

Deborah (Ferguson) Wiens
Alternate Regional Executive Vice-President (A/REVP)



Welcome to the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) Prairie Region 6th Triennial Convention! What an amazing three years that it has been! During this term the Prairie Region was proud to welcome Sister Robyn Benson as our National President for PSAC! Due to Sister Robyn's move, the Alternate REVP (Regional Executive Vice President) position became vacant in the Prairie Region. I was nominated, and successful in being elected. I have been honored to represent all of you. Thank you for your support, and the opportunity.

I was sworn into this position on October 12, 2012 at my first Prairie Region Council meeting in Regina, Saskatchewan. I have now been in this role for approximately 2 years, and I can honestly say – what an eye opening experience. I could now tell you what I've done for the region in my role as Alternate REVP for the Prairies, and include things like I spoke at town halls, on the news, rally's, attended every PSAC meeting I could, attended the day of action, I chaired the communications committee, I participated in the bylaw committees and chaired mock conventions.... and I could give you details surrounding that, but... I am going to take the opportunity to tell you my experience of the last two years, what I've learnt, and what barriers I've come up against. If anyone would like details, I'm always willing to share, please come and speak with me.

Anyone who knows me knows that you always know where you "stand" with me, sometimes even when you don't want to know. I am opinionated, strong willed, stubborn, passionate and dedicated. I say this, because, I believe currently, our political environment is a mess. You will see by our slogan of this years convention – "Our Union: Bringing Us Together" is a direct reflection of the current political environment. We all know that the fight against the politics of our business is going to be long and hard. We know that with the current environment we will certainly be facing a challenge. We, the Prairie Region have an opportunity to start change now, and then well into 2015. We need to stand together!

Where to start? We have Bill 377, and Bill C4. Both bills are a nightmare for our Union. Then of course we have bargaining happening with a government that isn't exactly PRO anything for Public Service Employees. I would at this time like to say "thank you" to our bargaining teams for all the hard work they are doing for all of us! Now, this report was due mid May 2014. I know there are going to be other political agenda's that come up from the time of this report until convention, and I am sure that we will do everything in our power to fight against them.

However, this brings me to my next point. All of us in this room are Union Activists. I know, since being in this role, I have chaired meetings, done town halls, and the messaging I've received back is "we need to make it easier". I agree. I know that some believe we can't hand everyone everything on a silver platter, and to an extent I agree with that, but when we are fighting huge amounts of apathy within our own union, we need to make it easier to be involved.

Since I have become the A/REVP for Prairie Region, the Prairie Region has had a turn over of many Prairie Region Council members. Now, I am certainly NOT saying that this is due to apathy.... It is my understanding, that some is sadly from work force adjustment, some from promotion, and others for personal reasons. However, we have many committees that are

struggling within the Prairie Region, and while I can't definitely say "why", I have some ideas. I think we need to look at barriers on becoming involved.

Many speak about grass root members... and how they need to be informed. I agree, but us as leaders need to be informed as well. How much do you know about Bill 377? Bill C4? Did you read the entire documents? Could you? Do you have enough time? I think that we, the Prairie Region, need to do a better job of making it easy. When new, important legislation is on the horizon – information needs to go out as soon as possible to all the Prairie Region Council members and then to the delegates here and locals across the region. If we make it a short document, with the quick and accurate facts, it's easier to remember, and easier to distribute.

With the recent decision about desk drops – I think we have to try whatever possible to provide the information. I am sure some of you are thinking – but what about the financial cost? My question is what is the 'cost' to us as a Union if we don't? What is the value of getting one more person involved? Had it not been for my local president at the time, Lois Greenhalgh, taking the time to educate and speak with me I would not be involved. Have I made a difference? Has Lois? I would like to think so. The fact is though – many of us here have full time jobs, we all (or should be able to) have personal lives... we all give a lot to this union – which is fantastic, but... how do we make it easier? I think it starts with us here at convention. I believe everyone on the convention floor wants to help make change, and with the collective knowledge – I know we can do it!

Earlier, I said I'd talk about what I'd learnt – I've learnt that there are many facets to our Union that (I believe) many grass root members do not know about. I've learnt that we have many, many dedicated and passionate members who stand up for what they believe in. I've learnt that sometimes when standing for the way you believe is right, it can be a very hard, lonely, and an unpopular road to travel. I've recently learnt that (in my opinion) we have gaps in our Prairie Region By-laws. I personally believe that an emergency resolution should be submitted to amend this at this convention. Please feel free to discuss with me for further information.

What do I see as barriers? Grass root members see what we do as leaders. They see how much we do, and some determine that we give too much of ourselves for them to become involved. I see a barrier is that sometimes the value of what we need gets outweighed due to the financial cost. Barrier – politics get in the way of getting business done. In conclusion – I hope that we as a convention floor make change happen, that we make wise decisions, and that every person at this convention leaves, renewed, educated, motivated and reassured!

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, concerns or for information.

In Solidarity,

Deborah Wiens, Alternate Prairies REVP
587-926-2329
Wiensd@psac.com

Satinder Bains
Southern Saskatchewan Geographical Representative

I was acclaimed as the PRC Rep for the South Saskatchewan when Brother Steve VanOpstal resigned in the last quarter of his term. Now I been elected as the new PRC Rep for Area Council in South Sask.

I continue to attend and work with the Regina Human Rights and Regina Area Council committees and attended the meetings on regular bases. I also had a chance to attend the PSAC National Equity Conference in Ottawa in November 2013.

The PSAC National Equity Conference addressed the importance of solidarity and that concerns of the workers are shared concerns. The main issues are Labor and Migration, Aboriginal Workers, Women, Workers of Color, Workers with Disabilities, Young Workers and Pride in the conference. The message of the conference encourage our members, workplace and future leaders to play active role in helping all our workers to become even more powerful in the workplace. The conference recognized and made me more determined to change the Conservative policies which affect aboriginal and radicalized communities, for LGBT communities and for the people living with disabilities and for women. I believe the message is to share and look at ways to built a strong, diverse and inclusive work force.

The knowledge from the conference and workshops I attended gave me ideas to share with my members, components and community to promote the Human Rights, equity rights of color, Aboriginals, LGBT and dealing with conflicts in the workplace. Increase knowledge to strategies to increase the access of workers of color, LGBT, women and Aboriginal to the Canadian labor force. Others issues for I will be interested in are related to promotion, access to training and apprenticeship programs and the recognition of international credentials.

For myself, this was a learning experience and I am happy to say we have a lot activist's to network with from all parts of Canada who work in different governments, department, agencies, unions who share the same values and concerns. In my union position capacities I feel I have a network in place to pass on the importance of our National equity conference agenda.

In Solidarity,

Satinder Bains

Shaun Brennand
Regina Area Council Representative

It is my privilege and pleasure, to present this report to the delegates at convention. As my second term comes to an end, I look back to the rewards and challenges this position has offered. The past few years have not been easy for union activists. The government has continually pounded the public service, decimating member's jobs and lively hoods in its wake. Workers' rights and privileges are being targeted constantly to the point where the rights to bargain collectively, could be a thing of the past. Adding to our challenges, the grassroots ranks of our own union have become filled with apathy; to the point where the existence of many council's and committees of the Prairie region are in jeopardy. Our councils and committee need these members back, helping us activist performing the tasks that keep our union viable.

During my term, I have worked hard to fulfil the mandates that I have been tasked with. My role as PRC Rep has been to bring the challenges forward to Regina Area Council and to help our where I could. Unfortunately, my personal life has also brought on challenge with family and personal health issues as well as a very demanding job which has added another province to my responsibility and many nights away from home. Saying this, I know that it is now my time to step aside. The next few years are going to be interesting to say the least. To my successor, you are taking on a huge amount of responsibility. It is important to maintain a balance of family, work and union volunteerism in your life.

During my tenure, I worked on the following committees;

Education Committee:

- * Reviewed the current regional education program that is coming to a close. There were a huge number of participants in 2010/2011.
- * Help prepare an e-mail survey and specific meetings in each of the regional offices and other areas to gather feedback.
- * Discussed pilot program for the Prairies Facilitator Network.
- * Discussed key activities to include in the next education cycle. These are subject to change because there has not been consultation with members as of yet. Possibilities include: bargaining and union school as there was not a union school in the last three-year cycle.
- * Specific roles for the education committee: basic consultations, promote the education program, encourage and support the AF network. Ensure the pilot project is successful. Make sure everyone is aware of the network and know whom the AF in their areas is and if they so choose that they can utilize it.

Bylaws Committee

- * First Committee meeting in April 2012 to discuss changes to bylaws.
- * Ongoing conference calls throughout the term.
- * Chaired ad-hoc committee on PRC structure to help aid changes to existing bylaws

Respectfully Submitted,
Shaun Brennand
Prairie Regional Representative to Regina and District Area Council.

Denni Ernst
Northern Saskatchewan Geographical Representative

I participated on the Convention Host Committee, Prc Finance Committee, Resolutions Finance Committee Attended town hall meetings and telephone town hall meetings. Attended the Leadership Summit. I encouraged members in various locals to join the town hall discussion that took place at the end of April. I attended Area Council meetings. I completed the final step in alliance facilitation training in May. I look forward to the upcoming convention in June.

I'd like to thank Louise in the regional office and especially sister Nancy and brother Tim for taking me under their wing. As a new member to the PRC with limited experience and very little guidance from the REVP I found their experience valuable. I have enjoyed my time on council greatly and look forward to the change that lies ahead. I have enjoyed working with each and every one of my brothers and sisters.

Respectfully submitted,

Denni Ernst

David Fandrich
Southern Alberta Geographical Representative

I would like to report the following activities:

- * Spring 2012 Southern Alberta Leadership Forum
- * Spring 2012 Third Choice Campaign public engagement
- * March 29 2012- Calgary District Labour Council Budget Watch
- * April-May 2012 PSAC National Triennial
- * June 2012-National Public Service Week- Plant gate and harper affected letter campaign
- * September 3 2012- Labour Day Barbeque Calgary
- * September 15 2012- National Day of Action (NCR)
- * April 30th 2013 WAAA Campaigner Training
- * May 2013 Calgary District Labour Council meeting
- * May and August 2013 CLC Labour College
- * November 2013, Citizens Against the Harper Dictatorship rally and speaking engagement
- * November 2013, PSAC rally during Conservative Convention
- * April 26, 2014 PRC General Convention Committee

In early 2012, I was appointed Southern Alberta Geographical after spending approximately nine months as alternate. The highlight of my time as Southern Alberta Geographical Rep was certainly being a part of the rally during the Conservative Convention. Although many other labour and social organisations participated it was the PSAC that lead the way in organising the event, which drew more than four hundred people and got national media attention. Aside from that, I was named chair of the Prairie Region Education committee and have relished the opportunity to support the development of our activists and stewards. Overall I am humble and grateful for the opportunity to serve as the Southern Alberta Geographical Rep.

Let's have a great convention.

In Solidarity,

David Fandrich
Southern Alberta Geographical Rep

Alec Goertzen
Calgary Area Council Representative

It has been my pleasure to represent PSAC members in the Prairie Region over the past 3-year term. I am very proud of my commitment to the Prairie Region Council (PRC) serving the members with dedication and most importantly with respect and dignity.

In general, I continued my participation by:

- * Submitting written reports to each Prairie Region Council meeting as required by the PRC Bylaws
- * Attended scheduled PRC meetings, and most teleconference evening calls, to represent and support Calgary area members
- * Participated in the H&S Committee of the PRC, which included organizing a Regional H&S conference on November 17-18/2012 in Edmonton; theme of the conference was Mental Health in the Workplace
- * Attended Calgary District Labor Council meetings & events to support the Labor Day BBQ, Federal Budget Watch, and Day of Mourning.
- * Participated in plans with other PRC reps to organize a response to our members & community affected by the Alberta Flood of 2013
- * Participated in organizing the event 'Crash the Party', where members gathered outside of the Conservative Convention in Calgary to protest and show solidarity 'we are all affected' with the continued cuts to public services & offices
- * Partnered with District Labor Council to send e-flyers to all Calgary area members for the
- * Calgary Municipal election to support labor friendly candidates in each of the ridings
- * Participated in boycotting Public Service Week events, which included sending PM Harper a pink slip to a morning greeting with leaflet telling members why they should boycott PSWeek. It still baffles me beyond my comprehension how the government promotes their commitment to public services & workers, while at the same time hand out a surplus letter and slice of cake to wash it all down.

This is certainly is not an exhaustive listing of my work with the PRC, but are significant highlights worth noting. Overall serving this past term on PRC has been busy but not as satisfying as previous term as I would have hoped. The leadership of the PRC continued with delays in financial reporting, unrealistic delays with committee funding, dual-mined on certain issues that delayed decision making, and had record number of resignations by reps. All this aside, I do look forward to a new makeup of the PRC and its leadership knowing together we are stronger to the challenges before us and the work YOU need actioned.

I strongly believe in our members and our challenge ahead is never over, but needs action! I thank the members for giving me the opportunity once again to represent them on the PRC.

Respectfully submitted,

Alec Goertzen
Calgary Area Council Rep
PRC Member

Tim Hogan
Prince Albert Area Council Representative

We participated in two Idle No More marches and arranged a presentation for the public to explain what Idle No More is all about. This was held in the auditorium of the John M Cuelenaere Public Library. There were roughly 100 attendees from the public that attended this event.

We participated and assisted in sponsoring the attempt to complete the world's largest round dance in July hosted by NAMC at Kinsmen Park.

We hosted the "we are all affected" training campaigners.

Met with local Presidents from PIPS and UCCO to discuss joint planning for some type of action to take place in front of our MP's office.

Attended Alliance Facilitator Workshop to develop courses for mini-school events.

Lobbying:

Contacted our MP to discuss the private members bill to eliminate the Rand formula. We did not receive a response.

Phoned local MP 3 times and e-mailed in regard to budget bill – no response was received.

Discussed the closure of Veteran Affairs offices with our Local MP. He indicated that the veterans were now getting better service, when I expressed my dismay at his statement he stated that "Oh, yeah they are."

Timothy Hunt
Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered (GLBT) Persons Representative

Welcome to the convention!

I have a theory about Human Rights, I want to know as much as I can! In my world, filled with rainbows (ok you can smile now), I wanted to include all equity seeking groups in all my decisions, teaching, mentoring and defending. I picked the GLBT Representative position on the Prairie Region Council because I wanted to make a difference. I just didn't realize I was really good at it! Recently I became part of the PWD (persons with disabilities) equity seeking group with my knee injury and I've been amazed how everyone around me was so accommodating in pointing me in the right direction for help and guidance, which only added to my knowledge of PWD issues (thanks Dave!). So wherever you are on the equity seeking spectrum, always leave room to grow, learn and share your experiences wherever and whenever you can.

I have enjoyed working with the entire PRC these past three years. I believe I bring friendship, knowledge and vital life experience to the council, being their GLBT equity lense. I also bring a certain level of social awareness to conversations that need to be heard, addressed and sometime explained to be sure that our council in cognisant of equity's evolution in today's Union environment and of course all of our Canadian society.

In the past three years as the GLBT representative I have approached all the Human Rights Committees in the Prairies, attended meetings/conferences/workshops dealing with GLBT issues and tried to sponsor as much attention as I could to bring the PRIDE-GLBT concerns forward. In most cases I have succeeded to reach (email trees, our regional website, etc.) out to my Brothers and Sisters to provide guidance, support and information regarding our on-going union struggles. Many events across the Prairies are listed here in my report and many more were celebrated in other cities. Our media wizard Jeffrey Vallis is also on my list of thank you's as he constantly amazes us all with his ability to make everything work on paper, posters, websites and more look amazing!!

I would like, at this time of convention gathering, to ask all our GLBT members to try, one day soon, to attend your local Human Rights Committee in your local Regional Office. You can learn more about other equity groups and hopefully bring your GLBT viewpoint to the group. This is the best way to get the "word" out to members and to bring attention to any local GLBT events/information/resources. This is the forum that you can launch your union career from, find out what interests you and put "your spin on it" ... you'll never know where it will take you and all the great people you will meet along the journey.

My work on the National Human Rights Committee was fruitful and frustrating at the same time during this triennial cycle. The seven representatives (the PSAC is split into seven regions, we are of course the Prairies) for GLBT, myself included, worked well together and came up with many workable ideas. We were able to set up clear agendas of what we wanted to accomplish and set up a framework for the workshops that in fact happened at the Human Rights Committee Conference which was held in Toronto in the fall of 2013. We also are working on GLBT information pamphlet (due out soon!) that would include many aspects of the GLBT struggles from the past to present to show our members a complete snapshot of the good work that our GLBT members/staff are working towards. The frustrating part of being part of this committee is that we have not met face to face since 2010, but we have been able to keep up during several conference calls. Not meeting face to face has been a

barrier to completing the Human Rights work we set out to complete as a committee, hopefully this will be rectified during the fall 2014 meeting of the whole committee (Women's, Aboriginal, Racially Visible, GLBT and Persons with Disabilities). I would also like to say thank you to the national PSAC staff who worked on our files as they are also wonderful to work with, some hurdles have been overcome and others are still in the works. Always moving forward – never back!

This was also a trying time in the Prairies with all of the worthwhile campaigns (We Are All Affected, Pensions, etc.) that were happening and mother nature did not help either! The flooding in Calgary during the summer of 2013 was unprecedented. Many of our union activities were put on hold and many PSAC members were faced with utter devastation as their homes became uninhabitable. With the help of the Social Justice Fund (PSAC) we were able to fund some of the Human Rights charities we have worked with in the past. We also were able to rally together members from many different locals on two separate events at the Drop-In Centre and the Mustard Seed to prepare and plate over 1,200 meals. These members came from Saskatoon, Lethbridge, Winnipeg and Edmonton and included our REVP (Marianne). I am proud of this because most PSAC members in other locals rarely interact with one another, but this was in the name of charitable work and our members are always ready to volunteer. For those who did volunteered, and you know who you are, an extended thank you from myself.

To all of my Brothers and Sisters in the Prairies, I say “thank you” and praise you all for coming forward in the name of our union. Please find below a select amount of achievements I enjoyed while being your representative on the Prairie Region Council.

In Pride & Solidarity - Prairie Wide!!

2011

<p>13th Annual Fairy Tales Film Festival May</p> 	<p>The HRC sponsored the event for one night, this was for the “Bring-a-Straight” night, there was a documentary and comedy film shown. Volunteers from various components were in attendance enjoying the event!</p>	
<p>Regina Gay Pride Parade - June</p> 		<p>BSO Leanne Shirkey’s participation became only the third time that a BSO in uniform was authorized to participate in a Gay Pride Parade and this was in Regina...Brava!!</p>
<p>Gay Rodeo Calgary July 1-3</p> 	<p>On the Midway in Strathmore I attended the Rodeo Grounds with this booth with information for all GLBT rights and freedoms. I also handed out flags to the children attending the family friendly event. A tornado also whipped through on the Sunday afternoon less than six blocks from the grounds....phew !</p>	
<p>Out Games Vancouver July 25th-29th</p> 	<p>Met with my fellow GLBT representatives from across the country to attend three days of Human Rights Forums, demonstrations and awareness. The games will be in Denver Colorado in 2015.</p>	
<p>GlobalFest 2011 Human Rights Event August 19th PSAC Sponsorship</p>	<p>The HRC got the Social Justice Fund to help us sponsor the events of GlobalFest 2011. On August 19th, twenty+plus PSAC members gathered to volunteer at the “Swearing In” of 100 new Canadians. We all then enjoyed a night of fireworks, China was the country for this evening, it was warm, fun and members got to work together from other components, priceless!!</p> 	
<p>Pride Parade in the Prairies Calgary Parade September 04, 2011</p>		<p>Joined forces with the AFL to open a table of information during the parade festivities. This year’s Grand Marshall was City of Calgary Mayor – Naheed Nenshi (great guy)</p>
<p>Sept. 05th</p> 	<p>Participated in the 3rd Annual Labour Day BBQ, we (myself, Area Council, Regional Women’s / Human Rights Committees) used this opportunity to do a “Anti-Bullying” information booth and offered to pay for the “condiments” for the event from the Human Rights Committee budget. “PSAC Members Volunteer in the Community”</p>  	
	<p>Attended meetings in Edmonton on Mondays June 27th and September 19th, working on 100th Anniversary of the AFL in Alberta. A major GLBT float will be in the parade and on display.</p>	
	<p>December 06th & 07th: Attended AFL Executive Meetings in Edmonton on representing both the PSAC V.P. (Elaine Alt) and the Pride & Solidarity Committee. We continued the business of the Province and the 100th Anniversary of the AFL in Alberta. A major float will be in the Gay Edmonton & Calgary Pride Parades and on</p>	

display at the official June 16th.

2012



January 29th

Even though the launch was just last week, the Royal Mint is already sold out of the first run. But they are taking future orders for the "wedding gift set" of coins. Artist Gary Taxali talks about his collaboration with the Royal Canadian Mint.

"The coin that Taxali is most proud of is the wedding-themed coin, featuring two interlocking rings that represent a gender-neutral marriage. "I live in a country where gender is irrelevant and the coin has to represent that," says Taxali. "I thought it would be a nice thing to represent that and to show two rings; is one a man and one a woman? Two men? Two women? It doesn't matter what they are, they represent the union of two people. "The Royal Mint really liked that idea because it represents the spirit of our nation and also, I think that it's empowering to somebody and hopefully this calling will send a powerful message that we're all the same and a wedding is a wedding. I think this is probably the first piece of currency in the world, paid by a federal government that is pro-wedding regardless of gender and that makes me really happy...."

January 09th

And

February 13th

Attended a Pride & Solidarity Committee Meeting via conference call. Working towards the AFL 100th Anniversary Gala events. We also are working on a "That's Gay" campaign to bring awareness to the use of the word Gay in today's schools and society.

Winnipeg



The Canadian Museum for Human Rights is coming along with the construction showing more and more of what it will look like when it opens, many other unions are praising the facility and its progress. The PSAC will be the union for the staff when it opens.



February 14th & 15th: Attended AFL Executive Meetings in Edmonton on December 06th & 07th representing both the PSAC V.P. (Elaine Alt) and the Pride & Solidarity Committee. We continued the business of the Province and the 100th Anniversary of the AFL in Alberta. A major float will be in the Gay Edmonton & Calgary Pride Parades and on display at the official AFL Celebration on June 16th.

Sexual diversity
in the workplace



It pays off!



2012 International Day Against Homophobia unveiled its 10th anniversary campaign, it is again May 17th this year on a work day (Thursday). See your local Regional Office for details.

Sexual diversity
in the workplace

It pays off!



May 17
International Day
Against Homophobia

Participate!
This day belongs to YOU!

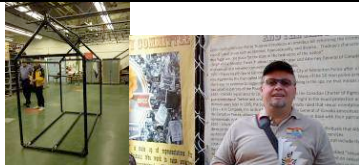
homophobiaday.org



JUICY FLICKS
www.fairytalesfilmfest.com



May – June Fairy Tales Film Festival – The PSAC/CLC/AFL put together a banner for use on the house of labour frame that we used during the evening that we sponsored. The three members of our committee spoke on 1) creating harassment free workplaces 2) jobs within the municipal, provincial and federal levels for the GLBT youth 3) creating links between our jobs and community at large – ie. Volunteering or mentoring others. We were also honoured with the silver level sponsorship as the three unions donated \$1,000 for the festival. This year’s theme was “Juicy Flicks”.



June 9th: Attended with the AFL Pride & Solidarity Committee in the Edmonton parade. 10,000+ attended the hour long parade. Premier Alison Redford made the historic speech at the Pride Stage as the first Premier of Alberta to address the Pride festivities.

June 14th-16th: Attended the Executive Meetings in Edmonton on representing both the PSAC V.P. (Elaine Alt) and the Pride & Solidarity Committee. The 100th anniversary festivities, including the dinner, preparing the GLBT “house of labour” float/display.



August 16 to 26

Volunteered with our Calgary Human Rights Committee on the Globalfest Festival, this year's theme was aboriginal issues. There was 100 new Canadians sworn in during this ceremony. Our information booth raised \$1,000 for our two charities. PSAC information was displayed in the tipi supplied by the UTE local 30024



September 02nd: Participated in the 21st annual Calgary Pride Parade. Sister Marianne (REVP) joined us with other PSAC members and allies. There was also uniformed CBSA officers and Calgary Police Service officers walking in the parade with Agency approval. Also in attendance was Ron Moran, 4th VP of CIU.



May 24th to June 01st

Fairy Tales Film Festival – The PSAC/CLC/AFL sponsored a night at the festival with two powerful films “Call Me Kuchu” a drama based on human rights in Africa and “Parade” an eastern European film based on the events leading up to the parade in Belgrade in 2011.

The three members of our committee spoke on 1) creating harassment free workplaces 2) jobs within the municipal, provincial and federal levels for the GLBT youth 3) creating links between our jobs and community at large – ie. Volunteering or mentoring others.

We were also honoured again with the silver level sponsorship as the three unions donated \$3,000 for the festival, up \$2,000 from the year before. This year’s theme was “Come Out to Be Out”.



Calgary Flood: June 21st

After the aftermath of the flood, the three Calgary Regional Office Committees and Marianne (REVP) approached the Social Justice Fund for monies for the five designated charities:

1. Calgary Drop-In Centre, 2. Calgary Women’s Centre, 3. Calgary Mustard Seed, 4. Stoney / Nakoda Food Bank and 5. Foothills Foundation (non-funded Seniors Lodge-High River)



July 12th – Calgary Drop-In Centre

With our Social Justice money we were able to sponsor \$3,000 for a ham and scalloped potatoes dinner for 900+ residents of the centre. We also had ‘25’ PSAC Volunteers. A tour of the facility was also given to show the volunteers what other services the centre had to offer. The centre was evacuated to their secondary location because of the flooding....the centre had recently re-opened after the flood



July 29 – Mustard Seed Dinner

With our Social Justice money we were able to sponsor a \$1,000 roast beef dinner for over 400+ residents of the ministry. We also had ‘15’ PSAC volunteers preparing and serving the dinners. A tour of the facility was also given to show the volunteers what other services the ministry had to offer (ie. Storage lockers for all their worldly possessions while they went to find work)





CALGARY'S COMMITMENT TO
COMBATING RACISM and
ENDING DISCRIMINATION

GlobalFest 2013: August 16 to 25

I opened a panel on discussions about racial discrimination in the GLBT community at the Glenbow Museum. We also volunteered with our Calgary Human Rights Committee and Area Council along with our Brothers & Sisters from UFCW at the festival. Globalfest's theme this year was aboriginal issues. There was 100 new Canadians sworn in during this ceremony.



Sunday - September 01st

Participated in the 22nd annual Calgary Pride Parade.

Three Mounties were sighted this year at the festivities, trying to get more law enforcement personnel to attend the parade. The Calgary Human Rights Committee to send letters to our law enforcement



November 18th - 22nd - National Human Rights Conference

First time ever all the five equity groups met in Toronto for this "mega conference". Lots of things worked, some didn't, timing was a luxury. Great speakers, again not enough time. Hotel was very accommodating though, but the rooms were all over the place!! Workshops were very well run, content was better and facilitators were more "engaging". Met with all of our ten (10) Prairie Pride Delegates and congratulated them for their attendance. The saying is PSAC-proudly Serving All Canadians !



December 12th - 13th - NHRC Meeting (Ottawa)

This meeting was cancelled, now rescheduled for March 03rd & 04th. Many items we couldn't work on got pushed aside again. Conference calls are not enough, we haven't had a face to face meeting since December 2010.

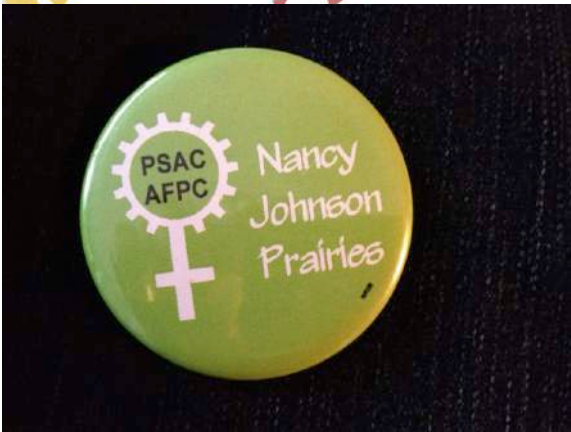
Sister Benson at the conference



<p>May 17th</p> <p>11th Anniversary of the International Day Against Homophobia</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="548 113 711 302"> <p>I love my two moms!</p> </td> <td data-bbox="711 113 906 302">  </td> <td data-bbox="906 113 1068 302"> <p>I love my two dads!</p> </td> <td data-bbox="1068 113 1263 302">  </td> <td data-bbox="1263 113 1453 302"> <p>May 17</p> <p>International Day Against Homophobia</p> <p>homophobiaday.org</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>I love my two moms!</p>		<p>I love my two dads!</p>		<p>May 17</p> <p>International Day Against Homophobia</p> <p>homophobiaday.org</p>
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**Nancy Johnson
Regional Women's Committees Representative**



Welcome Sisters and Brothers to the City of Bridges

I hope you enjoy your time here at the Convention where delegates will be electing their representatives for the next three years. It truly has been an honour and privilege to serve as your Women's Committee Representative on your Prairies Regional Council. I had the opportunity to attend Winnipeg, Regina, Prince Albert and Edmonton RWC meetings. I also participated in several meetings via conference calls, there is no funding provided through council but we've managed to arrange meetings to coincide with the rotation of council meetings.

Thank you

Dawn McAuley and Darlene McClure-Winnipeg

Laura Ursu-Regina

Susan Norman-Brandon

Carrie-Ann French-Calgary

Bhupinder Johal-Edmonton

Denni Ernst-Prince Albert

Maria Fitzpatrick-Lethbridge

Sister Robyn Benson

Sister Judy Shannon

**Sisters Louise Mardell, Diane Allen,
Dolly Ablitt, Carm Chan and Shelley
Jamieson**

Sister Marianne Hladun

And Welcome:

Darlene Lewis-Edmonton

Michelle Lang-Regina

Deb Kosteniuk-Calgary

Gloria Kelly-Winnipeg



Memorable highlights:

**Women's World
Conference-Ottawa**

**National Women's
Conference-Toronto**

**Regional Women's
Conference-Banff**

Women's World Conference

Shortly after being elected in 2011, all the Regional Council women representatives were invited to attend the world conference being held in Ottawa. It was an incredible experience on many levels because we did not know each other and we spent the time listening and participating in all the events as a group. The march to Parliament Hill and supporting our aboriginal sisters. We made lifetime friends and we've worked so incredibly well together. We've supported each other over the years by attending each other's regional conferences (paid our own way), offering guidance and mentoring each other. Andree Cote, PSAC, Women's Program Officer's guidance has been top rate from the 1st day we met her.



Regional Women's Conference

72 Incredible Sisters invaded the Town of Banff...

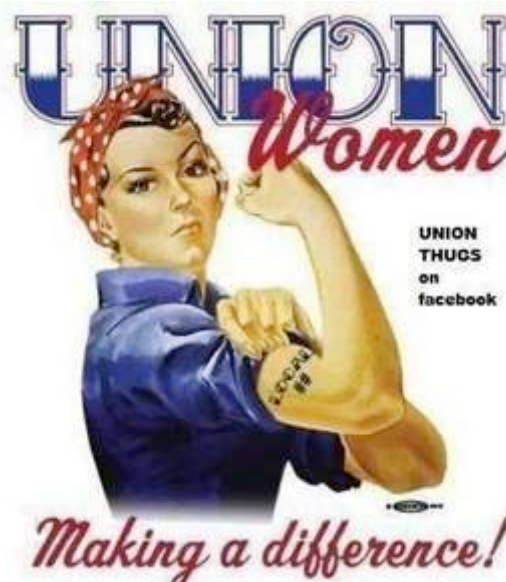
We couldn't have picked a better place to discuss and debate resolutions about affordable childcare, violence against women, our missing and murdered aboriginal sisters, and lobbying.

A special thank you to Jeannie Baldwin, REVP for the Atlantic, responsible for Women's and Andree Cote, Women's Program officer for their guidance and presentations. My full report is available on the Prairies website under Women's Program.



National Women's Conference

The newly formed National Human Rights Committee met after the Leadership Summit in December 2012 to discuss and plan the 1st National Human Rights conference that was held in Toronto in November 2103. The women representatives held several conference calls leading up to the event. Kelly Meygesi, BC region and I were chosen by the other reps to co-chair the resolutions debate. It was a lot of fun and we managed to pass all our committee recommendations. I was so proud of my Prairies Sisters who spoke passionately and eloquently on the resolutions that we had passed at our regional conference. They showed solidarity and the true meaning of sisterhood. I was elected the 1st Women's delegate to the 2015 PSAC Triennial Convention. We had 16 members running for the position and we appreciated the use of electronic balloting for the elections. It was a long process but we managed to elect a 2nd representative and two alternates. Thank you Sister Sherry Hunt for the nomination. I will do the Prairies proud!



Our Committees

Winnipeg

This committee has been one of the leaders in collecting and distributing the Tools for Schools program to the inter-city schools in Winnipeg. They have participated in various activities in the community that support women.

Thank you all for your commitment and support.

Lethbridge

This committee was newly established in 2013 and I proudly call this our “political action sisters”. They rally the members to oppose big oil companies, city councilors, school trustees on issues that not only affect our members but the people in their communities.

Saskatoon

This is my home committee... we have participated in several joint community events over the last three years from volunteering at the Summer Snack program, Foodbank Community garden, December 6th events, Sisters in Spirit vigils, Take back the night walks, International Women’s Day events, Calgary flood volunteers, lobbying for affordable childcare, April 28th Day of Mourning, Saskatchewan Women’s Forum.

Regina

This committee is in the rebuilding stage and we are working together to re-establish and encourage our union sisters to get involved. Dedication and hard work will see new happenings on the horizon. Keep an eye on this committee.

Edmonton

This committee has been a very active committee over the years and I have been working with them to plan events in their community. They had a successful December 6th and March 8th event at Canada Place and surrounding offices. December 6th was bitterly cold but our union sisters were dedicated to the event.

Calgary

The committee had some unresolved issues that resulted in their entire executive resigning in June 2013. Calgary has always been involved in many community projects over the years. I am happy to say that the committee has a new executive and with the assistance of myself, Regional Rep, Dolly Ablitt and the REVP's office, this committee is lacing up for a Women's Walk on June 1st. I'm making the trek to lend my support.

I would like to thank all the union women who have taken a lead on their Regional women's committees not only the elected committee members but also the women who attend and participate in their community. Volunteering can sometimes be a very thankless job, however, the rewards can be amazing!

Come be involved and see what it's all about! Come and network and learn about the good work that the committees do on behalf of all members and in their communities. We have many challenges ahead but I am confident that we can all make a difference when we work together. We have some very active and dedicated women who are committed to the work of the union. Thank you and keep up the exceptional good work. I would encourage all union women to check out the Prairies website and/or get involved in a Women's Committee. Come feed your activist's passion.

Women's Representative Report to Convention

Along with my responsibilities as the Women's Rep I volunteered to work on the Health and Safety committee and most recently I co-chaired with Sister Brea Lewis the convention finance resolutions committee. I am proud of the work of the committee members.

Also as a committee member I have fulfilled my duties such as attending town hall meetings, participating in rallies, reviewing committee financial reports, leadership training and actively participating at council meetings. I have enjoyed the debates they have helped me grow and learn. We may not always see eye to eye but we know at the end of the day we have mutual respect for each other. As elected members we are working for the best interest of all members.

In previous mandates the REVP ensured evening networking opportunities were available at council meetings such as group dinners. They were fun and gave us a chance to connect outside of the council. Recent levels of frustration amongst the council members have surfaced which needs to be addressed in a timely, respectful and professional manner.

I would like to thank the Regional office staff for their assistance in helping us with our work on behalf of the members. Thank you to Sister Judy Shannon for supporting the work of the RWC's through your workshop designs, the Union Women at Work course was so empowering on many levels.

Thank you Sisters and Brothers and I look forward to the work of the council.

In Solidarity

Sister Nancy Johnson

Gus Mardli
South-East Manitoba Geographical Representative

Greetings sisters and brothers,

This is going to be a short report, since I was only elected to the Prairie Region Council in January 2014, representing the South-East Manitoba Geographic Area. It has been an honour and a privilege and I will be looking forward to work with each and every local in this geographic area.

The last few months were busy, for all PRC members, prepping for the 2014 Prairie Region Triennial Convention. Resolutions were debated, voted on then submitted by the PRC. This was done through a 'one in person' official meeting and another efficiently done Webinar Meeting.

I was also very fortunate to work with other sisters and brothers of the PRC on the By-Laws Resolution Committee where we spent a couple of teleconferences debating, voting on and recommending resolutions that were submitted by other bodies.

As part of my portfolio, I was also assigned to be on the Health and Safety committee along with Sister Nancy Johnson and Brother Alec Goertzen. I am looking forward to such opportunity as well.

On April 10th 2014, I joined Brother Clint Wirth (Regional Representative, Health & Safety) for a general meeting with NHU Local 50012. The local members attending their AGM were informed about bill C-4 outcome and consequences. The attack on sick leave from the current federal government was also discussed and some members voiced their concerns and asked few questions on how it may threaten their sick leave. The local was also informed about town hall meetings and interactive webinar to be held in the near future.

I have been actively attending meetings and activities put forth by both the Winnipeg & Area Human Rights Committee and the Winnipeg Area Council.

At last I wish everyone a productive and fun-filled Convention.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gus Mardli

Jackie Nettleton
Saskatoon Area Council Representative

As part of our goal to engage with the wider labour movement the Saskatoon Area Council has continued to take part in events sponsored by the Saskatoon and District Labour Council such as the Day of Mourning for Workers killed on the job and the Labour Day BBQ. I was also able to attend the meet and greet event for unions and the Saskatoon city councilors and mayor.

The AC participates in the Remembrance Day ceremonies and the annual Pride Parade. Along with the Regional Women's Committee we sponsor an annual open house for PSAC members every December. In the past year our guest speaker was a representative from the Food Bank since the RWC and Ag Local 40022 had each been responsible for a row at the Food Bank community garden.

I participate in the Saskatoon Committee for the Government of Canada Workplace Charitable Campaign as the PSAC labour rep. As the representative from the AC to the Prairie Region Council I have attended meetings of the PRC and participated in conference calls. I also sit on the Bylaws Committee of PRC.

The Saskatoon AC has also engaged in political action such as lobbying MPs. However we are represented by Conservative MPs and we have found that they do not want to meet with us as PSAC representatives but only as individual constituents. Even so, we have found it difficult to arrange to meet with them.

The AC welcomes all PSAC members to participate in our meetings and activities. We generally operate by consensus. If a vote needs to be held two representatives from each local are eligible to vote. However it seems that the majority of members attending the AC are from one or two locals and often the same members are also on the RWC. In the past few months these same members have made up the majority of the host committee for the Prairie Region Convention as well. It would be great to have participation from more members from more Saskatoon locals.

In Solidarity,

Jackie Nettleton

Susan Norman
Westman Area Council Representative

As elected Westman Area Representative the past three years have been an up and down roller coaster ride.

In 2012 we were in full Work Force Adjustment mode. We had seen many of our members lose their jobs to the downsizing that the current government saw fit to do. The sad part of this is that the members left have to do more with less resources but continue to take pride in the job they do.

We saw many valuable programs cut, such as the Shelter Belt and Community Pasture programs. We say EI leave Brandon and members either moving to another province or take the WFA package. We saw members being forced into SERLO processes, which pitted member against member in some cases. We now see the employer hiring but of course these positions are term positions and in some cases they are using casual staff or students to fill in for our members lost jobs.

I have to say the highlight for me in this whole process was being able to hand Tony Clement his own affected letter when he came to Brandon. All I can say if looks could kill I would not writing this report.

Westman Area Council is still challenged in getting all the Components involved and excited about the Area Council and having them attend our meetings. As we go into Collective Bargaining I am sure we will be able to get more members out to meetings as the message is "No Concessions" which seems to have the member's attention as well as the "Sick Leave" issue. We will continue to strive to achieve an active Council.

I continue to attend the Brandon Labour Council Meetings on a regular basis to bring awareness of issues within the Westman area as time permits. I am sad to say that the Westman Area Women's Committee has been a struggle to maintain and is currently inactive. We will continue to try and create interest in the Area Women's Committee which. I have also attended the regular meetings of the Prairie Region Council and participated in conference calls as required.

Westman Area Council over the past few years has been involved with the United Way Christmas Tree Auction. This has been a great way to get members involved within the community and give back.

I have had the privilege and opportunity to attend numerous workshops and conferences that have assisted me in my union role.

I strongly believe in our members and that we have a huge challenge ahead of us and our union in future months a majority government. We will promote in the Westman Area that our members get involved and aware of election issues and how they affect each one of us. The "We Are All Affected" Campaign has to move forward more now than ever as erosion of services to Canadians that we provide deteriorate. Together we stand strong.

In Solidarity,
Susan Norman
Westman Area Representative on the Prairie Region Council

Matt Tijani
Winnipeg Area Council Representative

February 2014

- * Participated PRC Conference Call – PRC Bylaw Resolution
- * Attended Winnipeg Area Council Meeting.
- * Attended PSAC – Bargaining Conference in Ottawa

March 2014

- * Attended the March 21st – Day event – Day of the Elimination of Racism
- * Sign off on Winnipeg HR Financial Report

April 2014

- * Attended Winnipeg Area Council Meeting.
- * Sign off on Winnipeg Area Council Financial Report
- * Attended By Law Convention Committee Meeting
- * Review By law Resolutions.
- * Follow up on amended resolutions

May 2014

- * Participate in By Law Convention Committee conference call
- * Participated in the PRC Conference call

In Solidarity,

Respectively submitted
Matt Tijani
WAC – PRC Rep.

Communications Committee

On behalf of the Communications Committee, I would like to thank our advisor, Jeffrey Vallis, Communications Officer for the Prairie Region for all of his assistance with this committee. I would also like to thank all the committee members for their time, dedication and service to the committee and the Prairie Region.

Over the last three years, the Communications Committee tackled some large projects, including the creation of a new logo for the Prairie Region, determining what type of materials/ products/ “swag” would be useful to PSAC Prairie Region members and the Prairie Voice Award.

Of note, the Communications Committee needed to determine a theme for our 6th Triennial Convention. The theme – “Our Union: Bringing us Together”. Was a theme we picked for many reasons. Ultimately – it is about solidarity. Here is the excerpt explaining why: The theme, “Our Union: Bringing Us Together”, is about members standing together in this difficult political climate we are faced with across Local, Component and Provincial lines. At a time when workers are under attack at all levels including federal, provincial, municipal, public sector and private sector, the theme for the 6th Triennial Convention of the PSAC Prairie Region reminds us that we must all speak with a strong, unified voice and continue to work together because we are all affected.

For the logo – it was determined in 2011 all regions within the PSAC converted to the nationally-branded cogs to allow for a uniform identity and easy public recognition of our union. However, most regions complement it with an individual identity that represents the region and its members.

The logo was voted on and chosen as the new Prairie Region Logo at a recent PRC meeting. For me, when I look at this logo, I see a fresh new outlook that's still firmly based in tradition. The three stalks of wheat represent each individual province bundled together to show our solidarity. The richness of the gold is indicative of the rich landscapes across the Prairies, while the darker colour represents our strong, unwavering spirits.

For the Prairie Voice Awards, nominations were to be accepted for the following areas: Community Outreach, Human Rights, Initiative/Leadership, Labour Award, Mentor, Political Action, and Steward of the Year. At the time of this report, I am unaware of who was nominated, and/ or who the successful PSAC members were. However, the committee would like to congratulate all of the nominees and recipients at this time.

Lastly, I would also like to add a small note about the Prairie Region Video Project. Although the communications committee was not responsible for this project, I feel that it needs to be mentioned within this report as the videos greatly impacted communications within the region. Please be sure to visit the Prairie Region Website to view these videos.

<http://prairies.psic.com/>

Please feel free to contact me or any committee members with any questions, concerns or comments.

Hope your convention experience is awesome!

Deborah (Ferguson) Wiens, Alternate Prairies REVP
Chair, PSAC Prairies Communications Committee
WiensD@psac.com
587-926-2329

Committee Members:

Deborah (Ferguson) Wiens, Alternate REVP, Prairies
Dave Burchell, Persons With Disabilities (PWD) Representative
Jared Cooper, Northern Alberta Representative (until January 2014)
Timothy Hunt, Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender (GLBT) Representative
David Pearson, Lethbridge Area Council Representative
Imy Bhatti, Racially Visible Representative

Technical Advisor: Jeffrey Vallis

Education Committee

I would like to start by thanking each of my fellow committee members (Tim Hogan, Shaun Brennand, Alex George) for their hard work and contribution to the work of the education committee. And, I would like to extend a special thanks to our staff representative Judy Shannon the Regional Education Officer for the Prairie Region. The committee could not have done without Judy's expertise, organisation and commitment.

The Prairie Region Education committee primary focus during our time together, was Prairies Education Plan. The Prairie Region Education spans three years beginning in 2013 and was completed in March of 2013. For the three-year plan the committee undertook an extensive consultation process. Meetings were held across the Prairie Region for members and activists to come together to discuss their thoughts on education. I am happy to report that the meetings were well attended. In addition, a questionnaire was developed for the Education Plan and was posted on the prairie region website so that members who were not able to participate in the meetings could share their thoughts as well. Once the consultations were finished a draft plan was prepared and shared with the Prairie Region Council before finally being submitted to the REVP for approval.

Another aspect of the Education Committee's focus was to promote and utilise the Alliance Facilitator Network. In spring of 2014 a refresher course was delivered to our existing Alliance Facilitators to re-enforce their skills and encourage the Facilitators to put their knowledge to good use. Also, several of our alliance facilitators were given the opportunity to co-present information for the Committee training sessions held in April and May. 21, 14

Overall, I am pleased with the work the committee has done and wish everyone a happy convention.

In Solidarity,
David Fandrich
Chair of the Prairie Region Council Education Committee



2013 - 2015 *(final)*

Prairie Region Education Plan

The PSAC Prairie region, at a glance ...

- Our region is made up of more than 22,800 members from Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.
- 210 Locals carry out the day-to-day work of the PSAC in the Prairie region. Our Locals range in size from eight members to more than 3,000 members, including four Directly Chartered Locals. Our members come from a variety of workplaces and employers, including the Federal government and agencies, airports, crown corporations, Casino Regina, and newly organized members at the Universities of Winnipeg and Brandon, the Canadian Museum of Human Rights, and the Centre for Aboriginal Human Resource Development.
- The five PSAC Regional Offices (Winnipeg, Saskatoon, Regina, Edmonton and Calgary) and a staff of 25 support the work of the PSAC in the region.
- Prairies members are represented by the 24-member Prairie Region Council headed by Sister Marianne Hladun, the Regional Executive Vice-President for the PSAC Prairie Region. There are also eight Area Councils, eight Regional Women's Committees, four Human Rights Committees and one Regional Aboriginal Peoples Circle in the Prairies.
- The Prairie Region education program is under the leadership of the Prairie Region Council (PRC) Education Committee which consists of David Fandrich (Chairperson), Tim Hogan, Shaun Brennand, Alex George, and Judy Shannon (staff Regional Education Officer).

Developing the regional education plan ...

In October, 2012 the PRC Education Committee met to discuss the 2013 -2015 Regional Education Plan. Before designing the plan, the committee wanted to have a broad consultation with members in the region and decided on three tools to achieve that goal:

1. The first tool was an on-line membership survey open for the month of November, in which members were asked questions about their union activism, their workplace issues, and what type of education would meet their needs as members, stewards or leaders in the union. More than 100 members participated in the survey and their responses have been incorporated into this regional education plan.
2. The second tool was a series of education planning meetings across the region. There were 8 meetings, held in Winnipeg, Brandon, Prince Albert, Saskatoon, Regina, Edmonton, Calgary and Lethbridge. The 69 meeting participants discussed the purpose of union education and emerging education needs and their ideas have also been incorporated into this regional education plan.
3. The third tool was direct communication with a member of the PRC education committee, either by phone, in person or via e-mail. Ideas and responses from those who chose this route have also been incorporated into this plan.

A draft version of this plan was circulated, for feedback, to members who participated in the education planning meetings and the education survey, as well as to the Prairie Region Council, PSAC Prairies Local Presidents, component national officers, chairpersons of area councils and committees, Alliance Facilitators (AFs) and AF candidates, and PSAC Prairies staff.

Subsequently, the plan was presented to the Prairie Region Council and approved by Sister Marianne Hladun, PSAC Prairies Regional Executive Vice-President in April, 2013.

The Prairie Region Council Education Committee is confident that this Regional Education Plan will provide direction for the development of regional office education schedules and other education initiatives, and that it will also be flexible enough to respond to emerging issues over the next three years.

The purpose of union education is ...

One of the questions discussed at the regional education meetings was “*what is the purpose of union education*”. The main themes that emerged from that discussion will serve as the focus of the 2013 -2015 Prairies Regional Education Plan:

- Union education helps members understand their rights, which in turn empowers members at the workplace.
- Union education builds the union by engaging and informing members. Educated members are more likely to become active members.
- Union education provides a place for members to network and learn from one another.
- Union education brings a deeper understanding of the value the Union brings to our members’ lives.
- Union education helps us build for the future. It appreciates our past and our present, supports emerging leaders, sparks action for change, and is a safe place to talk about controversial and contentious issues.

Strengthening the education basics with new ideas and initiatives ...

Over the last three years (2010 – 2012) there was an increased membership involvement in the regional education program by almost 20% and we want to continue that trend. This cycle we will explore a variety of methods to make our education program more accessible, including:

- e-learning
- web-i-nars
- Alliance Facilitator-led education events
- Regional office and rural area courses
- education forums
- region-wide advanced training

Effective January 1, 2013 the per diem for members to attend a PSAC course was increased from \$25 to \$50 for full days (for those members not in travel status) which should ensure that no member is “out of pocket” while attending an education event.

The PRC Education Committee will continue its’ consultation throughout the three years of this education plan, to ensure that the plan continues to meet the needs of PSAC Prairies members.

Education for members, Stewards, and Union Leaders ...

We will offer union education to members under the following themes:

- Your Union
- Your Rights
- Political Activism
- Strategies for Workplace Problems
- Building a Better Future

In addition, we will offer education to union stewards under the following themes:

- Connecting with Members
- Representation Skills
- Sustainable Activism

We will also offer education to union leaders under the following themes:

- Building Leadership Capacity
- Working with Others
- Sustainable Activism

Our Education budget...

Membership expense reimbursement is based on the PSAC Prairie Region Education Administration guidelines (<http://prairies.psac.com/course-administration>) and the PSAC Travel and Family care policies.

2013-2015 PSAC Prairie Region Education Plan budget

Alliance Facilitators' Network ¹	\$ 72,500
Regional Offices allocation ²	
Winnipeg (for Manitoba)	\$101,500
Saskatoon (for N. Saskatchewan)	\$ 50,750
Regina (for S. Saskatchewan)	\$ 50,750
Edmonton (for N. Alberta)	\$ 72,500
Calgary (for S. Alberta)	\$ 72,500
Rural Members' Subsidy ³	\$ 43,500
Region-wide Education Events ⁴	\$237,500
Prairie Region Subsidies ⁵	\$ 7,500
Education supplies ⁶	\$ 900
Contingency fund ⁷	\$ 15,212
Total 2013-2015 Regional Education Budget	\$725,112

¹ This line item supports Alliance Facilitators with training and skill development, preparation and research time, and out-of-pocket costs associated with facilitating at education events. The Prairie Region Council Education Committee will carry out a comprehensive review of our Alliance Facilitator program to better respond to the needs of our members.

² Regional Offices schedule education events for members in their sub-regions, based on this Education Plan. The determination of which courses to offer, when, and how are based on the ongoing consultations with union leaders and members in the five sub-regions.

³ This budget supports education events for rural members in their communities.

⁴ Region-wide education events may include advanced union courses, union schools, conferences for separate employer and directly chartered locals, etc.. It does not include the Union Development Program (UDP) and the National Leadership courses which are funded by the PSAC National Education budget.

⁵ These subsidies are intended to cover partial costs for members participating in non-PSAC union education events such as those offered by District Labour Councils, Federations of Labour, and the Canadian Labour Congress. Subsidies are only available for courses not offered by the PSAC.

⁶ This covers the cost of education supplies such as DVDs and resource materials used at PSAC education events.

⁷ Approximately 2% of the regional education budget has been set aside for unanticipated events and activities.

Health and Safety Committee

The work of this committee has had its challenges, though it has also been a fulfilling experience, and the committee is proud of the work it has done over the past three years.

There has been much change in the committee itself in the last three years. The original committee consisted of Gloria Kelly (South East MB), Nancy Johnson (RWC Representative) and Alec Goertzen (Calgary Area Council Representative). Gloria stepped down from the Prairie Region Council and Clint Wirth took her place as the South East Manitoba Representative, and the Manitoba representative on the committee. In June 2013, the PSAC Regional Representative responsible for the committee, Bruce Campbell, retired. The committee wishes him all the best in his future endeavours. On December 2, 2013 Clint resigned from the committee to work for the PSAC in the position of Regional Representative- Health and Safety, leaving the committee without a chair. Welcome to the new Manitoba representative on the committee, Gus Mardli. Most recently, Alec Goertzen stepped aside from the committee and we thank him for all his hard work and dedication.

Through all of these changes, the committee members have taken many opportunities to fulfill the work of the committee. The committee has met face to face on many occasions, but have also held conference calls throughout this time to coordinate and plan the activities of the committee. The committee has taken on many initiatives to promote health and safety, as well as create awareness of current issues. Some of the highlights of the committee's work are listed.

2012 Prairie Region Health and Safety Conference

The 2012 Prairies Regional Health & Safety Conference was held on November 17-18 in Edmonton. The conference was attended by 46 delegates and focused on mental health in the workplace, with particular attention to the impact, recognition, and prevention of bullying. The committee was responsible for the majority of the conference, playing a large role in the organizing of the conference, including planning, agenda items, registration, delivery of workshop sessions, and various hosting duties.

Months of planning and hard work by committee members lead to a successful and productive conference. Feedback from participants was very positive, and the information provided during the conference was timely and useful to the delegates. A complete conference report is available on the Prairies website.

Guest speakers included Sjors Reijers, Manager for program Promotions at Mental Health Commission of Canada presented on the Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) program. "The priorities are to decrease stigma, raise awareness and provide first aid for mental health incidents", he explained. MHFA is the help provided to a person developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis. Just as physical first aid administered to an injured person before medical treatment can be obtained, MHFA is given until appropriate treatment is found or until the crisis is resolved.

In the afternoon session, delegates participated in a series of workshops around the overall theme of mental health in the workplace, including Representing Members with Mental Illness, Balancing Life & Work, and Regulation 20: Violence Prevention in the Workplace. Together, members planned for continued discussions, education, networking to move health and safety work forward and to ensure workers return home every day safe and healthy.

The first part of day two was dedicated to asbestos awareness and Howard Willems, a retired PSAC member and dedicated activist, who was diagnosed with mesothelioma, an asbestos related cancer of the lungs. Howard succumbed to the illness the week prior to the H&S Conference.

Denis St. Jean, PSAC National Health and Safety Officer, made a presentation on the history of asbestos, and PSAC's asbestos resolution. REVP Marianne Hladun followed by giving a presentation on behalf of the Saskatchewan Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization (SADAO). Bruce Campbell PSAC Health and Safety Representative closed this segment with an explanation of issues that were previously encountered in Winnipeg and how they were addressed. After the break, delegates got into groups to discuss their expectations for the future and what tools they need to assist them in moving forward with their health and safety work.

Documents provided to delegates, discussed in workshops and presented throughout the conference are available for download on the PSAC website.

Day of Mourning

Each April 28 is recognized as the National Day of Mourning. On this day, candlelight vigils and walks are held throughout the prairies. On this day we recognize those that have lost their lives, or have been seriously affected by workplace injuries, such as family and coworkers. This day is also a day of call to action, to ensure no one ever has to feel a loss due to a workplace injury.

Each year, the H&S committee prepares a letter outlining the goals of this day, as well as highlighting some current issues in health and safety. We also participate in the activities in our region, and use it as an opportunity to create awareness around health and safety.

Sister Nancy Johnson has attended the Saskatoon District Labour Councils event over the last four years and this year she was asked to give a speech and greetings on behalf of the SFL President and Executive Council. The speech included the recognition of the hard work of PSAC member Howard Willems, family and friends in the success of the newly enacted bill, "Howard's Law" making it mandatory to report all asbestos in public buildings. Labour activists all across Saskatchewan celebrated this monumental bill. PRC member Sister Jackie Nettleton laid a wreath on behalf of the PSAC Saskatoon Area Council.

Website and E-newsletter Submissions

One of the main goals of the committee is to create awareness around health and safety issues. One way the committee decided was a valuable tool was the e-newsletter that is sent to members throughout the prairies periodically. The other is by posting relevant H&S information on the PSAC Prairies website, for the membership to have access to.

To date, the committee has created several different communications, including topics such as; an introduction to the committee, including its roles and functions, and highlighting some of the successes of the PSAC in regards to health and safety.

National Health and Safety Conference

This event, held April 11-14, 2013 in Montreal, gave the opportunity for the committee members to interact with other H&S activists, hear from some motivating and inspirational speakers, and attend workshops. It was also opportunity for the committee members to host a discussion with H&S activists from the prairies, to discuss the goals and needs of the region, as well as setting up a plan moving forward, capitalizing on the National and Prairie Regional Health and Safety conferences.

Health and Safety Education

A new, introductory course was created in the region, titled "Health and Safety in PSAC Workplaces". The committee was able to work with the Regional Education Officer, Judy Shannon, and shape the outlook of the course, based on feedback and information the committee members had received from members, particularly from the session at the national conference.

Committee member Johnson has co-facilitated at the SFL OH&S conference, the Act and Regulations workshop the last 2 years. At the PSAC's VP to SFL, at the 2013 convention candle lighting ceremony, she lit a candle on behalf of PSAC H&S activist Howard Willems, who passed away in November 2012 of mesothelioma. She has increased her knowledge of OH&S issues by enrolling in courses and plans to write the exam to be a Canadian Registered Safety Professional. The Saskatoon RWC and Area Council committees renamed the Saskatoon Regional office boardroom after Howard, citing that he spent many years in that room, planning, mentoring and discussing issues of the day with young activists. A photo and plaque was unveiled at their December 2013 Open House.

We would like to thank the members who sit on their local, regional and national health and safety committees or councils. This important work wouldn't be done without you!

Respectfully submitted by the Prairie Region Council Health and Safety Committee,

Gus Mardli, MB Representative
Nancy Johnson, SK Representative