#### Present:

Sister Robyn Benson, REVP Prairies Sister Marianne Hladun, Alt REVP Brother Satinder Bains, Racially Visible Rep Sister Alisha Bigelow, Aboriginal Rep Sister Joanne Chelick, Northern Alberta Rep Brother Danial Curotte, Calgary Area Council 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 Fran Mohr, Directly Chartered Locals Rep Sister Jackie Nettleton, Saskatoon Area Council Rep Sister Susan Norman, Westman Area Council Rep Brother David Pearson, Lethbridge Area Council Rep Brother Matt Tijani, Winnipeg Area Council Rep Brother Gerald Wiegers, Prince Albert Area Council Rep Brother Clint Wirth, Separate Employers Rep Sister Pat Davis, Regional Coordinator Prairies Brother Jeffrey Vallis, Political Communications Officer Prairies Sister Alison Davis, EA to REVP Prairies

#### Regrets:

Brother Rahil Ahmad, Southern Saskatchewan Rep Brother Gerry Pendulak, SE Manitoba Rep Sister Tanya Galenzoski, RWC Rep

#### Absent:

Brother Shaun Brennand, Regina Area Council Rep

### 1. Call to Order: April 16, 2010

The meeting was called to order by Sister Robyn Benson at 9:00 am.

#### 2. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted. Agendas will come out with name of meeting room as well as start time.

#### 3. Hours of Session

The hours of session were adopted.

#### 4. Previous Minutes

The following minutes were circulated and approved:

- a) October 15 16, 2009 Saskatoon, SK
- b) February 10, 2010 Teleconference

#### 5. Finances

The January 1 – December 31, 2009 Financial Statement were approved and are attached at **Appendix A**.

Sister Benson advised the Regional Convention allocation is \$181,288.04 and Council agreed that this money would be used for delegate subsidies only.

#### 6. Items Submitted

- (a) Think Public submitted by R. Benson
- (b) **Budget and Pension campaigns** submitted by R. Benson

Items (a) and (b) were dealt with together. Sister Benson updated Council on the new Fightback and Budget tool kit that arrived from Ottawa. The Regional Offices will ensure that all Locals, RVP's/NVP's and committees receive the toolkit hard copy. The Council committed to working with the members to ensure that fightback activities were held based on the plans that were made at the January meeting.

## (c) Prairie Region Convention submitted by R. Benson

The Council discussed at length the 2011 Convention and some of the decisions are highlighted below.

#### Theme:

The Council briefly discussed the theme and slogan for the Convention. We have used Plains to the Peaks – Heart of the Union for the last two conventions and perhaps we should do something different for this one. Brother Vallis will bring some suggestions to the next meeting.

#### **Host Committee:**

Brother Chad Kemery voluntered to head the Committee and will work with all of the Council members from Regina. An input call letter will be sent all Regina Locals asking for volunteers. Sister A. Davis will send the Host Committee budget as well as pertinent information from the 2008 Convention to Brother Kemery. The Committee will have approximately \$5.00 per person for a "gift".

#### Registration:

Council approved registration of \$100.00 for delegates and \$100.00 for observers.

#### Activities:

Council approved a Fun Night on the Saturday of Convention. The Host Committee will be responsible for organizing. There will be a meet and greet on the Friday. The registration fee will cover these events.

#### **Convention bags:**

Ideas proposed were:

- 1) to reuse bags from past Conferences that could be dropped of at RO's
- 2) bags made out of recycled materials
- 3) Breast cancer bags
- 4) grocery bag of some type made in Canada

The Council agreed on the purchase of a reusable made in Canada bag.

### Input call:

Council agreed that the input call out will have a strict deadline and will be sent to the members in October of 2010. The Council made several suggestions for changes to the call out. Sister Benson will rework the callout submit it to the Council for approval at the September meeting.

#### **Convention Resolution Committees:**

The Council agreed that the convention committees will be struck by province. Manitoba will be bylaws chaired by Brother Johnston and Sister Norman, Finance/General will be Saskatchewan chaired by Sisters Hladun and Mohr and Alberta will be General chaired by Sister Kiviluoma and Brother Hunt. The committees will meet via conference call in Feb/March 2011 so as to ensure that the reports are in the hands of the delegates the beginning of May, 2011.

### (d) **ILO ruling** submitted by M. Hladun

Sister Hladun gave an overview of the ILO decision that the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour received based on their complaint with respect to Bills 5 & 6.

#### **Reports of Elected PRC Officers:**

The following reports were circulated and approved by the Council and can be found at **Appendix B**:

- (a) REVP Sr. Robyn Benson
- (b) Alternate REVP Sr. Marianne Hladun
- (c) Northern Alberta Rep Sr. Jo Chelick
- (d) South East Manitoba Rep Br. Gerry Pendulak
- (e) North West Manitoba Rep Br. Glen Johnston
- (f) Westman AC Rep Sr. Susan Norman
- (g) Prince Albert AC Rep Br. Gerald Wiegers
- (h) Edmonton AC Rep Sr. Nina Kiviluoma
- (i) Calgary AC Rep Br. Danial Curotte
- (j) Directly Chartered Locals Rep Sr. Fran Mohr
- (k) Separate Employers Rep Br. Clint Wirth
- (I) Aboriginal Peoples' Rep Sr. Alisha Bigelow
- (m)Persons with Disabilities Rep Br. Frank Lloyd
- (n) GLBT Rep Br. Timothy Hunt
- (o) Racially Visible Persons Rep Br. Satinder Bains

Communication Committee report – Sr. Marianne Hladun, Br. Glen Johnston

#### Order of the Day - Roundtable discussion

The purpose of the Roundtable is so the Prairie Region Council can discuss issues and/or concerns without the restraint of the agenda.

The topics were:

No Zones celebration

- NOC (National Occupational Code)
- direct deposit of expense claims
- PSHCP cards

## **ADJOURNMENT**

# Appendix A: 2009 Prairie Region Council Statement of Revenues and Expenses January 1 - December 31, 2009

	Proposed Budget	Actual to Date	Variance
Revenues			
Transfer from PSAC Ottawa to Region	\$105,365.00	\$105,365.00	\$0.00
Bank Interest	\$1,000.00	\$59.12	(\$940.88)
Misc. Income (1)		\$725.95	
Total	\$106,365.00	\$106,150.07	(\$940.88)
Expenses			
PRC Meetings	\$65,500.00	\$65,177.75	\$322.25
Council Member Budgets	\$10,000.00	\$4,351.91	\$5,648.09
Special Projects/Donations	\$7,000.00	\$3,667.35	\$3,332.65
Equity Events	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
Human Rights Committee Assistance	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
RWC Assistance	\$3,000.00	\$2,500.00	\$500.00
Area Council Assistance	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$0.00
Federation of Labour	\$4,500.00	\$3,675.00	\$825.00
Youth Outreach	\$3,000.00	\$500.00	\$2,500.00
Bank Costs	\$0.00		
Total Expenses	\$106,000.00	\$89,872.01	\$16,127.99
Balance at December 31, 2009		\$16 278 06	

#### Balance at December 31, 2009

\$16,278.06

#### Notes:

Note 1 - **March 2009** - Reimbursment by PSAC to Region - (National Accessibility Line Item \$619.42); Reimbursement Ramada Regina (\$89.25); **April 2009** - Transfer \$17.28 from Convention Chequing

## Appendix B: Prairie Region Council Rep Reports April 2010

Position	Name	Page #
REVP	Robyn Benson	8
Alternate REVP	Marianne Hladun	16
Northern Alberta Rep	Jo Chelick	18
South East Manitoba Rep	Gerry Pendulak	19
North West Manitoba Rep	Glen Johnston	22
Westman AC Rep	Susan Norman	23
Prince Albert AC Rep	Gerald Wiegers	24
Edmonton AC Rep	Nina Kiviluoma	26
Calgary Area Council Rep	Danial Curotte	27
Directly Chartered Locals Rep	Fran Mohr	29
Separate Employers Rep	Clint Wirth	30
Aboriginal Peoples' Rep	Alisha Bigelow	31
Persons with Disabilities Rep	Frank Lloyd	32
GLBT Rep	Timothy Hunt	33
Racially Visible Persons Rep	Satinder Bains	35

## **Committee Reports:**

Communication Committee	Marianne Hladun,	36
	Glen Johnston	

## Report of the Regional Executive Vice President, Prairies to the Prairie Region Council April 2010

This time frame has been busy and exciting. The members in our Region certainly know about the Hands Off Our Pension campaign and that is thanks to you our Leaders. I won't go into detail about the events that have taken place in our Region as I am sure that they were covered in the Council reports. I have to say how proud I am of the work that has been done around the pensions and budget. We are the first region to hold an event and we got press coverage across Canada.

During our fight back on the Pensions the Government of the day handed down a budget that will see "real" impact on Public Services. The cuts proposed in operating budgets can only mean job cuts and program cuts. The following is notes that were taken while in "lock up" just before the budget was announced.

"The government says that it will retrain spending through targeted measures. Budget 2010 proposes 17.6 b. in savings over five years. The Government will undertake a comprehensive review of government administrative function and overhead costs in order to identify opportunities for addition savings.

#### **Constraining Administration Costs**

For 2010-11 departmental budgets will not be increased to fund the 1.5% increase in annual wages for the FPS administration.

Employees will continue to see their wages increase as set out in collective agreements and the expenditure restraint act, which is in effect until 2011.

Departments will be required to reallocate from the remainder of operating budgets to fund increases.

2011-12, 12-13, operating budgets will be frozen at 2010-11 levels.

Crowns are expected to freeze operations too.

Government will engage with Bargaining agents and will assess measures taken by other Canadian jurisdictions to ensure that costs of compensation are reasonable.

The government will also continue to examine ways in which compensation costs including benefits could be better managed.

Employee pension and other benefits are not subject to the general operating budget freeze. However the government will continue to examine ways in which these costs

can be better managed and will engage PS bargaining agents to ensure that the total costs of compensation are reasonable.

Simplification of processes and delivery mechanisms will also improve access to govt services and reduce costs of program delivery.

	0910	10 11	11 12	12 13	13 14	14 15
Constraining		300 m	900 m	1800	1800 m	1800 m
admin costs						
Strategic		152m	248m	287m	288m	288m
reviews						

### Strategic Review

The strategic review of 5% will continue. Departments will no longer be asked to suggest reinvestments of strategic review savings.

Budget 2010 includes savings of 287M in 12 -13 from Expenditure review.

Dept of National Defense will be subject to constraints too but the cost escalator will continue.

Govt. will report on the results of their review in 2011 budget.

#### Other

The government will establish a new red tape reduction commission.

Grants and contributions including program terms and conditions will be tied to furthering government priorities.

Corporate asset management review continuing.

PPP Canada Inc. will commit over \$100 million in 2010 to projects that demonstrate leadership in P3 procurement."

As more information comes out about the budget I will certainly forward to the Leaders of our Region.

I have now completed all of my visits to the Area Councils, Human Rights Committees and the Regional Women's Committees. The work of these committees/councils is outstanding. I understand the struggle in some areas to keep the committees/councils afloat but I also understand the dedication of those members who regularly attend. I counseled the Chairs that perhaps in order to ensure that the committees/councils are meaningful that they hold only 4 meetings per year which is in keeping with the Constitution. Members want to walk away from a meeting having had the opportunity to learn, participate and feel renewed. I also suggested that if it was time for a particular committee/council to take a hiatus then it is time. We should never feel defeated if we need to take a step back and give something a rest. We should look at this in a positive manner and rejoice when the time is right to resurrect. We have had very positive results when we have done this. To be clear I am not suggesting that all of our committees/councils take a break I am only trying to be realistic and not burn out or frustrate our members to the point of no "return".

I have had the opportunity to speak at several meetings/town halls over this time frame. It is always a wonderful experience to be with the members.

I have attached the report that I made to the National Board of Directors and my itinerary for your review.

In Solidarity,

Robyn Benson PSAC REVP Prairies

## REPORT OF THE REGIONAL EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT PRAIRIESTO THE NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Feb 2 - 5, 2010

This report covers the period from the last NBOD meeting.

#### Regional Council

The Prairie Region Council met Oct. 15 – 16, 2009 in Saskatoon. The minutes of our meeting can be found on the Prairie Region web site. During this time, Brother Gordon was in Saskatoon for the staff meeting. While there, a very successful town hall was held and you can view Brother Gordon's speech on the Prairie Region You Tube. The Prairie Region Council was very pleased to have Brother Gordon attend on the afternoon of the 15<sup>th</sup>. The morning of the 16<sup>th</sup> was a joint Prairie Region Council – Staff meeting. After the "Stand Up to Make Poverty History" pledge the Council and Staff worked together in sub committees to discuss their ongoing work.

#### **Political & Social Action**

The Prairie Region Women's Forum was held in Winnipeg on Dec. 7th and 8<sup>th</sup>. Sisters Andree Cote and Patty Ducharme were joined by 24 Sisters from across the Region. We were very pleased to have Sister Maureen Morrison from CUPE on the issue of Pay Equity and Professor Susan Prentice from University of Manitoba on the issue of Universal Childcare. At the end of the 2 days the Sisters were ready, willing and able to lobby their MP's and to take these campaigns back to their respective Regional Women's Committee for action through 2010.

Many members of the Prairies have been active in the campaign on Bill C-391. There were vigils held across the Region commemorating Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> and calling attention to the Harper Governments stand on the Long Gun Registry. Sister Ducharme and Brother Rebeck (President of the MFL) spoke in front of Shelley Glover's (Conservative MP) office at a vigil sponsored by the PSAC and the CLC. You can view this on our "You Tube". In Regina we co-hosted a vigil with the Prairie Lily Feminist Society that was well attended. Our members across the Region attended forums and / or vigils.

#### Manitoba

In October members of the Winnipeg RWC joined with members at large to collect school supplies at the Blue Bomber game. Close to 20 boxes of pens, pencils, note books, erasers, duotangs, paper, markers, crayons etc were delivered to Winnipeg School Division #1. As well, we collected \$772.00 for the breakfast program. On Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> the RWC sponsored a one day seminar on Pensions and Human Trafficking. Our members also participated in the "Take Back the Night March" and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Grandmother's "Protecting our Children" Sacred Walk. Over

the course of the summer and fall members collected toiletries that were packaged and delivered to local Women's Shelters.

The Winnipeg and Westman Area Councils met over this time frame and continue to support the PSAC campaigns.

The Winnipeg Human Rights Committee held an open meeting on Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> with guest speaker Liz van Reenen who had an excellent interactive presentation on Person's with Disabilities.

#### Saskatchewan

The Regina RWC is currently working on a project to recognize the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of International Women's Day 2010. The project will be a short presentation of pictures, sound bytes and original music dedicated to the Southern Saskatchewan PSAC women. The Area Council continues to support local charitable initiatives and spent the latter part of 2009 working on a project with the North Central Christmas Fund.

The Regina Human Rights Committee gave a donation to a Botswana Orphanage and has received photos and updates on the project. This is one example of social justice work that the committee is involved in.

In an effort to assist our members in choosing city officials whose visions are to make Saskatoon a better place to live, the Area Council and RWC organized a mail out to all PSAC members residing in the Saskatoon area, to advise them of the Saskatoon District Labour Councils Municipal Matters campaign and their endorsed candidates for the Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> elections.

A booth was set up at the University of Saskatchewan Women's Center's Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> memorial service for attendees to sign the CLC's postcards asking the Prime Minister not to do away with the Long Gun Registry (Bill C-391). The Area Council laid a wreath on behalf of the PSAC at the Remembrance Day Ceremonies.

The Prince Albert Area Council and RWC adopted a family, a senior and a class of 30 students at Christmas. They have planned and held several lunch and learns over this time frame.

#### Alberta

The Calgary RWC held a one day seminar on Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>. There was a full agenda including; a speaker from the City of Calgary Police Family Violence Unit, a presentation on Gender Oppression in the Workplace, Alberta Friends of Medicare and the Alliance to End Violence against Women. Post cards were distributed to the participants with respect to the Long Gun Registry.

The Calgary and Lethbridge Area Councils held meetings to develop plans for the possible federal election and continue to work on membership involvement.

The Calgary Human Rights Committee has put forward a proposal to the Social Justice Fund. It has been approved and the plans are well underway for "Project Dignity". The Mustard Seed is an organization based in Alberta and our members will be volunteering to prepare and serve meals, collecting personal items such as clothing and household goods and raising awareness about poverty issues. The committee had a guest speaker from the Calgary City Police diversity and disability office and plan to continue to have guest speakers as this was very well received.

The Edmonton Area Council and Friends of Medicare sponsored a presentation at Canada Place on "Health Care" in Alberta and why we need to defend it. They worked on their federal election plans and budget.

Members of the RWC attended the brunch hosted by the Federation of Labour to commemorate the Prevention of Violence against Women. They are working on a project for National Children's Day.

### **Education**

During this time frame we organized leadership/local development meetings in all of the Regional Office areas. In total 151 leaders attended 2 day sessions to discuss membership mobilization and renewal, political action, education and revitalization of the regional committees. The evaluations indicated that this was a much appreciated initiative and that if at all possible we should look at this being a regular event.

We are in the process of preparing our 2010 education plan based on input from our members. It will be posted on the web site once it is finalized.

We had a very successful UDP and I want to congratulate all of the graduates and look forward to our continued work together.

Respectfully submitted,

Robyn Benson, Regional Executive Vice-President Prairies

## **REVP Prairies Activities:**

September 13	Travel to Ottawa	
September 14 -15	AEC meeting	
September 16	Education meeting	
September 16	Travel to Winnipeg	
September 18	Travel to Brandon UNDE	
September 18	Travel to Brandon UNDE  Travel to Regina	
September 18 -19	Prairie Health & Safety Conference	
September 19	Travel to Winnipeg	
September 23	AEC conference call	
September 23	Election conference call	
September 24	Travel to Ottawa	
September 25	Phase II Education meeting	
September 25	Travel to Winnipeg	
September 28	Labour College conference call	
September 29	Prairie staff conference call	
September 29	Travel to Brandon	
September 29 Sept 30-October 1	MFL Executive Council meeting	
October 2 - 3	MFL Convention	
October 3		
October 4	Travel to Winnipeg Travel to Montebello	
October 4 - 7		
October 7	NBoD Strategy Session	
October 8 - 9	Travel to Ottawa	
October 9	NBoD meeting Travel to Winnipeg	
October 13	Travel to Willingeg  Travel to Saskatoon	
October 13 -14	Prairie Staff Conference	
October 15 - 16		
October 16	Prairie Region Council meeting Travel to Winnipeg	
October 16 October 21	Winnipeg RWC meeting	
October 23	United Way of Winnipeg Report Session II	
October 23	AEC conference call	
October 25	UDP Level II	
October 25		
October 26-27	Travel to Ottawa	
	AEC Meeting	
October 27 October 28	Travel to Regina	
October 28	DCL Local Development	
October 29	Travel to Winnipeg	
November 2	EOC conference call	
November 3	AEC conference call	
November 3	Leadership Seminar Winnipeg  Travel to Seekatoon	
November 3 November 4	Travel to Saskatoon	
	Leadership Seminar Travel to Program	
November 4	Travel to Regina	
November 5	Leadership Seminar	
November 5	Travel to Winnipeg	

November 6	Leadership Phase II conference call	
November 13	Atco meeting	
November 15	Travel to Ottawa	
November 16 –17	AEC meeting	
November 17	Travel to Winnipeg	
November 19	Bill C-391 conference call	
November 19	Travel to Montreal	
November 20 –22	National Health and Safety Conference	
November 22	Travel to Winnipeg	
November 24	EOC conference call	
November 24	Strategy Session planning conference call	
November 25	Atco conference call	
November 25	Organizing conference call	
November 27	AEC conference call	
November 27	Travel to Calgary	
November 28	Women's Seminar	
November 28	Travel to Regina	
November 29	UDP III	
November 30	Casino Regina meeting	
November 30	Travel to Ottawa	
December 1 – 3	EOC meeting	
December 3	Travel to Winnipeg	
December 6	RWC Seminar / Vigil	
December 7 – 8	Women's Program Regional Forum	
December 8	Travel to Edmonton	
December 9	Leadership Seminar	
December 9	Travel to Calgary	
December 10	Leadership Seminar	
December 10	Travel to Winnipeg	
December 13	Travel to Ottawa	
December 14	AEC meeting	
December 15	National Officers Staff Conference	
December 15	Travel to Winnipeg	
January 7	Dental Board conference call	
January 8	Meeting with member	
January 10	Travel to Ottawa	
January 11- 13	AEC meeting	

## Marianne Hladun, A/REVP Report to the Prairie Region Council April 2010

#### MEMBER MOBILIZATION

- Attended Saskatoon Regional Womens Committee on Nov. 10/09 and March 16/10
- Attended Saskatoon & District Area Council on Nov. 26/09 and March 18/10
- Attended Prince Albert & District Regional Womens Committee and Area Council on Jan. 14/10 and had the pleasure of swearing in the new Area Council executive
- Presented/Moderated on behalf of Sister Benson at Pension Townhalls (Saskatoon

   Feb. 23/10, Prince Albert Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>/10)

#### ALLIANCE FACILITATOR

 Delivered a 2-hour lobby training session to members of the Prince Albert Area Council & RWC on Jan. 16/10

#### POLITICAL/COMMUNITY ACTION

- Participated in the Prairies Regional Womens Forum in Winnipeg on Dec. 6-8/09
- Attended the Saskatoon & District Labour Council/United Way Community Service Award Dinner on Feb. 12/10 and the SDLC AGM held on Feb. 13/10. Once again, PSAC was recognized as a consistent contributor of volunteers for the Summer Snack Program which feeds inner-city children in 4 city parks through the summer.
- Continue to attend monthly meetings of the Saskatoon & Area United Way Board of Directors as a Labour representative and participate on the Human Resources Subcommittee of the Board. This year, the campaign raised over \$4.9M. Federal employees including PSAC members were once again major contributors through the GCWCC. Through a strong partnership with labour, all awards handed out to workplace campaigns not only identify the employer but the union and local number. More references to PSAC than can be counted! Congratulations!
- Attended a CLC/NDP Labour Outreach workshop on Feb. 4-5/10 in Regina. At the
  request of the Opposition Labour Critic, MLA Andy Iwanchuk and the Leader of the
  Opposition, Dwain Lingenfelter, the CLC invited labour leaders to participate in a
  meet and great and round table discussion. The discussions will continue in various
  forms leading up to the next provincial election and recognizes the need for some
  unions to be non-partisan.
- Attended CLC/NDP Labour Outreach meeting on Mar. 22/10 in Regina. Purpose
  was to discuss the non-partisan SFL Labour Issues Campaign currently underway
  and to identify future actions required to coordinate a campaign leading up to the
  provincial election.
- Attended Sask. NDP Convention in Prince Albert on Mar. 26-28/10 (at my own cost and on behalf of my provincial constituency). While not official PRC business, several issues were raised including food safety, transfer of Farm Income

Directorate Program employees to a provincial jurisdiction and the provincial government's failure to fund their portion of the FIP through their Agri-Stability Fund.

#### SFL

- Attended Executive Council meetings on Oct. 19-20/09, Dec. 14-15/09, Mar. 29-30/10
- Attended SFL Convention Oct. 21-23/09 in Saskatoon
- Participated in a Strategic Planning session for the SFL on Mar. 4-5/10
- Participate in and co-chair the SFL Political Strategy Committee. Meetings held on Oct. 30/09, Nov. 13/09, Jan. 5/10, Apr. 1/10
- Attended a press conference on behalf of Sister Benson on Mar. 29/10 which called attention to an ILO Ruling. A complaint was filed with the ILO by the SFL and several affiliates including PSAC alleging that legislation put forward by the Provincial Government violated the Charter. The ILO Ruling upheld the allegations and has outlined several prescribed measures that should be taken by both the Federal and Provincial governments.

#### PRC COMMUNICATIONS

- Participated on Communication Committee conference calls on Oct. 29/09, Jan. 27/10 and Feb. 15/10.
- Participated on PRC conference calls on Feb. 10/10 and Mar. 3/10

#### OTHER

 Attended PSAC OSH Conference on Nov. 19-22/09 as an observer (sponsored by my component) and participated in the Prairies caucus

## Jo Chelick Northern Albert Rep Prairie Region Council April 2010

This being my first report I have little to report because of just getting into the post. I was present in helping with some plant gating at Canada Place with regards to our pensions and am sad to say it was terrible. Those who promised to help some did and others didn't and when we were standing by the doors to hand out the information many of our members skirted to another door or they said that they were doing fine.

I was in this predicament many times in the past and it is hard getting reps out to help and we need to find a new approach to get them onboard with us. I know that some say it is the time, others its work related and for many they just seem to let it slide.

I need to look at getting a new angle and admit to myself that I too have had to miss things because of prior commitments. It seems that there is just not enough time in a day to get everything done.

Respectfully submitted

J Chelick

## Gerry Pendulak South East Manitoba Geographical Rep Prairie Region Council April 2010

October 09 to March 10

This report starts in October of 09 and started off rather slowly. But then it got very busy and rather challenging. .

I attended the MB LEADERSHIP SEMINAR NOV.3 & 4, 2009

This event was held over a 1-day period and held representatives from Local Presidents to member of the PRC. It was held at the Union Centre in Winnipeg Mb. Many interesting ideas came from this event. The biggest for me was to see how Local Presidents interacted with other Local executive from other Locals and other Components to the Separate Employers.

I then spent 2 days at the Winnipeg Regional Office on behalf of the PSAC Prairie Region Council (PRC) for two days Thursday February 18 and Friday February 19, 2010. I was tasked with calling all Local Presidents within the scope of my duties as the PRC Geographical Area of Winnipeg and South Eastern Manitoba. I called all Locals and asked the following six questions:

- 1.) Have you received the pension information package that was sent out by the PSAC?
- 2.) Is the petition being circulated yet?
- 3.) Do you need me to email you a copy of the petition?
- 4.) Is there any activity that your local is doing around collecting the signatures?
- 5.) Do you think that your Local would be interested in having someone from the PSAC come out to do a lunch time information session on the current pension situation?
- 6.) The petitions need to be completed, collected and returned to the Winnipeg Regional Office by Friday February 26, 2010?

I was surprised at some of the responses received to my questions. They were all positive. In only one or two instances were Locals overlooked in the sending out of this package. Since the mailing list is significant, to only miss 2 Local presidents is really something to be proud of. The players are changing around all the time as we are all

elected to positions with no set time frames. Our Annual General Meeting's (AGM's) are scattered throughout the year.

Many of the Locals have already started the process of signing names to the petition. This is done either one line or in paper formatting.

I was asked to email out the petition to only the 2 Locals that were overlooked and again it was due to new Presidents being elected and our system not being updated quick enough. I only had a couple of telephone numbers that were incorrect due to people moving into different positions at their worksite.

A number of Local's were rather creative in how they were going about getting signatures for the petition. It was done at their AGM, one Local had stated that they were providing a sort of meet and greet the Union Executive and have the petition signed. I am still waiting on a couple of other locals to see if they can follow thru will what they were thinking of doing.

I was impressed with the number of Locals that stated that they would like someone from the PSAC to come out to a function of theirs either a lunch and learn or at an AGM or Executive meeting or just a special meeting that would be held on the Pension Issues that we might be faced with.

The due date that the Pension Petition needs to be completed by and collected and then returned to the Winnipeg Regional Office was not as intimidating as I thought it might be. People are on board with this petition and what it done and see how important it is to have into Ottawa for the opening of Parliament before the reading of the budget.

I was invited to attend a special meeting that Anita Neville the only sitting Liberal MP in Manitoba held. She had the Liberal Finance critic the Hon. John McCallum come out and give his thoughts on what Pension Reform might contain. He gave his thoughts on what the Conservatives lead by the Right Hon. Stephen Harper might have in store for Canadians and what we might be facing when we want to retire.

This meeting lasted around 2 hours and about 15 to 20 people attended this session. The audience was made up of a wide range of people. I was the only person to attend from the PSAC membership. Others that were represented were retired individuals, Retired peoples advocates, a couple of Actuaries, a person from the CFIB (Canadian Federation of Independent Businesses) and Staff from the PSAC and a Leader from the Manitoba CLC (Canadian Labor Congress). This meeting was held Feb 18 well before the budget was released so many things have changed over the time of this meeting to the present status of pension reform and what has been released by Harper's Conservative Government.

I was then invited to attend the joint Canadian Labor Congress and the PSAC review of Finance Minister Jim Flaherty's delivery of the federal governments budget on Thursday, March 4th at the Union Centre, Room 2C, 275 Broadway.

The Canadian Labor Congress and its affiliated unions are calling for a budget that stresses the creation of good jobs for Canada's 1.5 million unemployed workers, invests additional stimulus money in public services and infrastructure to assist in economic recovery, delivers pension reform to provide retirement security for all Canadians. Focuses on the issues affecting our community allies, i.e. National ChildCare Program, Health Care, Women's Equality and Pay Equity. Once the budget was read the member of this group of people got to have a round table and share some thoughts on what the budget might hold for themselves and their Union Memberships.

As I stated above, this report got rather intense right up until the days after the budget reading. We still do not have a lot of answers for our members and what we can expect from Harper and his Government over the next little while.

Report respectfully submitted by

Gerry Pendulak
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## Glen Johnston PRC Manitoba North-West Rep Prairie Region Council April 2010

Following the last PRC meeting in October 2009, I returned to my Local and immediately made plans to attend the Manitoba Leadership Seminar, held in Winnipeg on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of Nov, 2009. This two day meeting was an opportunity for the Leadership in Manitoba to come together to learn more about our regional activities and discuss the educational needs for the Prairie Region. Along with other attending PRC and Area Council members I helped facilitate the discussion groups on Area Councils.

At the UNDE Local AGM in December I gave a brief presentation on the PRC to the meeting and talked with individual members about the role of the PRC in the region.

I attended the Strategy session held in Winnipeg in January 2010 where the main topics of discussion were the pension campaigns and upcoming budget.

During the time period between the last PRC meeting and early February 2010 the Communications Committee conducted several conference calls and exchanged numerous emails to discuss finalization of an email protocol and the results of a communications survey. Unfortunately with the resignation of Paul Graham, these two initiatives have hit a stumbling block.

On February 23<sup>rd</sup>, Susan and I attended the CLC Pension Forum, held in Brandon, MB and participated in a discussion with community members and representatives from the MFL. While it was not what I expected the discussion centered on pension reform and some very interesting ideas were put forward by the CLC presenters.

In early April I will be in Winnipeg representing the UNDE Shilo Local at the annual Council of Locals and while no formal presentation has been discussed I hope to speak with UNDE members across the Region about the Council and its role.

Respectfully submitted,

Glen Johnston PRC Manitoba North-West Rep

## Susan Norman Westman Area Council Rep Prairie Region Council April 2010

Since the last Prairie Regional Council Meetings, I have attended a few workshops;

November, 2009 – Leadership Seminar – Winnipeg

December, 2009 - Regional Women's Forum - Winnipeg

January, 2010 – PRC Strategy Meeting – Winnipeg

February, 2010 – Pension Forum - Brandon

We have been holding Westman Area meetings bi-monthly. It continues to be a struggle to get members out, but will continue to try and build on what we have for the members that come out on a regular basis. Information has been forwarded to locals with the help of Tracy who does a direct mail out. Given the area that WMAC covers, this has been a great help.

I have participated on the PRC conference calls when available.

I have been attending the Brandon Labour Council Meetings on a regular basis. I have volunteered to help with the Municipal Elections.

Respectively submitted,

Susan Norman WMAC PRC Representative

## Gerald Wiegers Prince Albert & District Area Council Rep Prairie Region Council April 2010

One of the major issues facing citizens of Saskatchewan during the past year and a half is based on the Sask. Government's attempt, along with Bruce Power, to make nuclear power such an inviting prospect that citizens of the Province would be swayed to see nuclear energy as 'the way to go'! Although this issue has simmered somewhat for the time being, our Area Council is not soon going to forgo our efforts to be part of the efforts of activists and aligned groups who believe there are more efficient and cleaner producers of power than necessarily, that of nuclear. I was involved, on behalf of our Area Council, attending several meetings of ARPIC(Renewable Power-the Intelligent Choice), a local activist group whose main aim is to see that all forms of alternative power are looked into to ensure future generations of safe, long lasting benefits.

On October 31, three members of our Council, including myself, assisted with installing of drywall in a home being built through Habitat for Humanity. I was also able to assist on this project on another occasion. On both occasions we worked along side the husband and wife who were the owners of the home.

On November 7 and 8, members of our Council and Area Women's' Committee assisted with preparations, serving and clean-up at the Annual Seniors' Supper hosted by the Prince Albert & District Labour Council. Assisting also, from Saskatoon Area Women's Committee were Nancy Johnson and Elena Beynon.

I attended the PRC Council Strategy Planning Session held in Winnipeg January 21 to 23.

January 16 in Prince Albert, Maryann Hladun provided 'Lobbying Education Training' to six members of the Area Council. This was very beneficial training, in particular for those members who would be lobbying for their initial first time.

On February 6, I met with PRC reps Nancy Johnston, Jackie Nettleton, Marianne Hladun and Regional Coordinator Louise Mardell. The purpose of the Meeting was to provide our Local action plan to meeting of our (PRC) stated objectives that emanated from the January Strategy Planning Sessions. We established our plan of action and sent the plan onto Sister Robyn for her perusal and approval.

Our Area Council hosted a forum on February 24 to provide information about the Government's Proposed Pension Reform. We had personally invited members of all Locals from within Prince Albert & District to attend. We were fortunate to have Guest presenters Shannon Bittman, VP PIPSC and James Infantino, who is currently acknowledged as the Guru on the subject of Pensions for Public Service Employees.

Two Meetings, one in February and another in March, with Prince Albert MP, Randy Hoback, were held. Issues discussed ranged from pension reform to Institution farm closures and child care to what possible effects the Budget will have on the Public Service.

Sister Robyn Benson was our Area Council Guest speaker on March 17. She provided the latest information on issues surrounding the Budget and its' impact on the Public service, pension reform and collective bargaining.

## Nina Kiviluoma Edmonton Area Council Representative Prairie Region Council April 2010

Since my last report the following is what I have done in my capacity as the Edmonton Area Council Representative to the Prairie Region Council:

**November 2009:** Spent time at the Edmonton Regional Office making calls to all Local Presidents to find out what is the best way to communicate information to them and in turn have them communicate that information to their members. Most of my response was to keep sending all the information through email but to send it to all members of the executive.

January 2010: Conference Called for Pension Campaign

**February 2010:** Attended Edmonton Area Council meeting where Sister Robyn Benson was a guest speaker.

March 2010: Attended the Budget Watch at the Edmonton Regional Office.

If you have any questions concerning this report please do not hesitate to discuss them with the undersigned.

Nina Kiviluoma Edmonton Area Council Representative to the Prairie Region Council ninafayekiviluoma@hotmail.com

## Danial Curotte Calgary Area Council Rep Prairie Region Council April 2010

#### **Brothers and Sisters**

February commenced with a memorial march in which I partook along with Brother Raj Hari on February 14, 2010, which was held in remembrance of missing and murdered Aboriginal women and new this year was also women in general. My Elder was invited to partake in the festivities. This was our second year in a row of partaking in the memorial march.

February 16<sup>th</sup> also saw a rally like no other in the past concerning our Hands off our Pensions Campaign. We hosted the event as PSAC and had tremendous support from our regional office. Spolombo's sausages were served to all – always a great hit..free food. Sister Robyn Benson was in attendance, along with PSAC National Vice-President – Sister Patti Ducharme. We were also fortunate in that we were able to obtain the national President for PIPS – Gary Corbette to speak at the event. The crowd was estimated to be approximately 550 people. Special thanks to the Prairie Regional office and the Calgary Regional office for their assistance. Special mention also to the PIPS Brothers and Sisters who attended out event. We plastered the scene with Hands off our Pensions stickers and also placards which people wore.

March saw the Area Council frantically searching through our minutes to see a correlation between our spending and out minutes. I cannot emphasize the importance of receiving your minutes in a timely fashion, speaking from our past experience. It was at that point that we all remembered that we did approve spending in the past – but by the time we received our minutes, it was not included and as such, our most recent minutes made periodic reference to the past minutes but since they were already posted – we had to make mention of previous spending on such and such dates but also the fact that it was approved at such and such meeting. We will certainly keep on top of that this year. Our AGM for Calgary Area Council is not planned for Monday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:30

We also held a Pension Townhall in the Calgary Public Library and were quite in awe to obtain our PSAC - HQ guru on Pensions and Benefits – James Infantino, Tom Kehoe the recently appointed Prairie Rep for CLC was also in attendance. Excellent questions were posed by the audience. We will plan another townhall perhaps in June.

I have also been voluntold that I would be speaking at the Canadians for Financial Literacy Task Force panels upcoming on April 7<sup>th</sup>. This is a concerted effort between Calgary District Labour Council, Alberta Federation of Labour and the PSAC. I have to say that it was an honour to be asked to speak on behalf of PSAC – Calgary Area Council.

Currently, the Calgary Area Council will be holding general Elections on our upcoming AGM (Apr 26<sup>th</sup>) and also plans will commence shortly on our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual joint union picnic for the homeless.

Respectfully submitted....Danial Curotte

## Fran Mohr Directly Chartered Locals Rep Prairie Region Council April 2010

At present we are in negotiations with our employer Casino Regina. We have met with the employer about six different times now and are just waiting for the next step and that will be conciliation we are meeting again in May.

We recently had our AGM and had the biggest turnout that we have had in a long time.

I have been on Holidays for over a month and am just getting back into the swing of things so this report will be short.

Submitted by Fran Mohr

## Clint Wirth Separate Employer Representative Rep Prairie Region Council April 2010

Since my last report, I have added a new union role that of a National Vice President for UVAE, on a term basis, which has kept me very busy over the last few months. Unfortunately, it has also taken time out of my schedule normally used for PRC benefit. Having said that, I have still been busy with PRC activities.

#### **Pensions**

I have been hard at work collecting signatures for the petition put forward by the PSAC to combat attacks on Federal pensions, and raise awareness on plans for all Canadians. I have also used the opportunity to raise awareness with separate employer employees on some of the ramifications of attacks on federal pensions (the trickle down effect), and the benefits of defending pensions all citizens can live off of. I have used my contact list to educate all Separate employers' members on why we need to support our federal brothers and sisters in this, where they can get further information, and to support information that is being sent out by the regional offices.

I also have created a draft of the evaluation of the pension awareness campaign, which I hope to share, get some feedback on, and refine before the final document is ready for distribution. I am hoping there will be time to address this at our next PRC meeting.

### Budget

I have been working with Tracy Thor at the Winnipeg Regional Office to compile a resource kit for members lobbying opposition MP's in their riding in Manitoba. As yet, I have not had any feedback from members in each opposition riding that are able or willing to visit with their MP on this subject, as was my responsibility.

### **Provincial Planning**

As a PRC member, I had attended the Manitoba Provincial Planning Session Held November 3-4 in Winnipeg. There I gave a short presentation of my role on the PRC, participated in some of the great discussion that occurred, as I know I gained much from that session, and I believe most participants did as well.

The only other event worth noting was when the UDP participants were in Winnipeg, in October. There was a short meeting with them, where several of the PRC members met with the group, and had a discussion on the role of the PRC, and some of the activities the council has undertaken recently. Again it was a great opportunity to meet some active members, and raise awareness of the PRC.

In Solidarity,

Clint Wirth, Separate Employer Representative Prairie Region Council

## Alisha Bigelow Aboriginal Peoples' Representative Prairie Region Council April 2010

- In the Fall I attended the National Aboriginal Peoples Circle Network (NAPCN) in Ottawa. During this meeting we spend a day on Parliament Hill and 8 NAPCN Circle members were able to meet with their MP including myself who meet with Joy Smith. Issues brought to the MP's attention was Poverty (including housing issues, water crisis and healthcare), promote the signing United Nations Declaration and the support of Bill C31 (Sharon McIvor). Alex George the Male Prairies Rep also attended my meeting with Joy Smith.
- Attended the meet and greet for the Women's forum held in Winnipeg in December. Also attended the vigil for the elimination of the violence against Women at Sheila Glover's office with guest speaker Patti Ducharme.
- Assisted with the Women's Committee and the Winnipeg Blue Bomber school supply drive collecting school supplies for Winnipeg School Division #1. I also assisted in sorting and packaging the school supplies for delivery of the supplies.
- Assisted with the Women's Committee in sorting toiletries collected from members from hotels to put together care packages for a local shelter.
   Packages included shampoo, conditioner, mouth care products, lotion and soap.
- Attended a Human Rights Meeting with a guest speaker on the topic of people with disabilities.
- Represented two aboriginal members in grievances.
- Assisted a member with information from the NAPCN meeting for their Local Newsletter.
- Provided members in the Prairie Region with an update of the Sharon McIvor Case and Bill C-31
- Was invited to speak at an AGM in regards to Aboriginal Issues in Manitoba around the time of the H1N1 outbreak.
- Held an Aboriginal peoples meeting at the Regional Office in Winnipeg with intent to hold other meetings across the region to see what Aboriginal Members concerns are in the Prairie Region and to see if there are issues for the PRC to assist with.
- Attended the PRC strategy session in January of 2010.
- Attended a march for the violence against Aboriginal Women and Children Missing and Murdered in Canada.

I worked at the PSAC Regional Office from January 25<sup>th,</sup> 2010, to April 1, 2010, and during that time I did not participate in union work.

## Frank Lloyd Persons with Disabilities Representative Prairie Region Council April 2010

October 21	Attended the Edmonton Area Council meeting as the Persons With Disabilities Representative.
October 28	Presented at a Labour Relations course the role of the PSAC Representative for People with Disabilities.
November 17-19	Attended a 3 day course on Early Return to Work and the Duty to Accommodate and became a member of the Advisory Committee that oversees the program at the workplace and recommends changes as to how the National Program is applied.
November 28	Spoke at a grievance handling course held at the PSAC office in Edmonton on my role on the PRC.
9-10 December	Attended a 2 day leadership seminar promoting members to be active in there regional committees.
16 December	.Annual General Meeting and Elections for the Edmonton Area Council and the Human Rights Committee. Elected as the chair for the Area Council is Elected as the chair for the Human Rights Committee is
13 Jan	Conference call with the steering committee for the access conference.
17-19 Jan	Ottawa meeting of the Access steering committee to interact and find what common issues should be the theme for the upcoming conference.  The common issues were Early return to work, Duty to accommodate and Mental health in the Workplace.
21-23 Jan	PRC strategy meeting in Winnipeg setting a plan of action for the possible attack on our pensions and a Budget watch from the Conservative Government
5 Feb	Edmonton Area Council Meeting relayed the outcome of the strategy meeting and that the PRC had set a plan of action for the upcoming budget and to be prepared for the possible government attack on pensions
16 Feb	Edmonton Human Rights Committee AGM congratulations to Cherylyn Shewchuk staying on as the chair of the committee
17 Feb	Edmonton Area Council meeting with Sister Robyn Benson as the guest speaker giving us an update on what actions were taking place across the Prairie Region
23 Feb	Conference call with the PRC.

## **Timothy Hunt GLBT** Representative **Prairie Region Council April 2010**





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## October 14th, 2009 to April 16th, 2010 - Report to PRC

November 09 <sup>th</sup> , 2009 & January 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2010		Attended two quarterly meetings in Edmonton, started work on a postcard campaign about Transexual Re-Assignment surgeries being removed from the Alberta Budget in 2009 and how the AFL can help with province wide Pride events
December 10 <sup>th</sup> - 11 <sup>th</sup> Public Struica Alliance de la Fonction publique du Canada Alliance de la Fonction publique du Canada		Attended the Leadership Seminar for Calgary, gave my Human Rights Committee speech and how it ties into the PRC and general knowledge of how the Area Council, Regional Women's and Human Rights Committees worked with respect to the Calgary office
January 21 <sup>st</sup> - 23 <sup>rd</sup>		Attended the PRC planning session in Saskatoon
Project Dignity	Jan 25 <sup>th</sup> & Feb 2 <sup>nd</sup> /23 <sup>rd</sup>	Organized all volunteers from all components in the Calgary and area to work at the Mustard Seed Shelter for three evenings, it was a great way to get the know my own PSAC brothers and sisters in my area and for a worthwhile cause in the community!
February 17 <sup>th</sup> Joint Learning Program		Facilitated my first Anti-Harrasment Session in Calgary for Veterans Affairs



Timothy J. Hunt & Chair | Calgary Human

Right Committee | PSAC -Southern Alberta Region

Conducted the meeting as Chairperson, Robyn & Pat Davis attended our meeting. We discussed what had happened since the September meeting.

(note the January 12<sup>th</sup> & February 16<sup>th</sup> meetings were postponed due to the Pension Reform campaign)

March 26th - 28th



Attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> Pride Conference held in Toronto, I ran for Male EOC. There were nineteen (19) delegates/observes attending from the Prairies!! ( see the group photo next page )

April 13<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>



PSAC Leadership - Level II Regina



My Brothers and Sisters (Robyn too!) pose for our group picture

## Satinder Bains Racially Visible Persons Rep Prairie Region Council April 2010

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. I will continue to work with the regional office on political issues as we are headed into Federal Budget with our government on Pension issues.

Jan. 22 - 23 ,2010 Attended a workshop in Winnipeg for the 2010 PRC Action Plan in which the objectives were to organizing budget watch, analyzing the budget, to inform the members and community, work with our alliances and outreach to the oppositions parties. The workshop was well developed and very educational and informative.

Feb. 9 - 16th 2010 participated in conference calls held by South Sask PRC members to discuss creative ways of achieving 100,000 signatures for issues regarding pensions.

- discussed pensions issues with co-workers friends and families and had them sign our petitions.
- attended town hall meetings which discussed the pensions issues.
- met with our MP Ralph Goodale to discuss the impact on Canadians regarding the attack on Public Service and defined-benefit pension plans.

## COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT Submitted on behalf of Marianne Hladun & Glen Johnston

The Communications Committee has met by conference call on Oct. 29/09, Jan. 27/10 and Feb. 15/10. Participants were Marianne Hladun, Glen Johnston and Paul Graham

Unfortunately with a small group, we had great discussion but forgot to record minutes for the first two calls. The October and January conference calls focused on developing an email protocol for use by PRC members when communicating amongst ourselves and for use when sending out information on behalf of the PRC. There are still some questions surrounding how emails should be addressed to be effective but yet reduce vulnerability to spam. Once confirmed, the protocol will be circulated to PRC.

In addition, we developed a communications survey for PRC members which was posted to www.surveymonkey.com. Unfortunately, with the departure of Brother Graham, we may have to repeat the survey unless we are able to access the administrator account which will show the results.

Minutes from the Feb. 15/10 conference call follow:

Present: Marianne, Glen, Paul

Regrets: Dolly

#### Agenda:

- 1. email protocol
- 2. communications survey
- 3. increasing local content in the e-news bulletin

#### 1. Email:

Following Robyn's advice, the protocol will apply only to PRC members when

- communicating among themselves
- communicating with other union members

As well, Robyn is checking out the veracity of spam exposure when email lists appear in the "to" and "cc" lines as opposed to the "bcc" line. The document will not be sent out until this question is clarified.

#### 2. Survey

Paul reported that survey invitations went to PRC members and alternates (50-60 people); nine have responded so far. Paul will ask Alison to remind PRC members and alternates to complete the survey.

Glen wondered if there were cost implications for the texting option identified in the survey. Marianne said that, at this point, all we need to be concerned with is if there is

interest in using this technology; further analysis would be needed (including costs) if texting was a popular choice.

Glen said he'd tried videoconferencing with Google and was impressed with the ease and quality of communication. Paul will look into the logistics. Marianne suggested there could be a demonstration at the next PRC meeting.

#### 3. Local content for e-news bulletin

Paul reported that there were 1104 people on the list. Several positive comments had been received. A few critical comments had come in as well, directed at specific policies (e.g., long gun registry), rather than the news letter.

Marianne suggested that contests (submit your best labour/community photo, identify this equipment, name the acronym) worked well. Prizes could be union swag. Marianne suggested that we should highlight provincial labour federation activities. Paul suggested it was time for a readership survey with 3 questions: what do you like; what do you dislike; what would you like to see in future issues? It was decided that Paul will look into what it would cost to do this survey via survey monkey. Marianne will ask Robyn if we can do contests with prizes.

#### 4. Misc.

It was decided that Paul will ask Alison to send out a reminder to PRC members about their contact information.