

PRC Newsletter: Southern Alberta

January 2016

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

Happy New Year! I have been the Southern Alberta Geographical Representative since Sister Sherry Hunt stepped down in July 2016. Sister Sherry is working for MLA Maria Fitzpatrick and is enjoying every minute of her new job. For 2016 I will focus on timely and relevant communication between the various parts of our structure. For Southern Alberta, that means contact between Human Rights Committees, Women's Committees, Area Councils and Locals and The Prairies Regional Council and REVP Marianne Hladun.

The mandate of the newsletter is to help facilitate communications between us all. I will do my best to keep you updated on events, education and information important to PSAC members in Southern Alberta. Let's use it to promote events in your locals or committees and to share ideas among us all. I will send out the newsletter between PRC meetings. You will get an update on the last meeting and in return I would like to hear your comments, questions, or information you would like taken back to the PRC or communicated to others in our area. The newsletter will be a grassroots communication tool in the Region, and does not replace official communications from PSAC or your component.

I really want to hear from you! Please contact me at kdebkosteniuk@shaw.ca

Last Meeting of the Prairies Regional Council (PRC)

The PRC last met November 25, 2015 to November 27, 2015 in Edmonton.

Brother Frank Janz and I were sworn in at the meeting. Brother Frank Janz is now the alternate REVP, while I was sworn in as Southern Alberta Geographic Rep.

The Five PRC Committees gave their reports: By-Laws, Communications, Education, Finance and Health & Safety. All were approved by the Council; these reports are regularly posted to the website for your reading enjoyment!

Area Council Presidents were invited to a conference call on December 10th with Sr. Robyn Benson. If the President/Chair was not available, they were to ensure another executive member participates. ([AC Chairs/Presidents: looking your comments on the call](#))

Draft Audited Financial Statements for The Prairies Region were presented with Finance Committee's recommendation that same be accepted.

Planning for the next PSAC Regional Triennial was discussed. There is always a lot of work behind the scenes to ensure a Triennial is a success: Sister Hladun provided a timeline to assist the PRC in doing just that! The Triennial will be held in Winnipeg from April 21, 2017 to April 23, 2017. The website already has this posted:



The first Regional Racially Visible Conference is being held in the fall of 2016. The first step will be a callout for volunteers for the steering committee will be made. ([This was done Dec 10, 2015 with deadline for submissions being December 21, 2015. Let me know if your submission was successful and what you see yourself doing as part of the steering committee](#)).

Federal Election 2015

New Year, New Government, New Contract?!?!

Since Justin Trudeau was sworn in as Canada's 23rd Prime Minister, he's has already been taking action on several important issues. The Throne Speech outlined commitments requiring investment in the public service. It's a good start, and the mood among members seems hopeful for what's to come.

Interested to see how this new government will approach bargaining for our Treasury Board members? Bargaining dates are set for February 1-5, 2016 for most of the bargaining tables. UTE does not yet have a date.

Education:

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

The education calendar for spring 2016 is still being developed, but there is one course coming up:

Talking Union Basics/Grievance Handling January 22, 2016 to January 24, 2016 •
Calgary **Sign-up Deadline: January 15, 2016**

Upcoming Events:

- **Lethbridge & District Area Council:** Last met October 13, 2015. All are welcome! For more information contact Greg Krokosh, AC Chair at Krokosg@psac.com
- **Calgary Area Council:** Last met December 9, 2015. Annual General Meeting is usually in February. All are welcome! For more information contact Alec Goertzen, AC Chair at goertza@psac.com
- **Lethbridge Regional Women's Committee:** Last met Sept 15, 2015. For more information contact Lyn Paterson, RWC Chair at lynipaterson@gmail.com
- **Calgary Regional Women's Committee:** Upcoming meeting January 18, 2016 at the PSAC Regional Office Boardroom. All are welcome! For more information contact Deb Kosteniuk, RWC Chair at kdebkosteniuk@shaw.ca
- **Calgary Human Rights Committee:** Last met November 18, 2015. All are welcome! For more Information contact Timothy Hunt, HRC Chair at hunt@psac.com

Next Meeting of the Prairies Regional Council (PRC)

The next meeting of the PRC will be held February 19 to February 21, 2016 in Saskatoon.

Check out these Web sites:

- PSAC Prairies Regional By-Laws: <http://prairies.psac.com/our-organization/prairie-region-council/prairie-region-bylaws>
- PSAC Prairies Website: <http://prairies.psac.com/>
- Alberta Could: <http://albertacould.org/>
- Rabble: News For the Rest of Us: <http://rabble.ca/>