure that our activists are able to balance work, family and union life.

In Solidarity,

Robyn Benson

REVP Prairies Report to NBoD, February 3 – 6, 2009

This report covers the period from the last NBOD meeting.

Regional Council

In September, the new Prairie Region Council met for 2 ½ days of training. The training led by our Regional Education Officer was intended to give the Council the tools they needed to represent the Prairies. At this time, Council members were assigned to various sub-committees such as, Finance, Communications, Education, etc. In November, prior to the Prairies Activists' Conference, we had a one day meeting in which we dealt with the resolutions from the Prairie Convention and items submitted. Minutes can be found on the Prairie Region website.

Political & Social Action

Federal Election

I am very proud of the work that our members did, not only on Political Action but Social Action as well. Members of the Prairie Region Council as well as all of our Area Councils, Regional Women's Committees and Human Rights Committees were very involved in the Federal Election. We had members in each Regional Office area who worked as the election coordinators; the work done by these members was fantastic.

MINUTES OF THE PSAC PRAIRIE REGION COUNCIL
The Fairmont Hotel Winnipeg MB
March 12-13, 2009

In Manitoba, we sponsored an all-candidates meeting in the Elmwood-Transcona riding, as well, we held phone banks over several evenings. In addition, mail outs were sent to our members in four targeted ridings. I am pleased to report that labour friendly candidates were elected in Elmwood-Transcona riding and Churchill riding.

In Saskatchewan, we co-sponsored two all-candidates meetings, in Prince Albert and Saskatoon. As well, there was a direct mail out to all members in Northern Saskatchewan and targeted ridings in Southern Saskatchewan. Although we were unsuccessful in electing any labour friendly candidates, we came within 300 votes in the Saskatoon-Rosetown-Biggan riding.

In Alberta, we did a direct mail to our three targeted ridings. I am incredibly proud of the fact that in this province of blue we now have an orange dot in the Edmonton-Strathcona riding.

I want to thank all of the members who participated in the Federal election and exercised their democratic right to vote for the candidate of their choice. Our members attended all-candidates meetings in other than our targeted ridings and asked the tough questions about the representation they would receive from each party.

Make Parliament Work

Across the Prairie Region our members were involved with the Make Parliament Work or Coalition Yes events. There were rallies in Winnipeg, Regina, Calgary and Edmonton that were well attended by citizens who realized that the Conservative Party's economic statement would do nothing for this country. We anxiously await the federal budget to see if in fact we will be heading to an election.

Students for Sustainability Tour

The PSAC was a sponsor of this tour and it was very well received in the Prairies. There were stops in Winnipeg, Regina and Calgary. The PSAC had speakers at all three events, as well as, tables with information about the PSAC.

Social Action

In Calgary, the PSAC partnered with the University of Calgary's Women's Program to take part in a December 6th National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women ceremony on campus that was very successful. Two members of the RWC committee were part of the candle bearing ceremony honouring the lives of the women in the massacre. The Winnipeg RWC sent a letter to PSAC members, written by Sister Alisha Bigelow, to raise awareness around Dec. 6th. On December 5th, the Edmonton RWC set-up a table at Canada Place and handed out buttons, bookmarks and post cards in recognition of Dec. 6th.

MINUTES OF THE PSAC PRAIRIE REGION COUNCIL
The Fairmont Hotel Winnipeg MB
March 12-13, 2009

In Winnipeg, the Sisters in Spirit vigil was held on October 3rd. The event this year was a concert of Aboriginal musicians and was organized by Brothers in Spirit. PSAC was a major sponsor at the event and was recognized by Mothers of Red Nations, an affiliate of Native Women's Association of Canada. Sister Alisha Bigelow spoke on behalf of the PSAC at the concert and then gave a moving report of the event to the Winnipeg RWC Mtg.

Our Human Rights Committees all celebrated International Human Rights Day December 10th. Notably, in Edmonton, committee members attended a rally held at City Hall.

All of our Committees jointly held seasonal events to promote and encourage participation in their committees amongst the membership.

Our members continue to show solidarity and support for fellow PSAC members and other Unions. For example, in Regina the three committees co-sponsored and provided a lunch on the line for the picketing Grain Services Union members employed at Viterra. In Calgary, during the Government Services Union Convention, the Prairie Region Council Reps and Area Council members helped to organize a rally and barbeque lunch.

Our members strongly supported the UPCE picket lines. The courage and solidarity shown by the strikers was incredible. Although there were many hurdles to overcome, those that stayed on the line to the bitter end need to be commended. I want to thank all of the members of the Prairies and other Unions, for their generosity shown to the UPCE members.

Education

For the first time ever we held a Separate Employer Groups Conference October 31 – November 2, 2008 in Regina. The conference objectives were:

- Know more about the structure of the PSAC and the opportunities available to them within that structure;
- Know more about the different federal and separate employer groups and jurisdictions within the PSAC membership;
- Feel a connection to other Separate Employer PSAC members, and to their representatives on the Prairie region Council; and,
- Be able to get involved in some of the broader PSAC campaigns.

The 35 members that attended thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to not only network, but to feel more included in their Union.

In November 2008, 54 activists from across the Prairies came together in Edmonton for 2½ days of conversation, networking, celebrating and planning. The participants were

MINUTES OF THE PSAC PRAIRIE REGION COUNCIL
The Fairmont Hotel Winnipeg MB
March 12-13, 2009

representatives of the Prairie Region Council, Area Councils, Regional Women's Committees, Human Rights Committees, and the NAIM National Circle.

During the conference, participants attended workshops on:

- The PSAC Priorities of DQPS, Collective Bargaining Mobilization and Membership Renewal
- The Priorities of Regional Human Rights Committees, the NAIM and the PSAC Equal Opportunities Committee
- The Priorities of Regional Women's Committees and the Women's Program of the PSAC
- Committee Skills Workshops: Facilitation Skills for Union Meetings; Media Skills and Mentoring: Leadership and Succession Planning
- Planning for Area Councils, Regional Women's Committees and Human Rights Committees

Each planning workshop drafted a framework for each action or event they will organize, in support of one of the union's priorities, in the coming year.

The Education schedules for the new year are out and posted on the website. The planning for our school is well under way. The school will be held in Edmonton May 27 – 31, 2009.

Regional Activities & National Portfolios

As the AEC officer responsible for the SV Bargaining Unit, I want to thank the members of the team for their hard work and dedication. I am extremely proud of the fact that at the end of this collective agreement, should it be accepted, we will finally have a national rate of pay. All negotiating team members from all of our units should be proud of themselves for the work that they did on behalf of the membership in such trying times. I want to thank all of them for giving up time with their families, friends, and workplaces. I have spoken at many ratification meetings and want to thank the members who came out to vote.

Across Canada, the Canadian Federation of Students held rallies to protest rising tuition fees. I was very honoured to represent labour on the steps of the Manitoba Legislature and speak at the Winnipeg rally. It was indeed exciting and exhilarating to speak to hundreds of young people who unified their voices for a common cause.

I was very pleased to tour and meet members at Drumheller and Bowden Institutions. It is always a privilege to speak with members and learn first hand about their work. I was also given the opportunity to speak at the following AGMs, USGE Local 50015, UTE Local 50031, and NHU Local 50012. I want to thank the Executives for their invitation.

MINUTES OF THE PSAC PRAIRIE REGION COUNCIL
The Fairmont Hotel Winnipeg MB
March 12-13, 2009

During this timeframe the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour held their Convention. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Sister Marianne Hladun, who was elected as the SFL PSAC VP and her alternate Sister Fran Mohr.

For a full overview of my activities please see the attached itinerary. My National Portfolios are covered in the report of the National President as well as, in the Committee reports to the NBoD.

Respectfully submitted,
Robyn Benson,
Regional Executive Vice-President, Prairies

2008	
November 12	Conference Call – AEC Meeting
November 16	Travel to Ottawa
November 17	PSDCP Board of Management Meeting
Nov. 18-19	AEC Meeting
Nov. 20 – 26	Negotiations – SV and CFIA
November 27	AGM NHU 50012
December 1	Conference Call – AEC Meeting
December 1	Conference Call – Canadian Labour Congress
December 1	Conference Call – Manitoba Federation of Labour
December 2	Conference Call – Canadian Labour Congress
December 3	Conference Call - Canadian Labour Congress
December 4	Conference Call - Canadian Labour Congress
December 4	Coalition Government Rally - Winnipeg
December 5	Conference Call – Canadian Labour Congress
December 7	Travel to Ottawa
December 8 - 9	AEC Meeting
December 9 -10	NBoD Meeting
December 10	Travel to Regina
December 11	Ratification Votes – Moose Jaw
December 12	Travel to Winnipeg
December 15	Ratification Votes – Prince Albert via Conference Call
December 16	Ratification Votes – Saskatoon via Conference Call
December 17	Ratification Votes – Winnipeg
December 19	Ratification Votes - Winnipeg
2009	
January 4	Travel to Calgary
January 5 - 7	Ratification Votes – Calgary
January 7	Travel to Winnipeg
January 8	Ratification Votes – Winnipeg UNDE Local 50705
January 9	Ratification Votes – Winnipeg
January 11	Travel to Ottawa
January 12 - 13	AEC Meeting
January 13	Travel to Regina

MINUTES OF THE PSAC PRAIRIE REGION COUNCIL
The Fairmont Hotel Winnipeg MB
March 12-13, 2009

January 14	Union of Saskatchewan Gaming Employees Meeting
January 14	Ratification Votes – Regina
January 15	Travel to Winnipeg
January 18	Travel to Saskatoon
January 19	Ratification Votes – Prince Albert
January 20	Travel to Edmonton
January 20	Ratification Votes – Edmonton and Vegreville
January 21 - 22	Ratification Votes – Edmonton
January 23	Travel to Winnipeg
January 27	Budget Watch conference call
February 2	AEC via conference call
February 2	Travel to Ottawa
February 3 – 5	NBoD Meeting
February 7	Convention Finance Committee Meeting
February 8	Convention Finance Committee Meeting
February 9 – 11	Convention Finance Committee Meeting
February 11	Travel to Winnipeg
February 17	Travel to Regina
February 18	Casino Regina Corporation Meeting
February 18	Union of Saskatchewan Gaming Employees 40005 (DCL) executive meeting
February 18	Union of Saskatchewan Gaming Employees 40005 (DCL) AGM
February 19	Travel to Winnipeg
February 19	United Nations Commission on Status of Women conference call

MINUTES OF THE PSAC PRAIRIE REGION COUNCIL
The Fairmont Hotel Winnipeg MB
March 12-13, 2009

Marianne Hladun
A/REVP Prairie Region Council
Report March 2009

Following the PRC meeting in November and just after the opening of the Activist Conference, I was called into Ottawa to resume negotiations with CFIA. I understand the remainder of the conference was positive and provided a unique opportunity for activists throughout the region to meet face-to-face.

In addition to speaking at ratification votes for CFIA (not a PRC role), my activities for the period since the last meeting included the following:

- Attended the Prairie Lily Feminist Society Symposium on Dec. 6-7th in Saskatoon. While I was funded through the Agriculture Union to attend, there was many opportunities to present information on PSAC's Womens Program. The guest speaker was Morningstar Mercredi and her message to all the Sisters was simple.... "Step Into Your Power". The symposium participants were primarily union members but there was several community activists who did not have connections to a union. One priority identified is that to strengthen the womens movement in Saskatchewan, education is the cornerstone. Several of the issues identified as needs (e.g. public speaking, how to conduct meetings, etc.) for training are on topics that we (PSAC) have developed training modules on and I have offered to ask for the assistance of our RWC's and AF's to deliver this training.
- Dec. 6th – International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. Although it's been many years since the Montreal Massacre, the Saskatoon Womens Coalition continues to commemorate the women who were murdered and to use the tragedy as a tool to motivate the community. I had the privilege of attended a memorial service and to be asked to lay a rose and light a candle for one of the fallen sisters.
- While not in an official role (because we are non-partisan), I have been participating with a provincial group of political activists on issues surrounding the Leadership Race of the provincial NDP. The group has been preparing discussion papers on topics such as environment, economy, affordable housing, food security, etc. that are being used in the various leadership forums. Along with a few other union members, we have been reviewing the discussion papers and providing input to ensure the views of labour are incorporated (e.g. maintaining quality public services, ensuring the rights of all workers are respected, etc.).
- In coordination with the Saskatoon & District Labour Council and the CLC, I attended a Budget Watch on Jan. 27th. The PSAC Regional Office boardroom was used to host the event. Several members from various unions came over to watch the Minister's presentation of the budget on TV and have discussions on what the budget means for workers in Canada.
- On behalf of the Agriculture Union, I attended the Manitoba/NW Ontario & Nunavut Regional Seminar for Agriculture Union locals that was held in Thunder Bay, Ontario

MINUTES OF THE PSAC PRAIRIE REGION COUNCIL
The Fairmont Hotel Winnipeg MB
March 12-13, 2009

on Jan. 30-Feb. 1st/09. Relevant to the PRC was a session presented on Political Action by a member of the Ontario Regional Council. As there were many members from Manitoba, I took the opportunity to discuss political action in the Prairie Region and encouraged all the members to participate in their Area Councils, District Labour Councils and discussed how political action is funded.

- On February 13/09, I attended the Saskatoon & District Labour Council/United Way Community Service Award Dinner. PSAC has a high profile through the evening as awards were presented. On behalf of Sister Carol Casey and the Saskatoon & District Area Council, I had the pleasure of presenting an award to Sister Muriel Sanders (USGE) for the highest participation rate in a GCWCC campaign. I also had the pleasure of accepting the Campaign Chair award for PSAC members at CFIA.
- The main event for the Community Service Award Dinner is the presentation of one award to one person. The name is kept secret right up to the time of the presentation and this year I was privileged to be in the loop and have some fun. Former PSAC member and activist, Brother Robin East was to receive the award and it was my job to get him to the banquet without him knowing he was receiving the prestigious award. Even though Brother East is no longer a member of PSAC, he continues his activism around disability rights and his list of accomplishments in our community and throughout Canada is beyond impressive.
- On February 14/09, I attended the Saskatoon & District Labour Council AGM on behalf of my local. However, I was also asked to make a presentation to the delegates on political and social action. Several members of the District Labour Council Executive had viewed the Prairie Region YouTube video on political action and I was asked to make a presentation and show the video.
- On Feb.24/09 I attended the Saskatoon & District Area Council AGM. Top priority at the moment is Bill C-10 and my energies at the moment are on working with a core group of activists to move our campaign forward.

In solidarity,
Marianne Hladun

MINUTES OF THE PSAC PRAIRIE REGION COUNCIL
The Fairmont Hotel Winnipeg MB
March 12-13, 2009

Mary Veilleux
PRC Representative Northern Alberta
Report for March 2009

This report covers my activity from November 2008 to March 2009.

Edmonton Area Council

In December 2008, I was elected to the Vice –Chair of the Edmonton Area Council. I regularly attend the Edmonton Area Council in my capacity as Vice- President. Some of the highlights of my activity are:

- Assisting Committee with duties and responsibilities.
- Assisted with providing a venue for the regional committees to hold annual planning session
- Participation with the PSAC Federal Election Campaign
- Participated in preparing resolutions to 2009 PSAC Convention
- Provided verbal/written reports to EAC/ PRC Rep
- Coordinated the community Social Justice project (Bissell Center) on behalf of Edmonton Area Council
- Thanks to Br Bryan Smith for his submission to Sr Benson to have PSAC make a donation to the monument in Edmonton that will recognise workers killed or injured on the job

PRC Education Committee

Currently sit on the Prairie Region Council as a member of the Education Committee. Meeting at the Activist Conference with Regional Ed Co-ordinator SR Judy Shannon, Sr Nancy Johnson, Ed committee member and Br Jerry Pendeluk, Ed committee member provided an opportunity to discuss the regions educational program and to address any concerns we had. Conference call in Nov 2008 provided an opportunity to discuss the education budget and vet through the planning of the Prairie Union School, which is scheduled for spring 2009 in Edmonton at McEwan College. Information regarding the school will be made available in February 2009. Additionally, the committee members had a conference call on February 24, 2009 to discuss the resolutions to PSAC Convention and the education schedule for the region. Next conference call is scheduled for February 26th.

Geographical Representation

Attended a CUPE rally in Edmonton and presented a cheque on behalf of the Edmonton Area Council /Regional Women’s Committee and the Edmonton Human Rights Committee to assist with costs associated with the striking workers.

I will participate in the PSAC “Tools for Schools campaign for 2009. We will be raising funds to provide school supplies to children in our communities that are less fortunate. I would encourage every member to be involved in this very important community event. In November, I attended the inaugural Activist Conference held in Edmonton. It was

MINUTES OF THE PSAC PRAIRIE REGION COUNCIL
The Fairmont Hotel Winnipeg MB
March 12-13, 2009

wonderful conference and all participants were energized as they left the conference. I have requested upcoming lobby and meeting training for the newly elected regional committees in Edmonton and Sr Carm Chan will be facilitating the training on March 3rd, 2009. I have also assisted the Area Council and Human Rights committee with preparing their budget and planning for the upcoming year. I have also taken on the challenge of preparing the committees books for upcoming audit .On February 17th, I attended a rally in Edmonton at Canada Place to speak out against Bill C-10. Minister Blackburn was in town and member of CRA presented letters to him protesting the pending legislation that will effect mostly women and claims of pay equity complaints as well as wage roll backs for many of our members. I also provided a CBC interview, speaking about the damaging effects of this legislation.

United Way Campaign

The Edmonton Area Council will be sending representation to the annual Labour Appreciation Award Event in April 2009. I was also privileged to attend the United Way Awards of Distinction at the Westin Hotel on February 12th. It was a wonderful event that recognises work that is done in our Unions and community to support the United Way Campaign.

I would like to thank everyone for your continued support and hard work in the region and be assured I will continue to represent and assist you any way I can. Please do not hesitate to contact me by email at marydm@telusplanet.net or by phone at 780-918-5379.

In Solidarity
Sr Mary Veilleux

MINUTES OF THE PSAC PRAIRIE REGION COUNCIL
The Fairmont Hotel Winnipeg MB
March 12-13, 2009

Gerry Pendulak
PRC Manitoba South-East Rep
Report for March 2009

I was involved in the review and redoing of the Winnipeg Area Council (WAC) Bylaws. The committee reviewed and did the first revision of the bylaws. We then had the first written review sent out and then the final review was then to be submitted.

I stopped in to see my Member of Parliament (Conservative) James Bezan about the upcoming budget and the impact that it will have on CRA Employees. James was in Parliament at the time so I spoke to his office manager Jim Berry. Jim and I had a good discussion about what would happen to CRA Employees if the budget was passed and wage rollbacks would be in place. We also talked about the possibility of wage reductions of 1.00%. Jim stated that he would be speaking to James either by email or by telephone and that he would present my questions to James. Jim got back to me within 48 hours. Jim stated the following about James' thoughts on my questions. On wage rollbacks and the wage reduction that could happen. Jim said that James said that he was surprised that this section was in the budget. He also thought that once a contract was negotiated and ratified that it was bound to be in effect for the term of the contract. Jim also said that James wanted more time to see how this section of the budget was going to be rolled out. I have not been in contact with either Jim or James as both UTE and the PSAC have released memos on this part of the budget with no resolution in sight. In reading information in a number of daily papers there is still a lot of confusion with all parties involved.

Respectfully submitted by

Gerry Pendulak
PRC Geographical Rep Southern Manitoba
Home # 1-204-757-9372
Cell # 1-204-803-6963
Home Email pendulakg@mts.net
Work Email Gerry. Pendulak@cra-arc.gc.ca

MINUTES OF THE PSAC PRAIRIE REGION COUNCIL
The Fairmont Hotel Winnipeg MB
March 12-13, 2009

Matt Tijani
PRC Winnipeg Area Council Rep
Report for March 2009

December 2008

Sister Robyn Benson selected me as a Member of the Relief Committee. The committee comprises of Sister Robyn Benson - REVP, Matt Tijani – WAC Rep, Gerry Pendulak - SE Manitoba Geographic Rep and Sister Deanna Kimball. The committee was charged to review and approve the applications for our members on Postal strike that made applications for the Hardship fund.

The committee went through the applications that were submitted by the members on Postal strike and approved the applications for hardship fund

WAC also donated gift certificate to sponsor 3 members of our Winnipeg postal striking members for the seasonal support for Christmas.

January 2009

Attended lobby-training sessions conducted by Danny Mallett, Director Political Action & Campaigns.

WAC had a review of the Bye Laws that deals with the number of delegate that could be sent to a convention by the Area council

February 2009

I joined the group that was put together to come up with the ideas of how to lobby the Manitoba MPs on the issue of Bill C-10 as it pertains to Pay Equity for women.

In Solidarity,

Matt Tijani
WAC – PRC Rep.

MINUTES OF THE PSAC PRAIRIE REGION COUNCIL
The Fairmont Hotel Winnipeg MB
March 12-13, 2009

Gerald Wieggers
Prince Albert Area Council PRC Representative
Report from November 2008 to February 2009

November 15 - Attended Prince Albert & District Area Council Meeting at which the decision to support resolutions of the Saskatoon Area Council to the PSAC National Convention was approved. As well, it was discussed and approved that the Area Council would seek to involve members within an action plan to assist the Habitat for Humanity Project in Prince Albert.

November 19-23 - Attended PRC Meetings in Edmonton and was also present to participate within the Activists Conference while there.

November 24 - In Saskatoon brought coffee, tea and donuts to the striking Postal workers. I also offered my encouragement in their struggles and sought support within my Local and received our Locals' approval to forward some funds to support these striking workers.

January 14 - Attended Prince Albert Regional Women's Committee Meeting. Discussions centered on the feasibility of co-sponsoring a Conference entitled "Partnering in Hope" which pertains to response and prevention strategies for dealing with family violence.

January 14 - Attended meeting of Prince Albert and District Area Council having made the necessary arrangements to have a speaker present on the "Habitat for Humanity" Project and how our members may be able to assist locally in Prince Albert.

February 26 - Attended meeting of Prince Albert and District Area Council. Discussion pertaining to Habitat for Humanity concluded that we would require a planning Meeting to formulate our members' participation in the Project. Discussion centered also on Bill C-10 with a presentation from Marianne Hladun and Louise Mardell. Carolyn Haroulakis and I agreed to Saskatoon on Saturday, February 28 to assist with the Bill C-10 Union Campaign.

MINUTES OF THE PSAC PRAIRIE REGION COUNCIL
The Fairmont Hotel Winnipeg MB
March 12-13, 2009

Carol Casey
Saskatoon Area Council
Prairie Region Council Representative
November 2008 to February 2009

Political

I joined Area council members and local activists to picket outside a \$100 a ticket Conservative Party “Cocktail Reception” at TCU Place in Saskatoon on December 17th, as part of the CLC’s Day of Action, to protest the Conservative Government’s decision to shut down parliament.

PSAC

Striking UPCE members of Local 40100

Area Council members joined UPCE strikers on the picket line and donated \$200 in Superstore gift cards to each of the strikers. I joined the Saskatoon District Labour Council President to speak in support of strikers at a rally on their picket line on Nov 27th.

I attended a very informative session put on by the Regional Office for the strikers which included a speaker from the Saskatoon Police Department on picket lines and the law plus a speaker from Service Canada who talked about the implications to members of the Canada Post’s sick leave proposal.

On behalf of the Area Council I sent appeals to all Saskatoon area Locals to join the strikers on the picket line and also for them to consider adopting a striker to reduce their financial loss while on the picket line fighting to protect their sick leave.

PSAC Convention

The Area Council submitted 10 resolutions to the 2009 PSAC Triennial Convention. I was also privileged to sit on the PSAC Collective Bargaining Convention Committee as the Prairies Area Council representative.

Bill C-10 Fight back

The Area Council is currently working to educate members and lobby Saskatchewan senators about the problems with this bill and the negative effects it will have on federal public workers.

Prairie Region Activists Conference

Jackie Nettleton and Barry Stolar were selected as the Saskatoon Area Council participants to attend the Prairie Region Activists Conference in November.

Community

The Area Council sponsored an Open House at the Regional office for PSAC members and “friends of the PSAC”. Approximately 30 members attended as well as United Way

MINUTES OF THE PSAC PRAIRIE REGION COUNCIL
The Fairmont Hotel Winnipeg MB
March 12-13, 2009

employees, District Labour Council members and Andy Iwanchuk the NDP MLA for Saskatoon Fairview.

The Area Council GCWCC Award was presented to USGE Local 40146 President Muriel Sanders at the Saskatoon Labour Community Service Awards dinner Feb. 13th, 2009. This award is given to the workplace with the highest percentage participation and average donation in the 2008 United Way GCWCC campaign and consists of a framed certificate and a \$100 gift certificate to 10,000 Villages.

2009 Area Council Plans

At the AGM in February, the Area Council decided to undertake the following in 2009 in addition to any new or ongoing PSAC campaigns:

Month	Event	Action
January	GCWCC Award	Present certificate and \$100 gift certificate from 10,100 villages to PSAC Local with highest % participation in GCWCC
March	Bill C-10	Educate members and lobby senators
April	Day of Mourning	Lay wreath on behalf of PSAC at the Saskatoon District Labour Council's Day of Mourning Ceremony
May	PSAC Convention	Hold an art auction to raise money for Station 20 West. Solicit pledges from delegates for a bike-a-thon to fundraise for NASHI and the Core Youth Co-op.
June	Habitat for Humanity	Organize PSAC volunteers for a one day build.
June	United Way Day of Caring	Organize PSAC volunteers to participate in one day hands-on projects to benefit our community
July & August	Summer Snack Program	Donate \$250 and work with Women's Committee to find volunteers to feed children 1 day/wk for 6 weeks.
September	SDLC Labour Day BBQ	Set up a DQPS booth and volunteer to help with BBQ
October	Saskatoon Civic Election	Produce a mail out to members on the issues and candidates
November	Remembrance Day	Purchase wreath from Legion and lay it on behalf of the PSAC at the Saskatoon Remembrance Day Ceremonies
December	Open House	Hold a reception for PSAC members and "friends of the PSAC".

MINUTES OF THE PSAC PRAIRIE REGION COUNCIL
The Fairmont Hotel Winnipeg MB
March 12-13, 2009

Nina Kiviluoma
Edmonton Area Council Representative
Prairie Region Council Report

Since the last PRC meeting the following has been what I have participated in as the Prairie Region Council Edmonton Area Council Representative:

- CUPE Strike Fund Donations
- Attended regular committee meetings for Edmonton Area Council/ Edmonton Human Rights Committee and Edmonton Regional Women's Committee
- Attended our Regional Committees Planning Session
- MP Lobbying (made numerous attempts to see Rona Ambrose but I was unsuccessful)
- Worked on Bill C-10 Campaign at the Edmonton Regional Office
- Called Locals for Tools for Schools Donations/continue to work with project and school to wrap up final event for school
- Participated in MP Lobby Training
- Draft letter to Locals for "Tools for Schools"
- Participant in Activist Conference/Nov 2008
- Assisted Regional Committees with duties and responsibilities
- Provided Financial statements to Regional Committees, drafted budget/financial records for Regional Women's Committee
- Participated in Federal Election Campaign with letters to candidates/ membership ensuring members voted "informed"
- Obtained financial records from bank to assist Human Rights Committee in preparing their financial statements
- Balanced books for Regional Women's Committee
- Provided secretarial support to committee meetings on a regular basis
- Participated in the community social justice work (Sisters in Solidarity) (Bissell Center)

If there are any questions or concerns in regards to this report please feel free to contact myself.

In Solidarity

Nina Kiviluoma
PRC Edmonton Area Council Representative

MINUTES OF THE PSAC PRAIRIE REGION COUNCIL
The Fairmont Hotel Winnipeg MB
March 12-13, 2009

David Pearson
Lethbridge Area Council Representative
Prairie Region Council Report

Lethbridge Area Council executive consist of Greg Krokosh, president; Lorna Selinger, vice-president and David Pearson, secretary/treasurer. In my duties as Lethbridge Area Strike Co-ordinator, I assisted in the ratification votes in Lethbridge. From the ratification process, I found that there were many lonely members in Lethbridge, where they are the only member of their local here and they want to be more involved with the PSAC. The Area Council is hoping that this involvement will be with us.

From the activist conference in November, the Area Council committed to focus on supplying fresh vegetables to the local food bank via community garden project. The local Agriculture Union is spear heading this project. The conversations with the local food bank, they also back this project. The Agriculture Research Centre in Lethbridge, at the moment is doing a land use study. The Local believed this project would fit the within the Centre's land use policy. Thus, the Local proposed to the Research Centre management our community garden project for PSAC members to grow vegetables for the local food bank. I am happy to say that local management is in agreement with the idea of the project and the resources needed from the. It is now in the hands of senior management in Ottawa to decide if we are able to use the resources required. I am told that they are in flavour of the project in principle.

We are still hoping to do something with the Local Labour Council to push labour issues to the fore front. There are many great ideas, but I think we are lending to educating the media who we are and what we.

In Solidarity,
David

MINUTES OF THE PSAC PRAIRIE REGION COUNCIL
The Fairmont Hotel Winnipeg MB
March 12-13, 2009

Fran Mohr
PRC Directly Chartered Locals Rep
Report November 2008 – March 2009

Hi all

I have been very busy with grievances and meetings with management.

I did attend the activist conference in November

We just recently went through an election for a new president.

We have just recently held our AGM as usual the attendance was low

I have not done a lot of things this go round because of some personal issues that I have had to deal with.

I am sorry that this report is so short, but I am on vacation and am doing this in between visits home...

Submitted in Solidarity
Fran Mohr
DCL Rep

MINUTES OF THE PSAC PRAIRIE REGION COUNCIL
The Fairmont Hotel Winnipeg MB
March 12-13, 2009

Clint Wirth
PRC Separate Employer Representative
Report March 2009

Since my last report, the following are some of the issues that I have been involved with in my role within the PRC;

Canada Post Work Stoppage

As someone who had recently gone through a lengthy work stoppage, I knew the value of support from others not directly affected. I attended a rally held in Winnipeg for its members, as well as walking the picket line with striking members on different occasions. I encouraged others to do the same. I brought refreshments and snacks to boost morale. I also lobbied my MP, Steven Fletcher, return to the table to bargain and reach an agreement with the employees.

Prairie Region Health and Safety Conference

I have continued to work with Bruce Campbell, along with Heike and Rahil, on the upcoming regional health and safety conference, as part of my work for the PRC sub-committee. Due to timeline conflicts and other events, an early year conference is now looking like a spring conference. I have been working on topics related to violence and harassment in the workplace, as well as a presentation or discussion regarding Pandemic Preparedness. I hope that by the end of the Council meetings in March in Winnipeg that we have more to report.

Bill C-10

I will be working on this topic more after the completion of this report. As of now, I have been working to educate the members I represent on what the Public Sector Equitable Compensation Act means to women and their rights. I will also be mobilizing members to lobby their MP to voice their outrage with our government's actions, through emails, visits to MP's office, and through pre-filled cards from the PSAC. As well as PSAC supplied materials, I have also been distributing media coverage of topic.

I look forward to meeting with all of you again. I'll see you March 12th in Winnipeg!

In Solidarity,

Clint Wirth
Separate Employer Representative
Prairie Region Council

MINUTES OF THE PSAC PRAIRIE REGION COUNCIL
The Fairmont Hotel Winnipeg MB
March 12-13, 2009

Alisha Bigelow
Aboriginal Representative
Prairie Region Council
Report November 2008 – March 2009

- The NAIM circle was tasked with the possible renaming NAIM. There was an email that went out to NAIM circle members and allies in regards to 5 possible name changes and they are as follows (there was French and Inuk as well):

English

- National Indigenous Peoples' Circle/Network
- First Nations, Inuit & Métis Circle/Network
- Advisory Council of Aboriginal Peoples
- National Aboriginal Peoples' Circle/Network
- NAIM: Aboriginal Peoples' Circle/Network

We asked for feed back on the possible name change as well as the acronyms. Feed back is still accepted until March 30th, 2009.

- Created a Facebook page for those who are interested in joining regarding NAIM. There are some members who choose not to join but do share information to be put on the site and the site is updated regularly.

- Attended the Coalition Rally in Ottawa, personally met Jack Layton and expressed Aboriginal issues should be one of his top priorities.

- I wrote a letter on behalf of the Regional Women's Committee on Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women for December 6, 2008, Day of Remembrance that was sent out to the Prairie Region.

- Reported back to the Winnipeg Regional Women's Committee in regards to the Brothers in Spirit Concert that I was asked to speak at. The RWC had contributed monies towards this concert to make people aware of those who are missing and those Women who have been murdered. It was a night to celebrate local talent in combination of honouring Aboriginal Missing and Murdered Women. The PSAC Regional Office was presented with Aboriginal Artwork for the contributions for the evening.

- As June 21st is fast approaching, please look for information regarding Aboriginal Solidarity Day events in your local area. Come out and celebrate Aboriginal Culture. If you hear of any events, plan to attend or pass the information on to others so that they may attend.

In Solidarity,
Alisha Bigelow

MINUTES OF THE PSAC PRAIRIE REGION COUNCIL
The Fairmont Hotel Winnipeg MB
March 12-13, 2009

Timothy Hunt
GLBT Representative
PSAC – Prairie Region Council

September 15th, 2008 to March 11th, 2009

Oct 21	Attended a JLP Training Session get together - Training was in Calgary
Oct 22-26	CEUDA / CIU-SDI Convention – note this was the 15 th annual CEUDA Convention, however, we also instituted a name change to be the Customs Immigration Union / Syndicat des Douanes et de l'Immigration, this better reflects who we are as a component and removes the Excise portion as these employees have all been taken over by the Canada Revenue Agency
Nov 20-23	Participated in the Prairie Region Activists Conference in Edmonton
Nov 24	GLBT National Conference Call
Jan 14	Spoke (via conference call) with and introduced myself to the joint Edmonton Area Council/Regional Women's/Human Rights committees, gave them a back ground of my work and what I was trying to accomplish over the next three years.
Jan 27	CISM - Critical Incident Stress Management Training (Union / Mgmt) (Pilot project)
Feb 23	Calgary Area Council AGM - spoke on the "Bulletin Board Challenge"
Feb 26	Bill C-10 Rally @ Harry Hays Building (see U-Tube) against the inclusion of the legislation to virtually remove the right to submit pay equity complaints against this government
Mar 02	Spoke (via conference call) with and introduced myself to the joint Winnipeg Area Council/Regional Women's/Human Rights committees, gave them a back ground of my work and what I was trying to accomplish over the next three years.

MINUTES OF THE PSAC PRAIRIE REGION COUNCIL
The Fairmont Hotel Winnipeg MB
March 12-13, 2009

Satinder Bains
PRC Racially Visible Rep
Report November 2008 - March 2009

As the Visible Rep. for the Prairies and a Union Activist, I have continued attending the Area Council, Regina Human Rights meetings and RCMP Diversity committee meetings which are held every third Thursday of each month which allows me to network with the visible minorities in the RCMP. I have also been handling grievances, facilitating "Ready for Work" workshops and PSST Complaints for our members along with performing my elected PRC duties.

November 6th-7th, 2008 Attended a workshop in Gananoque Ontario on Racially Visible members in the Federal government and Diversity. This was a very productive and informative workshop which centered on the following main issues:

*Discussion around values-beliefs and behavior. The only purpose of a law (ex: employment Equity Act) is to change behavior;

*Discussion around Self-identification: Everyone should self-identify, not only designated groups members. Relationships are based on laws not on preferences;

*Discussion around diversity: Fairness is the long term solution for diversity.

December 2, 2008 - Worked at the Ratification vote at the Regina Inn for local 4A008 and 40008 booth.

December 18, 2008 - Facilitated "How to Lobby MP" workshop for the striking Postal Union workers UPCE at the Regina RO.

December 18, 2008 - went to the UPCE Postal union picket line on Saskatchewan Drive in Regina to show support from the PSAC and they much appreciated our concern and helping with the strike.

January 14, 2009 - Volunteer to assist in the Ratification Vote for the Locals 4A008 and 40008 at the Holiday Inn in Regina Sask.

MINUTES OF THE PSAC PRAIRIE REGION COUNCIL
The Fairmont Hotel Winnipeg MB
March 12-13, 2009

Tanya Galenzoski
PRC Report March 2009
Women's Representative

Attended Regina Women's committee meetings: Sept 15, Oct. 27, Jan 5, Feb 2. I sent numerous emails etc with the committee in between these dates.

October 4- contacted community clubs, example: northwest community associations. To ask them to put up posters and to come out to support the coalition government debate in Regina.

December 1- In contact with Barb Fayant in regards to setting up the UPCE barbeque, tried to find someone with safe food handling certificate to work it.

November 17- Walked the picket line with UPCE.

November 21-25- Attended PRC meeting and Activists Conference.

February 25- sent another email to all of the women's committee chairs, to introduce myself and give them my contact information.

December 30 - sent email to Calgary RWC to get contact information so that I could try to conference call with them.

December 2008 – February 2009 - emailing to and from women's committee chairs trying to set up conference calls so that I could introduce myself and give them my contact information. Unfortunately, we never hooked up yet but it is in the works.

Appendix B – PRC Committee Reports March 2009

PRC Communications Committee Report **March 12, 2009**

PRESENT: Marianne Hladun, Glen Johnston

The following issues were discussed and recommendations as indicated are being proposed for acceptance by the Prairie Region Council:

- There is a need to develop a protocol to manage electronic communication to and from PRC members (including the REVP Office). The committee presents the attached draft protocol for discussion.
Recommendations:
 1. This protocol be adopted by the PRC
 2. Request be made to Area Councils, Regional Women's Committees and Human Rights Committees in the Prairie Region to adopt the protocol
 3. The Regional Coordinator be requested to consider adopting the protocol for communications from Regional Office staff to PRC, Committees and Locals.
 4. The PRC Persons with Disabilities Representative ensure that the instructions regarding accessibility meet the current standard.
- Several issues were identified regarding the Prairie Region website. The committee reviewed the website and makes the following recommendations/requests:
Recommendations:
 5. On the PRC page, the links for PRC Bylaws & Meeting Documents should be moved up to the top of the page
 6. Representative reports to each PRC meeting be included as part of the meeting minutes.
 7. A statement be posted on the Meeting Document webpage indicating the individual representative reports can be found in the minutes.
 8. PRC members submit a biography to the REVP office no later than April 30th
 9. While optional, PRC members submit a photograph to the REVP office that will be posted on the respective biography
- On the issue of introduction letters, the Communications Sub-Committee was requested to draft a template for Geographic, Area Council and Separate Employer Representative(s). Equity, RWC and the Youth Representative will develop an introduction letter within their committee.
 - The committee reviewed several draft letters of introduction and recommend that representatives consider issuing an introduction letter similar to the format used by the 3 North Sask. representatives. Reasons for recommending this format were that the reason for the communication was to spark interest in the PRC and open communication between PRC reps and

MINUTES OF THE PSAC PRAIRIE REGION COUNCIL
The Fairmont Hotel Winnipeg MB
March 12-13, 2009

the membership. A flyer format versus a formal letter usually attracts more attention and interest. Area Council and Geographic reps may want to consider issuing a joint communiqué which will serve as a reference document for locals. The Separate Employer Representative could utilize the same format with the target audience being Separate Employers locals in the Prairie Region.

Recommendations

10. That the Regional Coordinator advise Regional Offices to provide contact information for Locals and National Officers to all PRC reps within the same jurisdiction.
 11. That the Communications committee finalize a draft flyer by March 22nd and that the draft be circulated to applicable Regional Reps
 12. That Area Council and Geographic reps send an introduction flyer to locals and National Officers in their respective areas
 13. That the Separate Employer Representative send an introduction flyer to each Separate Employer Local and respective National Officers.
- To ensure timeliness of information distribution, minutes of PRC meetings need to be distributed and posted to the website as soon as possible. It is however imperative that the minutes be reviewed for accuracy before being placed on a public domain. As such, the committee makes the following recommendations:
Recommendations
 14. Minutes of PRC meetings be distributed via email to all PRC members as soon as possible following the meeting. Timeline for distribution will be dependent on receipt of committee reports.
 15. All PRC representatives be mandated to review the minutes and indicate to the REVP EA any errors or omissions.
 16. All PRC representatives agree to reply no later than 1 month following receipt of the minutes indicating acceptance (or rejection) of the minutes as circulated.
 17. If consensus of responses indicates acceptance and upon correction of any errors or omissions, the minutes will be circulated and posted to the website.
 - Other issues that will be discussed in future committee meetings include:
 - surveying committees to conduct a communication needs assessment. The committee will develop a list of questions that can be circulated to committees in advance for their consideration. Committee members will then meet with committees via conference call to discuss responses.
 - drafting guidelines for developing and/or strengthening media relations at the local level.
 - finalizing revisions on a brochure highlighting the role of PRC members
 - researching and pricing promotional materials to raise the profile of the Prairie Region

MINUTES OF THE PSAC PRAIRIE REGION COUNCIL
The Fairmont Hotel Winnipeg MB
March 12-13, 2009

PSAC Prairie Region Email Communication Protocol

The email protocol presented here is designed to streamline email traffic within the PSAC Prairie Region and hopefully minimize information duplication and overload. The Communications Sub-Committee is requesting that all members of the PRC (including the REVP Office) adopt this protocol and further that consideration be given for the expansion of the protocol to include Area Councils and Regional Committees. The committee also recommends that the PSAC Prairies Regional Coordinator consider implementing the protocol for Regional Offices.

1. When communicating on behalf of the Prairie Region Council (PRC), an email address must be provided that will be visible to all members of PSAC. This will enable all addressees to see where the information has been distributed and determine where information should be passed on within their own networks. It will also enable members to direct responses to specific persons or groups to offer assistance or request follow up information.
2. When passing information forward or replying to an email, consideration must be given as to the intended recipients. In order to minimize email traffic, when asking a question or responding to an inquiry, direct your email to only those specific addresses.
3. Messages of an urgent nature that require immediate attention must be flagged and/or identified to ensure appropriate and timely responses. It is the responsibility of all PRC members to ensure that responses are given within the identified timelines.
4. The use of acronyms must be considered when communicating within the Region. Not all members are familiar with the terminology commonly in use by the leaders/officers of the Region. Consider the target audience of the email and if appropriate, ensure acronyms are spelled out at the first usage within the body of the email.
5. Consideration must be given when attaching PDF documents to emails. In order to ensure accessibility by all members, PDF files must be accompanied by a document that is formatted in “.rtf” or “.htm” or created by software such as Microsoft Word, Excel etc.
6. To increase recognition within the region, your role within PSAC must be identified when communicating on behalf of PSAC. This will ensure that members become familiar with the leaders/officers of the Region. Whether it is by creating a signature block or adding a title under your name in the closing or your email, clarity of the role is paramount.

MINUTES OF THE PSAC PRAIRIE REGION COUNCIL
The Fairmont Hotel Winnipeg MB
March 12-13, 2009

7. The adoption of a standard format will simplify email communication within the Region. The format to be used is indicated below:

- **TO:** (those persons who are being asked to perform an action)
- **CC:** (those persons who are not required to perform an action but should be aware of the information)
- **BCC:** NOT USED
- **Subject:** (Direct statement that summarizes the body of the email)

WITHIN THE BODY OF THE EMAIL

- **Urgency** (Routine, Priority, Info Only)
- **Action Required:** (Be specific)
- **To Be Actioned By:** (Clearly identify who is required to conduct the action)
- **Response Required By:** (date)

- Body of Message

- Signature
- PRC Title

PRC Education Committee Report **March 12-14, 2009**

Committee Members:

Mary Veilleux, Gerry Pendulak, Nancy Johnson, Judy Shannon (Regional Education Officer)

Meetings

November 17, 2008

- reviewed Terms of Reference developed by previous PRC Education Committee;
- planned agenda for Nov. 21st meeting;
- distributed background materials to committee members (Regional Education Plan);
- Interim Budget; Union School and Resolutions that impact education).

November 21, 2008 via Conference Call

- reviewed Regional Education Plan, interim budget and education activities so far this cycle;
- update on the Prairie Union School;
- discussed convention resolutions that impact Education;
- discussed the current education program (course scheduling and recruitment; criteria for course go-ahead/cancellation).

January 28, 2009 via Conference Call

- reviewed Interim budget and education & RO plans for 2009;
- re-distributed the remaining budget to carry out the plans for 2009
- Union School update (i.e. 15 AF opportunities; 5 courses; 90 participants)
- Discussed "no-shows" on weekend courses and the plans for the ROs to send a follow up letter to the Locals of "no shows" under the signature of the PRC Education Committee
- Discussed plans to survey Local Officers about their training needs;
- Discussed plans to survey Activists' Conference participants to see how the plan implementation is going

February 24, 2009 via Conference Call (Committee Members)

- Mary and Gerry held an evening call to discuss the PSAC Convention resolutions that have an impact on education. Additionally there was discussion around the Prairie Union School. *Note: Nancy Johnson was unavailable for call due to prior political rally.*

February 26, 2009 via Conference Call

- Union School update (participant selection process; AF roles; on-line application form update)
- Leadership Phase 1 training and UDP training update

MINUTES OF THE PSAC PRAIRIE REGION COUNCIL
The Fairmont Hotel Winnipeg MB
March 12-13, 2009

- Discussion on the opportunities for PRC Reps to address weekend course participants (Mary will present a draft doc to the March PRC meeting)
- Discussion on the possibilities of e-learning; (Mary will present information to the March PRC meeting)

March 19/09 - next PRC Education meeting scheduled

Prairie Union School:

The work of the Union School is done by the Union School Organizing Committee which consists of 22 members (including Nancy & Gerry) and staff from across the Region as well 9 Union School Sub-Committee's.

PRC Health and Safety Committee Report
March 13, 2009

To this date, this committee has held one very productive conference call, and exchanged numerous emails. We also met face to face on March 12th.

The main focus of this committee has been the establishment of a 2009 Regional Health and Safety conference for 2009. A tentative date has been set for September 18, 19, & 20th, with a back up date of September 25, 26 & 27th.

We have created a draft of the application form using the 2006 Prairie region form as a base and added portions of the 2009 BC application for additional thoughts and ideas. This application will be a highbred of these two forms.

Among subjects discussed for inclusion on the application form include;

- Expectations of applicants
- Bare requirements to be needed for selection
- Potential make up for audience (demographics)
- Local involvement in Health and Safety Committee
- Having leave paid for by employer, either through Provincial legislation, or by negotiations with employer, promoting joint nature of management and union responsibilities for H&S.
- Having Local executive Initiative to LWOP, requests for employer paid leave, and attendee selection
- Building on past exposure, looking for experienced participants. As well, expanding on themes to work on issues currently outstanding in the workplaces.
- H&S oriented energizers
- Round table or "Union Cafe" vs. Lecture format

MINUTES OF THE PSAC PRAIRIE REGION COUNCIL
The Fairmont Hotel Winnipeg MB
March 12-13, 2009

- Location: Regina- looking into the Ramada Inn, Delta, or Hotel Saskatchewan as possible locations. (Note- The Regina Inn has been decided as location since report was created)
- A possible registration fee, including a waiver, if applicable.

We also had discussions about possible speakers and activities for the Conference, including involvement from the SFL, a representative from a Saskatchewan riding to speak on government changes that may have an impact H&S. Rahil has agreed to pursue these items and be prepared to report back for the next scheduled conference call.

Aside from the Conference, we also discussed the Day of Mourning, to occur on April 28th. A draft letter from the PRC H&S committee has been prepared, which will be included in packages sent to region Locals relating to the Day of Mourning. It is recognized that many leaders will be attending the National Convention at this time, so it will be imperative for this committee to work with the RO to ensure recognition of the Day of Mourning.

In Solidarity,
Prairie Region Council Health and Safety Committee
Heike McRae, Clint Wirth and Rahil Ahmad

PRC HR, Women and Youth Committee Report **March 12, 2009**

Participants:

Chad Kemery, Timothy Hunt, Frank Lloyd, Satinder Bains, Tanya Galenzoski, Alisha Bigelow, Louise Mardell PSAC Staff

Minutes of Previous Meeting were not done. Participants will send their notes to Louise Mardell who will try to formulate some minutes for the records.

Louise committed to taking notes and drafting minutes for this time.

Agenda items for this meeting were solicited from the group.

Communication

The major concern was the issue of Communication – two fold; between the members of the committee and between the committee members and the membership at large.

MINUTES OF THE PSAC PRAIRIE REGION COUNCIL
The Fairmont Hotel Winnipeg MB
March 12-13, 2009

Members of the Committee discussed their concerns about communications. The Committee members are spread out geographically and cover a wide range of Equity and Human Rights issues. The Committee feels it is very important to keep in touch with one another so that they can understand and support each others initiatives.

Another huge challenge is to find a way to ensure that information is getting through local executive to the membership. A discussion ensued regarding having local contacts in every work site that are committed to posting items on the local union Bulletin Board. This is a challenge that the Committee will continue to explore ideas for resolution. A further discussion was had regarding building local networks (self identified members in each work site) and having a list of local work sites with numbers (i.e. Regina RO web site has a virtual map of work sites with the number of members at each location).

The following action plan was agreed to by the committee members:

Communications between Committee members:

- each member will be responsible for creating a group e-mail address book for the members of this committee so that they can keep each other informed of issues that they are dealing with. This is to be done immediately by each member.
- A quarterly meeting will be held by Conference Call. Sister Mardell will set up and send out coordinates for the next conference call to be held on April 16th at 4:00 p.m. Central standard time. A reminder will be sent out seeking agenda items on April 9th.
- A calendar of significant HR, Women and Youth events will be created by having each member responsible for submitting a list to be posted on the Regional Web site. Each member is responsible for doing this will by May 1st.

Communication with membership

- there will be a request made to Robyn Benson have a link created on the Prairie Regional web site that will provide more information to the members regarding this committee, its mandate, history, current events/calendar of events etc. It could include a "what's new" bullet. The idea would be to have the link under the "Regional Council Membership" to this Committee. Sister Mardell will send this request to Sister Benson's office by the end of this week.
- Each member of this committee will be responsible for creating their own a Bio/Brochure to be posted on this web link. (this tri fold brochure could be printed off for a hand out at various events). This Brochure would include a brief Bio of the Committee member (with picture) a brief description of their portfolio on the committee. It could include history and mandate and any other relevant information as well as some current events/issues that they are working on. Brother Timothy Hunt will work on a template for the brochure to share with the other members to assist them in completion of this task. This information must be distributed to committee members by April 8th so that it can be followed up with at the next meeting.

MINUTES OF THE PSAC PRAIRIE REGION COUNCIL
The Fairmont Hotel Winnipeg MB
March 12-13, 2009

- Discussion regarding a letter to be sent out from the Committee to local Presidents, RVP's etc. (Similar to the letter drafted to recruit Youth members). Discussion as to whether each individual member would do a letter or if one letter would be done for the committee. The committee agreed to discuss this further during the PRC Conference and decide what they will do.

Reporting at PRC on Saturday

A copy of the action plans from the Activist Conference was sent to the Committee. The Committee will review this report along with the follow-up that was provided from the regions. A report will be given to the PRC and RVP/NVP's on Saturday.

Brother Chad Kemery will report on Youth Network

Sister Tanya Galenzoski will report on RWC's

Brother Timothy Hunt will provide the rest of the report on behalf of this committee

Recruitment of Equity Members for Conferences and Education Events

It was agreed that this is an ongoing responsibility of each member of the Committee.

Members will strive to recruit equity members to attend functions such as the upcoming Spring School etc.

Keeping HR Committees viable in the Region

The Committee discussed the need to keep sharing ideas and success stories with the committees in the Region.

Brother Satinder Bains agreed to send out a message to the Northern Sask. Members, via the RO contact list, to solicit interest in the revitalizing the HR committee in that area.

Equity Conference

The committee would like to pursue the idea of having an equity conference.

This will be an item for discussion at the next meeting.