

## Prairie Region Council Rep Reports February 2015:

Position	Name	Page #	Rec'd by Deadline
REVP	Marianne Hladun	2	Yes
Alternate REVP	Susan Norman	24	Yes
Racially Visible Persons Rep	Sam Akinsanya	25	Yes
Regina AC Rep	Satinder Bains	28	Yes
Northern SK Rep	Denni Ernst	30	Yes
Southern SK Rep	Deanna Getz	31	No
Calgary AC Rep	Alec Goertzen	32	Yes
NW Manitoba Rep	Jennifer Grant	34	Yes
PWD Rep	Kim Haynes	35	No
Southern AB Rep	Sherry Hunt	36	Yes
GLBT Persons Rep	Timothy Hunt	38	Yes
Aboriginal Peoples Rep	Janette Husak	39	Yes
RWC Rep	Nancy Johnson	40	Yes
Westman AC Rep	Glen Johnston	42	Yes
Separate Employers Rep	Chad Kemery	44	Yes
Lethbridge AC Rep	Gregory Krokosh	45	Yes
DCL Rep	Michelle Lang	47	Yes
Edmonton AC Rep	Ben Lemon	48	Yes
SE Manitoba Rep	Gus Mardli	49	Yes
Saskatoon AC Rep	Jackie Nettleton	51	Yes
Northern AB Rep	Murray Pruden	52	Yes

Young Workers Rep	Nathaniel Angus-Jackman	No Report
Prince Albert AC Rep	Tim Hogan	No Report
Winnipeg AC Rep	Matt Tijani	No Report

**Marianne Hladun  
Regional Executive Vice-President  
Prairie Region Council February 2015**

**REGIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN**

Since the Prairies Summit in September, the steering committee has been meeting regularly via conference call. Their role is to monitor progress and ensure we're working strategically to implement the plans and ideas developed at the Summit. These calls have been very helpful and we're steadily working our way through our planned actions.

The monthly 19<sup>th</sup> Day of Action events are one aspect of this plan. After officially launching this initiative in the Prairies on November 19, it has quickly grown with more locals joining this movement and participating in actions each month. Some of the more popular actions have been photo ops with members wearing surgical masks and holding "standing together for public services/standing together for fairness" signs. We've also had several locals hold information pickets.

March 19 will be a major, cross-country event, with many of the National Joint Council unions committing to participate and stand together for healthy workplaces. We're taking a stand against a government and employer that has contributed to our toxic workplaces and, to make matters worse, is now proposing a "go to work sick" plan.

As discussed at the Leading Change course in Winnipeg last month, I hope you will continue to work toward our goal of organizing members to be ready to face the challenges ahead and mobilize actions in their own workplaces. That means to empower and equip members with what they need to do the work.

Another part of the regional strategic plan was to hold monthly, interactive webinars for members to learn about critical issues and get important updates. We've already held two webinars, with four more scheduled for the coming months. Our first webinar on bargaining basics was held on January 19, featuring Tom Milne, Prairies Regional Negotiator, as our guest speaker. On February 11, we held a webinar on retirement security. Guest speakers were Barb Byers, CLC Secretary-Treasurer, and Chris Roberts, CLC National Director - Social and Economic Policy Department.

The webinars are also an opportunity for members to ask questions and give feedback. The response from members has been very positive. In a post-webinar survey, participants rated our latest webinar "excellent", saying the information presented was "very useful". Our upcoming webinars will be on childcare, political action, labour history and health and safety. All webinars are posted to the PSAC Prairies YouTube channel following the event.

As part of our regional strategy to work together with other unions and allies, PSAC members attended the CLC Election Preparation Conferences in Saskatoon, Winnipeg and Edmonton. This training prepared members for the upcoming federal election and

potentially for provincial elections in 2015 and 2016. Members who attended made a commitment to being part of the activist team working on PSAC's election strategy in the region through the area councils.

We also worked with a specialist to produce a detailed political analysis of the Prairie Region. All eight area councils in the Prairies have been provided with a printed copy of this important information, which will be an invaluable resource as they prepare and plan for the upcoming federal election.

## **CONFERENCES & EDUCATION**

Immediately following the Prairies Summit and our last PRC meeting in Regina, we held two regional conferences, including the Prairies Young Workers' Conference and the Prairies Separate Employers Conference.

Nearly 40 young workers attended the Prairies Young Workers' Conference, which was an important networking and educational opportunity for young members. During the two days, participants spent time learning more about their union, getting to know other members and sharing workplace experiences.

Meanwhile, 22 members from various separate employer locals and directly chartered locals gathered for the concurrent Separate Employers Conference. The gathering was the first of its kind in almost six years. Conference objectives included learning about the PSAC structure, how to deal with management, grievance-handling techniques and to develop leaders to lead others in the locals.

PSAC was proud to sponsor the ChildCare2020 National Conference, the first national childcare policy conference in a decade, held in Winnipeg, November 13-15. The conference brought together parents, early childhood educators, union activists, researchers and politicians to envision what childcare could look like in 2020 if governments really cared. We brought a strong delegation of PSAC sisters from across the country together for the event, re-confirming our union's commitment to affordable and accessible childcare.

Toward the end of the year, regional offices throughout the Prairies held Activist Schools for PSAC members who are active in their union, eager to build workplace power and interested in doing political and social activism work. Dozens of activists participated in the training aimed at giving activists the tools and skills they need to support political and social activism, as well as prepare them to have meaningful and motivational conversations with co-workers.

Health and safety information sessions were held in Regina, Prince Albert, Edmonton and Calgary. The 90-minute sessions reviewed the significant changes that will affect all of our members on a daily basis with the introduction of Bill C-4. Members appreciated the opportunity to learn more about the topic and committed to taking the information back to their locals and building on the awareness and education. We also held a two-

day course in Saskatoon, which compiled material from two PSAC courses, "H&S in PSAC Workplaces" and "Bill C-4 - Fighting for Our Lives".

The PSAC's Union Development Program (UDP) is now underway with seven participants from the Prairies. UDP has been one of the most comprehensive union leadership training programs in Canada for more than 35 years. The New UDP will provide an advanced learning opportunity for emerging leaders to develop the necessary analysis and skills to identify and support union priorities, and to expand our pool of skilled activists who can inspire others. The first in-person meeting for UDP Prairies/North participants will be held in Winnipeg, March 19-22.

## **HEALTH & SAFETY TOUR**

The Prairies health and safety tour kicked off in October with worksite visits taking place throughout Saskatchewan. Clint Wirth, Regional Representative - Health & Safety, met with hundreds of PSAC members as he visited eight different worksites in five different cities and towns, including Fort Qu'Appelle, Melville, Yorkton, Regina and Prince Albert. The tour continued in November with stops in Alberta, including Edmonton and Calgary.

During the visits, Clint met with local executives and workplace H&S committees, toured the facilities, and had discussions about various H&S topics, such as the right to refuse, definition of danger and how Bill C-4 affects H&S in the workplace. He also had the opportunity to answer questions and address members' concerns specific to the workplace, including ergonomics, general safety and security measures, safety supplies, workloads, building a H&S network and further H&S training.

Though dates have yet to be confirmed, we're looking at dates in March for similar worksite visits and information sessions in Winnipeg and Brandon.

## **BARGAINING**

The Royal Canadian Mint has tabled a sick leave proposal similar to the Treasury Board proposal. Meanwhile, the Winnipeg Protective Services Officers, the newest unit at the Royal Canadian Mint, meets again in February.

We have established bargaining committees for the two units at the University of Winnipeg and are in the process of putting together the program of demands. Negotiations are scheduled to commence in March.

Negotiations have stalled for the first collective agreement with Churchill Marine Tank Farm Company. An unfair labour practice is being filed.

Bargaining is currently underway for several airports. The collective agreement with Saskatoon Airport Authority expired June 30, 2014. Proposals were exchanged in November with first round of negotiations in January and the next round scheduled for March. At the Winnipeg Airport, the collective agreement with Avion Services

Corporation expired at the end of 2014 and our first round of negotiations is scheduled for February. The collective agreement with Winnipeg Airport Authority expires this June, so the input call was served in January and notice to bargain will be in March.

During negotiations with Treasury Board in January, PSAC tabled proposals seeking significant improvements to the mental health provisions in collective agreements as well as improved childcare options for public service workers. Members of the Parks, CRA, and Royal Canadian Mint bargaining teams have all met with their employers recently. CFIA members also gathered last month at the CFIA National Bargaining Conference. For more updates on these national teams, visit the PSAC national website.

The Prairies commends our Treasury Board bargaining team members for working tirelessly to negotiate a fair agreement and protect our sick leave. This fight is not just being fought at the bargaining table; it's being fought in workplaces across the country. That's why Prairies members recorded messages of support and solidarity to send to PSAC bargaining teams meeting with Treasury Board, and the smaller bargaining teams currently in negotiations across the country. The video has been posted on the PSAC Prairies YouTube channel.

On March 16, we will hold a regional telephone town hall for Treasury Board members regarding bargaining and sick leave. This town hall is being offered to Treasury Board members in all regions. In the Prairies, we will also hold a webinar specific to our members employed by agencies and separate employers to discuss bargaining issues specific to those workplaces.

## **LABOUR RIGHTS**

In January, the Supreme Court of Canada released a groundbreaking decision that enshrines the right to strike as a constitutionally protected right. PSAC was one of several unions, civil liberties and business groups that intervened in this case. PSAC and other unions argued that the essential services law limited workers' rights to strike and ability to negotiate. The Court agreed with unions that the right to strike is necessary to allow workers to join together effectively to advance their workplace rights. Now we're calling on the federal government to respect this decision by repealing Bill C-4 and restoring our democratic rights.

Earlier in the month, the Supreme Court of Canada released another important decision that reinforces workers' rights to freedom of association and collective bargaining with their employer. PSAC was an intervener in the case and supported the Appellants in their constitutional challenge. The Supreme Court found that the federal labour laws, which prevent RCMP members from joining a union of their choice and engaging in collective bargaining, violate the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. This decision is a major victory for all workers in their right to unionize freely and independently.

Unfortunately, not all of the recent labour developments have been positive. The Senate has passed Bill C-525, a law that will make it harder for workers to unionize in the federal sector, despite the fact that Senators on the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee heard no evidence to prove the bill was necessary. The Committee also discovered errors in the Bill, yet voted against the necessary changes to fix it. Once the law comes into force in 2015, PSAC will be monitoring the mandatory votes that will be required when workers in the federal sector opt to join our union.

## **NATIONAL UPDATES**

I had the privilege to facilitate a meeting of PSAC's young worker regional representatives in Ottawa last month. This was the first meeting of its kind since the establishment of the Young Worker Initiative in the 2012-15 PSAC Budget. Eight Young Worker Reps participated, one from each region, including the two co-chairs from NCR. The group identified a list of challenges and successes and developed a three-year plan of action, which was presented to the AEC in person by the committee—a first for the AEC. The committee will make a full presentation at the NBoD meeting in March.

PSAC launched an online petition asking people to take the pledge to support paid sick leave for federal government workers, and for all workers across Canada. Over 33,000 people have taken the pledge to date. If you haven't already, visit the PSAC national website to take the pledge.

The member information dashboard on the PSAC national website received some improvements in December. Members can now log in to the website to get news about their employer, their collective agreement, and contact information for their region, component or local. Members will still be able to update their contact information, but the new dashboard page now delivers much more information.

PSAC has released several videos over the past couple months, including one that highlights some of the work that TC members do and why it's important to them, and to all of us. The other video, which debuted at the ChildCare 2020 Conference, shows what childcare could look like in 2020 if governments really invested now. The video underscores the fact that all Canadian children deserve so much better than the patchwork of care that is available now. Watch the videos on the PSAC National YouTube channel and share them among your networks.

While federal budgets are typically due in February or March, Finance Minister Joe Oliver has delayed the 2015 budget until April at the earliest. The reason given is uncertain market conditions, which raises questions about how the Conservatives will keep their promise to run a surplus by 2015. A Rabble column last month stated, "an obsessive concern with short term fiscal balance, especially in times of weak economic growth, can lead governments to adopt austerity policies that exacerbate rather than alleviate economic distress." We already know the kind of damage this government is capable of, so we'll certainly be watching the upcoming budget to see how it will impact our members and the broader labour movement.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Hladun". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of the first name being a large, stylized capital 'M'.

Marianne Hladun,  
Regional Executive Vice-President  
Public Service Alliance of Canada, Prairies

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

**October 21-24, 2014**

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

**NATIONAL PUBLIC SERVICE WEEK**

PSAC members across the Prairies boycotted NPSW activities, held June 15-21. The Prince Albert Area Council held two plant gates at the Saskatchewan Penitentiary in Prince Albert to promote the boycott, as well as the issues of sick leave and pensions. The Area Council Chair also visited Randy Hoback, Conservative MP for Prince Albert, to discuss the boycott and calling on the MP to respect public service workers.

Members across the region took it upon themselves to counter the anti-labour rhetoric around NPSW by submitting letters to the editor of their local newspapers. The letters outlined why they chose not to participate in NPSW and called on the government to show real respect by investing in public services and leaving sick leave untouched. We've posted a selection of the letters that members submitted on the Prairies website.

We developed a special informational poster for locals, calling on members to show the employer they can't be bought off with ice cream and burgers. Special thanks to GSU Local 30001 in Edmonton for the poster concept and tagline, "Today you get ice cream, tomorrow you lose sick leave!" We developed materials around this theme, including Facebook graphics and an action for members to deliver to their MP, which were utilized by several other regions and components.

**SICK LEAVE**

Multi-local meetings were held in Prince Albert, Saskatoon, Regina, Brandon, Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton, CFB Suffield, and Lethbridge to discuss our plan for dealing with attacks from this government. The meetings were very successful, with nearly 400 members attending 20 different meetings held in the nine locations to hear updates from leadership and bargaining team members. We also held two webinars following the Prairies Convention for those who weren't able to make a meeting in person.

Many PSAC members have taken action by writing letters to editors and to their MPs. When Yvonne Hein, PSAC/Agriculture Union member in Winnipeg, heard about Tony Clement's plan to take away accumulated sick leave benefits from federal public service workers, she wrote a letter to Shelley Glover, Conservative MP for Saint Boniface. Her letter is published on the Prairies website, along with my letter to the editor that was published in the *Winnipeg Sun* on



July 15, criticizing the op-ed (“Sick of union entitlement”) that called the attacks on PSAC members’ sick leave “common sense”.

## **UNION PRIDE, SASKATOON WIDE**

The 6th Triennial Prairie Region Convention was held June 27-29 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. More than 320 people attended, including 268 delegates, 32 observers, 11 NBoD and 11 guests.

We asked attendees for their feedback through an online survey and received 109 responses (a 33 per cent participation rate). The feedback provided will help us to make improvements for our next regional convention, to be held in Alberta in 2017. Most of the feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with 25 per cent of respondents saying the Prairies Convention exceeded their expectations and 64 per cent saying it met their expectations.

Delegates stood together in solidarity to denounce public service cuts by proudly holding up signs that state "Standing Together for Public Services / Standing Together for Fairness". An album of photos from this action has been posted to the PSAC Prairies Facebook page.

Special thanks to the Saskatoon Host Committee for their time and commitment to ensuring delegates had a great experience in Saskatoon.

## **LABOUR DAY CELEBRATIONS**

PSAC members took time to recognize the contributions of workers and celebrate solidarity at Labour Day events throughout the Prairies. In Lethbridge, the Area Council and RWC participated in the local BBQ hosted by the Lethbridge and District Labour Council with the assistance of affiliated unions, including PSAC, and attended by over 300 people.

Members from the Calgary HRC and Area Council participated in the Calgary and District Labour Council’s annual Labour Day BBQ. Committees set up a booth where the public could get more information about the We Are All Affected campaign, spin the wheel for labour trivia prizes, play the “Harper Hates” bean bag game, and pick up a special cookie branded with the PSAC Prairies logo.

In Winnipeg, hundreds took to the street for the annual Labour Day march to celebrate workers. The march ended with a family picnic hosted by the Winnipeg Labour Council. PSAC members participated along with representatives from several other unions.

Members from the Saskatoon Area Council and RWC participated in their local event, distributing PSAC tattoos and balloons to attendees. The PSAC Idle No More noisemakers were also a popular giveaway.

## **COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES**

The Calgary Area Council, HRC and RWC partnered to set up a booth at GlobalFest. The booth showcased PSAC's We Are All Affected campaign and featured a spin the wheel game where participants were asked questions regarding cuts to public services. Committee members also supported and volunteered during the citizenship ceremonies and GlobalFest Human Rights Forum, which featured a panel discussion about temporary foreign workers. Committee member Deb Kosteniuk was a speaker at the Forum.

The Lethbridge Area Council & RWC continued their community garden this year and has already donated approximately 2,000 pounds of fresh vegetables to the Interfaith Food Bank Society of Lethbridge. By the time the season is over, the committees expect to donate over 3,000 pounds of vegetables. In Saskatoon, the RWC worked on their own food bank garden initiative and continued work with the Summer Snack Program.

The Calgary RWC participated in the Scotiabank Calgary Marathon on June 1 to raise money for the Women's Centre of Calgary "Basic Needs" program. Members raised \$2,500 in donations, which was matched by the PSAC Social Justice Fund for a final donation of \$5,000.

The Northern Saskatchewan Regional Aboriginal Peoples' Circle planned and participated in "A Walk For Hope" in honour of missing and murdered aboriginal women. They also joined the community to plan and participate in the round dance.

The Regina RWC walked in the Queen City Pride parade and distributed PSAC pride materials to the crowds, including noisemakers, flags and tattoos. The items were very popular with parade attendees. Members from Saskatoon Area Council and Winnipeg HRC also marched in their respective parades.

## **POLITICAL ACTION**

With the 2015 federal election just over one year away and various municipal elections happening in the coming months, PSAC members are working to get the vote out and to change the face of democracy in our country and our communities.

The Winnipeg RWC hosted a political awareness seminar on September 10 with special guest speaker Kelly Moist, CUPE Manitoba President. Members representing various committees and locals attended to learn about the importance of the upcoming elections, why we should all be informed and how to get involved.

Meanwhile, the Winnipeg Area Council is gearing up for the municipal election to be held on October 22. They mailed a letter to all candidates that explains the diversity of our membership base and calls on the candidates to demonstrate support for our members, public service workers and all unions. The Area Council will also mail out a letter to all members in the Winnipeg area to encourage them to support labour-friendly candidates on Election Day.

## **BARGAINING & ORGANIZING**

Several regional bargaining units have ratified their new collective agreements recently, including All Nations' Healing Hospital Inc. (Fort Qu'Appelle) on May 29 and Freshwater Fish Marketing Corp. (Winnipeg) on June 14. Following a hearing in July, the Manitoba Labour Board imposed a first collective agreement for employees of the Centre for Aboriginal Human Resources Development (Winnipeg) for a one-year term. We also recently reached a tentative deal with Sodexo Canada Ltd (Moose Jaw) and will hold a ratification meeting in the coming weeks.

The collective agreement for employees of the Royal Canadian Mint (Winnipeg & Ottawa) expired December 31, 2013 and we have recently exchanged proposals with the employer. Additionally, we have a newly organized unit with 35 members who perform security services at the Winnipeg facility. Notice to bargain has been issued and bargaining of the first collective agreement will begin the first week of December.

### **HEALTH & SAFETY TOUR**

This fall, Clint Wirth, Regional Representative - Health and Safety, will undertake a tour across the Prairies to meet with locals and host evening education and information sessions. Brother Wirth has prioritized his site visits based on discussions with regional staff and requests from locals who have specific workplace health and safety concerns or committees who are in need of support, information or assistance.

The evening sessions will be approximately two hours and will be a review of the changes that Bill C-4 has brought to health and safety, a discussion of PSAC's health and safety initiatives and an open forum members to discuss their health and safety needs.

Brother Wirth will be reaching out to RVP's responsible for the locals he is visiting to invite them to attend. He will also work with the PRC Health & Safety Committee to ensure the involvement of the Committee.

### **LOOKING AHEAD**

The Prairies Summit will be held September 20-21 in Regina, which will bring together representatives from the Prairie Region Council, Components, Regional Committees and Area Councils to plan for our future. We will work together to come up with a strategy to combat concessions and cuts to public services in an increasingly hostile political environment.

Additionally, we're hosting the Prairies Young Workers' Conference and Prairies Separate Employers Conference, held simultaneously September 23-24 in Regina. The Young Workers' Conference will be the first region-wide gathering of young workers in the Prairies since the last Young Workers' Conference held in May 2011 in Edmonton. The last Separate Employers Conference was held in October 2008, as the scheduled 2012 conference was cancelled due to low registration. Both events are highly anticipated and will be important networking and educational opportunities for those members participating.

Respectfully submitted,

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Marianne Hladun,  
Regional Executive Vice-President  
Public Service Alliance of Canada, Prairies

## REVP Prairies Activities

May 21	CFIA Ratification Webinar
May 23	Prairies Summit Planning Conference Call
May 26	Multi Local Meeting – Prince Albert
May 27	Multi Local Meeting – Saskatoon
May 28	Multi Local Meeting – Regina
June 3	Multi Local Meeting – Medicine Hat/Lethbridge
June 4	Multi Local Meeting – Calgary
June 4	AEC Conference Call
June 5	Multi Local Meeting – Edmonton
June 7	UTE Winnipeg Tri-Local Picnic
June 9	Travel to Ottawa
June 10-13	NBoD Meeting
June 11	PRC Update Call
June 13	AEC meeting
June 14	Travel to Winnipeg
June 17	Multi Local Meeting – Brandon
June 18	Multi Local Meeting – Winnipeg
June 19	UPCE Meeting – Winnipeg
June 22	Travel to Saskatoon
June 23	CAHRD Conference Call
June 25	AEC Conference Call
June 26	PRC Meeting
June 27-29	Prairie Region Convention
July 3	Prairies Summit Planning Conference Call
July 3	UNDE Local 50704 BBQ – Brandon
July 4	CAHRD Conference Call

July 9	CAHRD Conference Call
July 22	Manitoba Labour Board Hearing re: CAHRD
August 10	Travel to Edmonton
August 11-12	NHU Convention
August 12	Travel to Winnipeg
August 13-15	Agriculture Union Convention
August 29	Young Workers' Conference Planning Conference Call
September 1	Winnipeg Labour Day March & BBQ
September 3	Separate Employer Conference Planning Conference Call
September 10	Winnipeg RWC Meeting
September 11-12	MFL Executive Council Meeting
September 11	MFL Labour Liaison Meeting
September 14	Travel to Ottawa
September 15-17	AEC Meeting

**(Report to be presented at the March 3-6, 2015 NBoD meeting)**

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

**March 3-6, 2015**

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

**19<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF ACTION**

After officially launching this initiative in the Prairies on November 19, it has quickly grown with more locals joining this movement and participating in actions each month.

Some of the more popular actions have been photo ops with members wearing facemasks and holding “standing together for public services/standing together for fairness” signs. We’ve also had several locals hold information pickets.

In Lethbridge, Agriculture Local 30048 has been getting creative with their monthly actions. In November, the local distributed health products such as tissues and cough candies to members in the workplace adorned with PSAC stickers that read, "Go to work sick? No Way!" and "Healthy workplaces? Yes Way!" This month, they tweeted out 19 easy to do, union and politically themed new years resolutions using the hashtag #NineteenNewYearsResolutions. Many of these were retweeted and favoured, with some PIPSC members even adding their own resolutions to the conversation.

This is just one aspect of our regional strategy. In September, more than 60 union leaders from across the Prairie Region gathered for the Prairies Summit to discuss priorities for our union and strategize for the coming year. Leaders brainstormed innovative strategies and identified tools and resources needed to be effective. Attendees included the Prairie Region Council, component national officers, and representatives from the various human rights committees, regional women’s committees and area councils throughout the Prairies. A steering committee was established with representation from each group that will monitor the progress and ensure we’re working strategically to implement the plans and ideas developed.

One of those ideas was Webinar Wednesday, our monthly, interactive webinars for members to learn about critical issues and get important updates. The webinars are also an opportunity for members to ask questions and give feedback. Our first webinar “Bargaining Basics” was held on January 14. We’ve received really positive feedback on it and are looking forward to our

upcoming webinars on retirement, childcare, political action, labour history and health and safety. The video from the bargaining webinar has been posted on the PSAC Prairies website.

## **SISTERS SUPPORTING SISTERS**

Regional Women's Committees throughout the region participated in two very important women's events during this period, Sisters in Spirit Vigils held on October 4 and various events to mark the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women on December 6.

The Lethbridge RWC co-organized the Sisters in Spirit Vigil with the Sik-Ooh-Kotoki Friendship Society, including an opportunity for people to create their own faceless dolls to be displayed at the event. Members from the Lethbridge Area Council also attended the event and carried PSAC banners in the procession from City Hall to Galt Gardens.

Saskatoon RWC members participated in the vigil and walk, which was attended by more than 200 people. Sister Nancy Johnson, RWC Chair and PRC RWC Rep, organized a lunch and learn at her workplace with guest speaker Darlene Sicotte, co-organizer of the SIS Saskatoon event. The workplace presentation was attended by more than 50 people and streamed online to three other workplaces.

In Calgary RWC members participated in the vigil by marching from City Hall to Eau Claire and also donated money to make lunches for participants. Two weeks earlier, they also participated in the Take Back the Night Event at Connaught Park in Calgary.

To recognize December 6, the Calgary RWC held a Kitchen Table Conversations event. Nearly 20 women gathered to discuss domestic violence and how the lack of affordable childcare impacts victims. Guest speakers included an officer and social worker from the Calgary Police Service Domestic Conflict Response Team and a domestic abuse survivor.

In Saskatoon, RWC members set up a workplace display on December 3, which honoured the École Polytechnique victims. On December 6, Saskatoon RWC members and other community activists participated in the screening of *Polytechnique*. Sister Nancy Johnson participated in a post-screening panel discussion on violence against women. At the RWC meeting on December 10, Sister Johnson set up a photo display and gave a candle-lit presentation in honour of the victims.

Coinciding with December 6, the Winnipeg RWC hosted a special event titled "Sisters United". The event opened with guest speaker Deanne Crothers, Minister of Healthy Living and Seniors, who spoke on the importance of political action and work/life balance. This was followed by kitchen table conversations around childcare, PSAC's childcare video, drafting lobbying letters, and work on a social justice activity.



On a separate occasion, the Winnipeg RWC welcomed Anna Pazdzierski, Executive Director of Nova House Inc., a shelter for abused women and children in the Interlake Region of Manitoba. She spoke about the impact that federal government cuts has had on their ability to provide services. The committee and individual sisters made donations to the shelter and collected pajamas to donate as well.

The Regina RWC hosted their Kitchen Table Conversations event in October focusing on the issue of childcare. The Lethbridge RWC supported “Nifty Knitters” in their third annual donation drive/drop off of knitted clothing.

Hundreds of childcare activists gathered in Winnipeg for the ChildCare 2020 National Conference, November 13-15. Among them were a delegation of PSAC members, including myself and three other Prairies activists. Sister Sherry Hunt, a childcare activist in Lethbridge and PRC Rep, attended the conference and shared her experiences in a report that we’ve posted to the Prairies website.

## **COMMITTEES IN OUR COMMUNITIES**

Prairies members were happy to support our striking sisters and brothers from other unions on the picket lines over the past several months.

In Saskatoon, negotiations with the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 615 took a turn for the worse this September when the city locked out transit employees for 26 days. PSAC members from the Saskatoon Area Council were on the line in solidarity until the lockout was ruled unlawful and workers returned to work. The Area Council also supported members from UFCW Local 1400 at the Richardson Milling plant near Martensville, Saskatchewan. Employees were locked out of the oat milling plant for eight weeks during negotiations.

Meanwhile, members of the Lethbridge Area Council supported the Health Sciences Association of Alberta at their noon-hour information picket. Our members recognize the need to build alliances with other unions as we are all affected by employers who cut costs on the backs of workers and anti-union governments at every level.

The Lethbridge Area Council also hosted a public screening of *We Are Wisconsin* this month, which I was happy to attend along with Sister Benson who spoke about the parallels between the 2012 events in Wisconsin and the attacks on unions in Canada.

The Calgary Area Council attended the Stop Harper protest at Stephen Harper’s Calgary Southwest constituency office, organized by UTE Local 30024. They also made a donation to support our veterans in honour of Remembrance Day.

## **CONFERENCES & EDUCATION**

From September 23-24 we held two regional conferences, including the Prairies Young Workers' Conference and the Prairies Separate Employers Conference.

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## **POLITICAL ACTION**

As part of our regional strategy to work together with other unions and allies, PSAC members are attending the CLC Election Preparation Conferences in Saskatoon, Winnipeg and Edmonton. This training is to prepare for the upcoming federal election and potentially for provincial elections in 2015 and 2016. Members who attend have committed to being part of the activist team working on PSAC's election strategy in the region through the area councils.

We also worked with a specialist to produce a detailed political analysis of the Prairie Region. This important information will be invaluable to area councils in the region as they prepare and plan for the upcoming election.

## **BARGAINING**

The Royal Canadian Mint has tabled a sick leave proposal similar to the Treasury Board proposal. Meanwhile, the Winnipeg Protective Services Officers, the newest unit at the Royal Canadian Mint, meets again in February.

We have established bargaining committees for the two units at the University of Winnipeg and are in the process of putting together the program of demands. Negotiations are scheduled to commence in March.

Negotiations have stalled for the first collective agreement with Churchill Marine Tank Farm Company. An unfair labour practice is being filed.

Bargaining is currently underway for several airports. The collective agreement with Saskatoon Airport Authority expired June 30, 2014. Proposals were exchanged in November with first round of negotiations in January and the next round scheduled for March. At the Winnipeg Airport, the collective agreement with Avion Services Corporation expired at the end of 2014 and our first round of negotiations is scheduled for February. The collective agreement with Winnipeg Airport Authority expires this June, so the input call will be served in January and notice to bargain in March.

The Prairies commends our Treasury Board bargaining team members for working tirelessly to negotiate a fair agreement and protect our sick leave. This fight is not just being fought at the bargaining table, it's being fought in workplaces across the country. That's why Prairies members recorded messages of support and solidarity to send to PSAC bargaining teams meeting with Treasury Board, and the smaller bargaining teams currently in negotiations across the country. The video has been posted on our website.

Members are sick and tired of this government's disrespect for them and for the vital services that they provide to Canadians. On October 30, PSAC members throughout the Prairies held events to speak out against concessions and promote healthier, more productive workplaces that deliver high quality public services.

## **HEALTH & SAFETY TOUR**

The Prairies health and safety tour kicked off in October with worksite visits taking place throughout Saskatchewan. Clint Wirth, Regional Representative - Health & Safety, met with hundreds of PSAC members as he visited eight different worksites in five different cities and towns, including Fort Qu'Appelle, Melville, Yorkton, Regina and Prince Albert. The tour continued in November with stops in Alberta, including Edmonton and Calgary.

During the visits, Clint met with local executives and workplace H&S committees, toured the facilities, and had discussions about various H&S topics, such as the right to refuse, definition of danger and how Bill C-4 affects H&S in the workplace. He also had the opportunity to answer questions and address members' concerns specific to the workplace, including ergonomics,

general safety and security measures, safety supplies, workloads, building a H&S network and further H&S training.

Though dates have yet to be confirmed, similar worksite visits and information sessions will be held in Manitoba.

## **NATIONAL YOUNG WORKERS INITIATIVE**

I had the privilege to facilitate a meeting of PSAC's young worker regional representatives on January 10 and 11, 2015, in Ottawa. This was the first meeting of its kind since the establishment of the Young Worker Initiative in the 2012-15 PSAC Budget. Eight Young Worker Reps participated, one from each region, including the two co-chairs from NCR. The synergy of the committee was immediate.

With a focused agenda, the group took time to reflect on the previous regional young worker initiatives from across the country. From this discussion they identified a list of challenges and successes and developed a three-year plan of action. The plan includes three objectives, which are fully aligned with and support the current PSAC priorities:

1. Build a network of young workers/activists to work toward achieving PSAC priorities
2. Network is connected within regions and across regions
3. Young workers active, educated and supported within all aspects of PSAC

This plan was presented to the AEC in person by the committee—a first for the AEC. The Young Worker Reps will make a full presentation at the March 2015 NBoD meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Marianne Hladun,  
Regional Executive Vice-President  
Public Service Alliance of Canada, Prairies

## REVP PRAIRIES ACTIVITIES

September 18	Travel to Regina
September 18	Regina Area Council Meeting
September 19	Prairie Region Council & Committee/Area Council/Circle Orientation
September 20 - 21	Prairies Summit
September 22	Prairie Region Council Meeting
September 23 - 24	Separate Employer & Young Workers' Conferences
September 24	Travel to Winnipeg
September 29	AEC Conference Call
September 30	Election of Bargaining Team - UCTE Local 50602
October 1	Political Action Committee Meeting via Conference Call
October 6	Prairies Summit Steering Committee Conference Call
October 16	Royal Canadian Mint NSCC
October 19	Travel to Ottawa
October 20	AEC Meeting
October 21 - 24	NBoD Meeting
October 24	Travel to Saskatoon
October 25	Bill C-4 OSH Course - Speaker
October 25	Solidarity Rally with the Muslim Community
October 28	CLC MB Political Action Planning Conference Call
October 28	Travel to Regina
October 28	Casino Regina Worksite Tour
October 29 - November 1	SFL Convention
October 30	AEC Meeting via Conference Call
November 1	Travel to Winnipeg

November 7	Activist School - Winnipeg
November 7	Travel to Edmonton
November 8	Activist School - Edmonton
November 8	Travel to Winnipeg
November 12	AEC Conference Call
November 12	National Young Workers Committee Conference Call
November 13	Meeting with Chair of Prairie Region Council Finance Committee
November 13	USGE Local 50015 AGM
November 13 - 15	ChildCare 2020 Conference
November 18	Meeting with Ron Bailey re: Community Unemployed Help Centre
November 18	Conference Call re: Prairies Regional Plan
November 18	NHU Local 50012 AGM
November 19	Travel to Calgary
November 19	GSU Local 30401 AGM
November 19	PRC Monthly Update Conference Call
November 20	AEC Meeting via Video Conference
November 21	Activist School - Calgary
November 21	Travel to Regina
November 22	Activist School - Regina
November 22	Travel to Winnipeg
November 24	Westman & Winnipeg PRC/Committee/Area Council Joint Meeting
November 25	Prairies Summit Steering Committee Conference Call
November 26	Mobilization Conference Call
December 1	AEC Conference Call

December 4 - 5	MFL Executive Council
December 5	Women's Committee Memorial Luncheon
December 6	Winnipeg RWC December 6 <sup>th</sup> Event
December 7	Travel to Ottawa
December 8	Parks Bargaining Team Caucus
December 9 - 10	Parks Bargaining
December 10	USGE Local 50131 AGM via Conference Call
December 10	Standing Education Committee Conference Call
December 10	Travel to Winnipeg
December 11	Prairies Summit Steering Committee Conference Call
December 12	Conference Call with Public Interest Alberta (PIA)
December 22	Meeting with CCPA Manitoba
January 8	Travel to Ottawa
January 9	Prairies Summit Steering Committee Conference Call
January 10 - 11	National Young Workers Meeting
January 12 - 13	AEC Meeting
January 14	Travel to Winnipeg
January 14	Prairies "Bargaining Basics" Webinar
January 16	Call with Kent Peterson re: upcoming SFL campaign
January 20	National Young Workers Committee Conference Call
January 21	Travel to Lethbridge
January 21	Lethbridge & District Area Council film screening
January 22	Travel to Calgary
January 22	Calgary & Lethbridge PRC/Committee/Area Council Joint Meeting
January 22	Travel to Winnipeg

**Susan Norman  
Alternate REVP  
Prairie Region Council February 2015**

This is not a long report as I have not had a lot of activity since my surgery.

In November 2014, I was involved with the Manitoba Area Councils with the process of determining lines of division for each Area as well as for each Geographical Rep. This was enlightening because it helped determine what area each council or rep had as well we had a good opportunity for discussion as to how not to replicate the same work over and over again.

In December 2014 I took part in the United Way Christmas Tree Auction which was a great success. I have attached a picture of Brother Glen being a really great sport as the elf.

I took part in the PSAC Prairies Leadership training held in Winnipeg in January 2015. I always find it inspiring to hear all the stories and activities that other activists are part of. We need to come up with a way to continue these discussions on an ongoing basis.

I have had conference calls with the Finance Committee and was pleased that we were able to establish the Terms of Reference for the Committee. Great job everyone.

Respectfully submitted in solidarity,

Susan Norman





**Sam Akinsanya  
Racially Visible Persons Rep  
Prairie Region Council February 2015**

From: Sam Akinsanya -- Representative -- NHRC

Re: Telephone Conference Call

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1. Date of Meeting: December 11, 2014

2.  In person  Teleconference

3.  Aboriginal  Access  PRIDE

RV  Women  Component

**Brief Summary of Meeting:**

Participants on the teleconference include: all RVPs representative from all the PSAC seven regions across the country. In addition, in attendance was Seema Lama, the PSAC National office RVPs representative as well as representative from the National training section – Terri-Lee Rayvales.

The teleconference was a follow up to the discussion that took place at the NHRC conference in Ottawa on November 3 and 4<sup>th</sup> 2014. At the conference, the RVPs' WG came up with four major priorities of immediate concern.

1. Educational Workshop Plan;
2. 2015 Federal Elections;
3. Communication Strategy to Build Our Network;
4. Other Agenda Requiring Input from the WG.

This Teleconference only addressed the first priority of Educational Workshop Plan due to time restriction.

We had discussion on how we could develop and deliver the workshops in the regions. There was a lot of discussion on how it would be funded and who would be delivering the training.

Actions:

Seema & Terri:

- Gather materials already available to the PSAC on the topics for review by the WG.
- To review WG priorities with the PSAC Regional Education Team in the New Year via teleconference.
- Set up another teleconference to further discuss :
  - ✓ Review materials that have been gathered;
  - ✓ Setting up a small reference group to develop workshop
  - ✓ Determine clear objective for the workshop, including length etc.
  - ✓ Determine process of feedback from the WG;
  - ✓ Determine time lines for distribution.

WG Members:

- We examine how the course could be delivered in the respective regions (i.e. speak with their regional educational officer, Regional education committee members and the REVP etc. regarding the process for funding).
- “Gather materials and workshops already developed in the regions on this topic and distribute them to each other”.

The rest of the priorities were postponed for future discussions at a future teleconference to be scheduled by the National representative for the REVPs.

November 21 – 23, 2014.

Attended the activist school in Calgary.

November 22, 2014.

Attended the appreciation day for all the volunteers for the past year especially those that helped out at the Global Fest.

January 10<sup>th</sup> 2015.

Participated at the joint session of the Calgary committees involving the HRC, ACC and the RWC. The purpose of the session was to discuss and mapped out the different activities plans for the year 2015.

January 30 – 31, 2015.

Attended the Leading Change Training in Winnipeg.

More recently and as a result of the activities mapping that took place on January 10, 2015, I have approached the Latino community regarding their annual festival in Calgary that takes place at the Olympic Plaza in Calgary. The purpose of approaching the community was to explore the possibility of setting up a PSAC tenth booth like we do at the Global Fest and try to connect with the attendees. I have been told that the total attendance for the three day activity ranges from 40,000 to about 60, 000. It is my expectation that this would be done as an HRC event but with specific leadership from the RVPs group.

I have been provided with registration form but I needed to speak with certain people before I know whether or not it's going to be feasible. Stay tune for additional information and updates.

**Satinder Bains**  
**Regina Area Council Rep**  
**Prairie Region Council February 2015**

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

November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014 attended a conference call to discuss the activities and responsibilities shared between Geographical Reps and Area Council Reps so we do not duplicate our work and work together to achieve our goals to represent and inform our members.

December 11<sup>th</sup> set up information picket line at “F” Division and Depot Division in Regina along the USGE National office staff, RVP, Regional office Rep Dianne. We handed out pamphlets with information regarding defending sick leave, protecting workers, fighting for healthier workplaces and bargaining demands updates to all employees coming to work.

January 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> attended the CLC Election Preparation training in Saskatoon report attached.

January 19<sup>th</sup> set up Being effected campaign at the RCMP Depot and Casino Regina along with Sister Lang to make the members and the public aware the challenges that we are facing ahead.

January 30<sup>th</sup> –Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> attended the Leading Change a two day workshop for the PSAC Leaders conducted by the PSAC. We planned activities and action plans for engagement/mobilizations in our communities and workplace.

In Solidarity,

Satinder Bains

CLC Conference  
ELECTION PREPARATION CONFERENCE  
JANUARY 9 - 10 SASKATOON SK

I attended the CLC Election Preparation conference in Saskatoon from January 9<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup>, CLC executive Larry Hubich and Hassan Yussuff CLC President welcomed around 200 delegates from all over Saskatchewan to start the conference. The Topic of the conference was Good Jobs, Child Care, Health Care and Retirement Security in which I see as taking action and influencing change.

The conference consisted of numerous key note speakers who spoke about the importance of solidarity and that concerns of the workers are shared concerns. The main workshop I attend were Building Allies Locally, Effective Campaigning and From engagement to Action in the conference. The speakers commended and encouraged our future leaders to play active role in helping all our workers to become even more powerful in the workplace and the community. The conference was to identify the issues that we are facing in the coming Federal and Provincial elections for workers who recognize and are 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. The conference shared and looked at ways to build a strong, diverse and inclusive work force and community. I believe this will help achieve our goals as we go into our communities and listen to people and identify the issues they are facing in the coming elections. This can be achieved using methods Park and Bark, Fields of Dreams and Go-Listen-Built methods.

For myself this was a great learning experience and I am happy to say we have a lot activists from all parts of Saskatchewan who work in different governments, department, agencies, unions who share the same values and concerns when we are dealing with our governments.

In Solidarity,  
Satinder Bains

**Denni Ernst  
Northern SK Geographical Rep  
Prairie Region Council February 2015**

I'm submitting a nil report for prc.

Denni

**Deanna Getz**  
**Southern SK Geographical Rep**  
**Prairie Region Council February 2015**

Activities to date:

- Attended the Canadian Labor Congress Election Preparedness course in Saskatoon on January 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015. This course provided us with tools for effective campaigning, inclusive campaigning and how to take these skills and tips forward from engagement to action for effective campaigning. I look forward to working with Area Council to share the tools I was provided with. Full report submitted to PSAC Regional office w/e Jan 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Attended Area Council meeting on Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>. Gave them a briefing on what I learned and indicated I would like to do what I can to assist in their political campaigning. Members expressed some concerns that I will be bringing forward to the PRC meeting in February. We discussed some political action activities for the upcoming election. AGM to be held in March or April with elections in 2015.
- Obtained a contact list from PSAC of the local presidents in my area. I will be working with my Area Council Southern SK rep, Satinder Bains to canvass our area for any concerns from the locals.
- Attended Leadership course in Winnipeg from Jan 29<sup>th</sup> to Feb 1/15. This course provided us with understanding our roles and responsibilities as PRC reps. We discussed tactics, plans and actions and were provided with the tools to assist us with the three PSAC priorities.

Respectfully submitted,

Deanna Getz  
Southern SK Geographical Rep

**Alec Goertzen**  
**Calgary Area Council Rep**  
**Prairie Region Council February 2015**

Brothers and Sisters of the PRC, this reporting is for the period: Oct 2014 to February 2015

**Regional Committees –**

Assigned to the PRC Finance Committee. Participated in 2 conference calls with other members to discuss our role and actions, as well as elected Sis. Nancy Johnson as Chair of our committee.

**Other activities –**

Area Council/Geographic Rep duties – Br Mardli initiated a discussion about -activities and similarity of duties of AC Reps and Geo Rep under the PRC bylaws, and see how to support to the other could be worked out and through. A majority of all the invited PRC rep participated in the call with some good discussion and clarity for support to each other in future and further events. I look forward to another discussion with the reps very soon.

I was invited to attend an event Say No to Harper, coordinated by the Youth Rep for UTE 30022. On November 1, 2014, the purpose was to demonstrate outside of Stephen Harper's constituency office to protest cuts and attacks on the Public Service as well as to stand up and show Union pride! While there were only 6 the attend the chilly morning, there were many warm car horns of support for our signage and presence. This was also a positive demonstration wherein the mall property which houses the PM constituency office, bears signage that demonstrations would not be permitted under bylaw. We however, though loud and proud were respectful enough that CPS merely kept a watchful eye on us...and nod of support to our cause.

Volunteer appreciation night – I attend and spoke at an evening event planned and co-hosted by the CAC, RWC, and HRC. The attendance of our volunteers and activists for the evening was a great success for not only recognizing and supporting each other, but networking for campaigns and events in the coming 2015 fight of our lives!

Southern Alberta Committee's meeting – this was coordinated by the Calgary Regional Office and attended by Prairies REVP, Calgary office staff, AC, RWC, HRC reps, PRC RV Rep, PRC GLBT Rep, as well as Lethbridge AC and RWC. The day was

Opening of Parliament Demo – I was invited and spoke at the Defeat Harper in 2015! demo on January 26. This took place outside of the Harry Hays Building and coordinated with other affiliates – CUPE, CUPW, UFCW, and many others. A very successful and vocal event that was bonding with all our brothers and sisters in the Calgary community. More are demonstrations will be planned up until the Federal election, so I am looking forward to attending.



Respectively submitted,  
Br. Alec Goertzen

**Calendar**

Oct 15/15 – Special AC meeting for Convention 2015 resolutions

Nov 1/15 – Say No to Harper event

Nov 13 – AC/Geo. Rep Conf call

Nov 22/15 – Volunteer Appreciation Night

Dec 2 – Calgary Area Council Meeting

Jan 22/15 – S.Alta Committees & REVP meeting

Jan 26/15 – Opening of Parliament

Jan 29-30/15 – Leading Change

Feb 6-7/15 – Canada Labour Congress, Election Preparation Conference, Edmonton

Feb 27-28/15 – PRC (2<sup>nd</sup>) Winnipeg

**Jennifer Grant**  
**NW Manitoba Geographical Rep**  
**Prairie Region Council February 2015**

During this reporting period I was involved in numerous activities through the Westman Area Council and the PRC.

In November, I participated in a joint conference call with the Prairie Region Geographical Reps and the Area Council Reps to help clarify each of our roles. Shortly after this call, I also attended a joint meeting in Winnipeg with our Manitoba reps and the Regional Office staff to define additional roles and responsibilities. I found both of these meetings to be very productive and Gus and I were able to better define the Manitoba areas for our positions on the PRC.

Also in November, I began attending the Brandon & District Labour Council meetings to become more familiar with our local labour partners. I was able to experience a tour of the Safe and Warm Shelter run by the Samaritan House Ministries at the December meeting. The Samaritan House also runs the Food Bank and provides other social services that I hope to have the WMAC and our locals become more involved in. I would like to see if we can organize a food drive sometime in the spring.

In December, the WMAC was actively involved in the Brandon & District United Way Christmas Tree Auction and sponsored a family of six with a Christmas tree and gifts. With donations from our locals and a last minute alliance with the Brandon UCT club, we were able to purchase three Christmas trees at the event and donated over \$3000 to the United Way for 2015 programming. What a great night! I have also been added to the United Way mailing list so that we can be more active in other United Way events throughout the year.

In January, I attended the PSAC Leadership Training in Winnipeg. There, we were able to meet with other PRC members, as well as component executive officers from our area and make a plan of action for the upcoming months. Our next project is Feb 16<sup>th</sup> at the Boissevain border crossing. We will be holding a friendly demonstration in support of our local veterans and the reopening of the Veteran's offices. What a great idea from the MB CIU President Joel Tetreault. He has organized the same event at Emerson and Sprague for the same day and time. Not often do we rally at the border so I'm especially looking forward to this.

And last but not least, the Westman Area Council AGM will be held two days later on Feb 18<sup>th</sup> in Brandon which I will be attending.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Grant

**Kim Haynes**  
**Persons with Disabilities Rep**  
**Prairie Region Council February 2015**

3-4 Nov Working Group Summary of Meeting

- Top concerns we felt for members with disabilities are:
  - o Duty to Accommodate
    - Realizing that we still have a lot of work to do in order to make sure that the Employer is filling out their responsibilities of request for accommodation from their employees and as well to ensure that our members are well trained and have the required resources on how to proceed to help a member requesting an accommodation.
      - Do you know who to contact?
      - Does your employee know your rights?
  - o Mental Health
    - We need to more & learn more on mental health. Education our members and equipping them in order that they feel comfortable to help a member with mental health problems.
      - Where do you find out more on Mental Health?
      - What is Mental Health?
  - o Sick Leaves
    - Sometimes members with a disability need to use additional sick leave to have follow up medical appointments related to their disability, surgery, therapy and therefore are more vulnerable to the attack on sick leave which is an attack to the member in its self.
      - Are you concern?
      - How do you voice your issues?
  - o WFA
    - We suspect that members with disability were highly affected by WFA in a disproportional manner; but before looking into doing something in that matter, we will seek help from PSAC for statistic to first establish h and confirm that there was in fact an issue before taking action.

**Sherry Hunt**  
**Southern AB Geographical Rep**  
**Prairie Region Council February 2015**

Since the last PRC meeting I have regularly attended meetings of the Lethbridge Area Council, Regional women's committee, the Lethbridge District Labour Council as well as my own local and have held a teleconference and face to face meeting with the PRC Communications Committee as well as the Leading Change course being held in Winnipeg at her end of January. In the PSAC Internal Investigations Committee Training in Edmonton in mid-January

In November 2014, I was also able to take part in the Childcare 2020 conference in Winnipeg with a delegation of PSAC activists. You can read my report on the Prairies Website <http://prairies.psic.com/political-action/members-report-from-national-child-care-conference>

I continue to work with the non-profit advocacy group Public Interest Alberta (PIA) as a board member and as chair of the PIA Childcare task force (advocating for a publicly funded accessible childcare system in Alberta that recognizes and fairly compensated the workforce) and on a more general pro Public Services Progressive taxation campaign called Alberta Could (<http://albertacould.org/>).

I been also working with REVP Marianne Hladun and PIA Executive Director, Bill Moore Killganon, towards a building a mutually beneficial relationship between PIA and PSAC; and I am proud to say that this year the PSAC is co-sponsoring the event with other labour and community groups and bringing Journalist Avi Lewis in to be the Key note speaker April 8 in Calgary and April 9 in Edmonton at the PIA Advocacy conference <http://pialberta.org/2015conference>

I participated in a committee, PRC, RO staff and REVP meeting in Calgary in which we as leaders in Southern Alberta developed plans to work together in the most effective way for the membership. At this meeting the PSAC Prairies Valentine was created. The verse, was written by Sister Deb Kosteniuk, Alternate Southern Geographical Rep and Chair of the Calgary Women's committee. <http://prairies.psic.com/area-council/special-valentines-day-greeting-for-the-pm>

I assisted with media coordination and organization for the Lethbridge and District Area Council film night in which both Sister Robyn Benson and Sister Marianne Hladun came to Lethbridge to introduce and host a discussion panel and screening of the Documentary film We Are Wisconsin, in January.

At the time of writing this report I am also working on a southern Alberta Geographic Rep newsletter that I hope to use to keep members in the Southern Alberta informed and connected to the PRC, the regional committees, councils and the REVP.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sherry Hunt,  
Southern Alberta Geographic Representative, PRC, PSAC

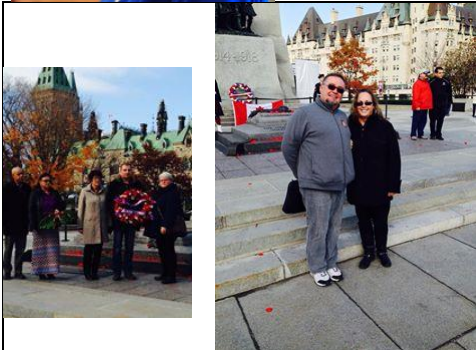
# Timothy Hunt GLBT Rep Prairie Region Council February 2015



**Timothy Hunt**

GLBT Representative | Prairie Region Council |  
403-292-4150 bus | 403-818-9675 cell  
E-Mail @ work > [Timothy.Hunt@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:Timothy.Hunt@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)  
E-Mail: @ home > [hunt@psac.com](mailto:hunt@psac.com)

**September 22<sup>nd</sup> to February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015 – Report to PRC**



## National Human Rights Committee November

This was the inaugural meeting for the new three year cycle. 17 component representatives, and our new human rights representatives. We continued our work from the last three cycle and we looked forward and started new items. We meet again next fall and we will be working towards getting as many members to the conference in Toronto for March of 2016. We also as a group laid a PSAC wreath on the war memorial (ask me about the big guns !)



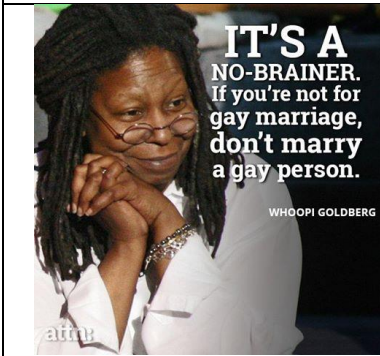
## TUB Course Address

I addressed the new unionists at our Calgary Regional Office on October 17<sup>th</sup>. I explained what the PRC is and who and what we represent. This was my first time doing this and I really enjoyed it, Thanks Dolly !!



## Non Canada Update

Many different states are starting to join the “union” of the United States, this February Alabama joined the other states by issuing an edict to start issuing same-sex marriage licenses “immediately”. This part of the USA is a very anti-GLBT, and this decision is very welcomed !!



**Janette Husak**  
**Aboriginal Peoples Rep**  
**Prairie Region Council February 2015**

It has been my pleasure to take over the Aboriginal Representative position starting January 15, 2015. I am very interested to be able to serve the members of the Prairie Region Council (PRC) with dedication and respect.

This is my first report as I just recently took over the position:

- Attending the Leading Change Leadership course

I believe in our members and look forward to the challenges that we have together to get equality for all members. I thank the members for giving me the opportunity to represent them on the PRC.

In solidarity,

Janette Husak  
Aboriginal Representative  
PRC Member

**Nancy Johnson**  
**RWC Rep**  
**Prairie Region Council February 2015**

Attended the Prairies Leadership Summit in Regina where I connected with great activists and was selected to sit on the Prairies Summit Steering Committee. We have been holding bi-weekly conference calls and working hard, discussing and planning activities to support the Prairies Regional Operational Plan aligning to the PSAC priorities.

Attended the National Human Rights Committee meeting in Ottawa early November where the equity groups met and discussed their priorities for the next three years. The Women's four priorities are:

- 1) Defeating the Harper Government
- 2) Child Care
- 3) Violence Against
- 4) Women's Leadership

I have participated in three conference calls with the Women's Working Group representatives.

The National Human Rights Conference will be held in Toronto in March 2016, which means that I'll be working with the REVP, Regional staff and the chairs of the RWC's to organize our Regional Women's Conference that returns to Manitoba. I am looking forward to the year ahead.

Attended the Union Activist school in Regina and was impressed with the participants knowledge and dedication to the broader union movement and their commitment to get things started to improve the lives of our members and communities.

Attended Childcare 2020 conference along with the PSAC Women's Program Officer, Andree Cote and the six other Regional Women's representatives. The Prairies was fortunate to send two additional delegates, Sherry Hunt and Michelle Lang. As Childcare was selected as one of the Women's committee's priorities for the next three years, it was very important to be involved and hear first hand what the issues are and how we can lobby the government for a national childcare program. There were several exceptional speakers from Stephen Lewis to our very own PSAC National President Robyn Benson, where she launched the new PSAC Childcare video. If you have not seen it, please visit the Prairies website and/or share back in your locals and/or committee meetings. The video is exceptional! As well, March's Webinar Wednesday will be Childcare, looking forward to that discussion.

I was able to meet with the Regina Women's Committee in December and assist them in their planning and financial reporting requirements for 2015.



I have been working with Carm Chan, Regional Rep in Edmonton to get the RWC back in good standing and a new executive was elected this week so we will see some great things coming from Edmonton. I will be working with the newly elected executive by offering them any assistance while they re-invent their committee.

Winnipeg RWC held a successful one-day “Sisters United” event on December 6<sup>th</sup> at the regional office.

Saskatoon RWC is holding a one-day “Sisters in Solidarity” event on February 21<sup>st</sup>, where they will be screening a movie and having a panel discussion with Aboriginal community organizers.

Calgary RWC collaborated with the Area Council and Human Rights committee and created a “Dear Steve” on-line valentine postcard campaign.

Lethbridge RWC and Area Council held a screening of “We Are Wisconsin” and are planning a free swim event for International Women’s Day.

I am proud of the work of the Prairies RWC’s!

To celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the December 6<sup>th</sup> Montreal Massacre, the Saskatoon RWC sponsored the screening of “Poly Technique” and a panel discussion followed where I provided information about the role of PSAC Prairies Regional Women’s Committees and how we have supported events that raise awareness on issues about violence against women from participating in vigils, postcard writing campaigns, lobbying federal government on long gun registry, missing and murdered aboriginal women, working within labour movement such as CLC to end violence against women. Discussed the CLC survey results on Domestic Violence in the Workplace. The survey results are available on CLC and PSAC websites.

As the PSAC VP on the SFL, I am the chair of the Women’s committee where I will be able to connect with other affiliates to raise awareness on women’s issues.

Attended the Prairies “Leading Change” workshop in Winnipeg end of January. It was a fun and inspiring two-day workshop that was lead by the fantastic Judy Shannon, Dolly Ablitt, Michel Desautels and Victoria Gibb-Carsley. The discussions in the working groups have ignited plans for our next political action.

In solidarity,  
Sister Nancy Johnson

**Glen Johnston**  
**Westman Area Council Rep**  
**Prairie Region Council February 2015**

At the Prairie Region Council Meeting in September 2014, the Council Committee's were selected and I was fortunate in being selected for the Bylaws committee. My fellow members subsequently elected me to act as the Committee Chairman.

During the Sept PRC meeting the Prairies Summit was held which brought together leaders from across the Prairies. At the summit we discussed, the PSAC and priorities and the way forward in achieving them.

Immediately following the PRC meeting I was asked to attend the Brandon University DCL held on the 25 Sep 2014 and speak about the Westman Area Council and its role in the community.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> of Nov I participated in a conference call with other Area Council Reps and the Geographic Reps to discuss the roles and responsibilities related to these positions.

In December, the Westman Area Council again sponsored a tree in the Westman United Way Christmas Tree Auction. This was the fourth year that we have supported this worthy cause and once again the Auction raised in excess of \$20,000 to support their initiatives in the community and families in need.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of Jan 2015, I chaired a Bylaws committee conference call. The report of this committee has been submitted to the Feb meeting of the PRC.

At the end of Jan, 2015 the PSAC Prairies Leadership training was held. I attended as a member of the PRC.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> of Feb, I will be attending a rally at the Boissevain, MB border crossing in support of Veterans. This rally was conceived and put in motion by members of the Westman Area Council. There were also rallies planned for the Emerson, MB and Sprague, MB border crossing points. One of our objectives will be to move the Conservative government forward in re-opening Veterans Affairs offices.

During this reporting period I will also have attended two Westman Area Council meetings, Nov 2014 and Feb 2015.

Date	Activity
20 - 21 Sep 14	Prairies Summit Meeting/PRC Meeting
25-Sep-14	Attended Brandon University DCL Meeting
13-Nov	PRC Conference Call
18-Nov-14	Westman Area Council Meeting
19-Nov-14	PRC Conference Call
05-Dec-14	United Way Christmas Tree Auction
20-Jan-15	Bylaws Conference Call
30 - 31 Jan	Leadership Training
16-Feb-15	Rally at Boissevain Border Crossing
18-Feb	Westman Area Council Meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Glen Johnston  
 WMAC Rep to the PRC

**Chad Kemery**  
**Separate Employer Locals Rep**  
**Prairie Region Council February 2015**

Separate Employer activities since the last Council meeting have been spent for the most part, behind a computer. Forwarding information received on to those who may not have the email trees built.

The PSAC hosted a Separate Employer / DCL conference in September which brought just over twenty five participants in from the prairies. The conference was eye opening with several attendees knowing very little about the PSAC structure or their role within it. We spent some time going over:

1. Structure
2. Regional and National officers roles and what they can do to assist individuals and vice versa.
3. Dealing with management - strategies and tactics.
4. Opening the floor to talk about issues in the forefront and what may come on the horizon.

Everyone who attended had nothing but excellent things to say about the content and information received.

Prairies Summit - September

PRC conference call - October

Leadership Change - January.

Leadership change touched on issues all leaders should do, self reflection. Studied the different styles of leadership, the networks we surround ourselves with and how to improve on all of those.

Respectfully,

Chad Kemery

**Gregory Krokosh  
Lethbridge Area Council Rep  
Prairie Region Council February 2015**

- October 04, 2014 - Attended 7th Annual Sisters in Spirit Vigil (Lethbridge, AB)
- October 06, 2014 - Prairies Region Steering Committee Conference Call
- October 08, 2011 - Attended Lethbridge & District Labour Council meeting
- October 11, 2014 - Sent e-mails to the 6 Alberta Senators (re: Bill C-377) and sent materials to remaining Area Council Executive (to date 1 Senator has responded twice)
- October 15, 2014 - Attended Lethbridge & District Area Council AGM
- October 16, 2014 - Participated with other PSAC members in a noon hour information picket with the Health Sciences Association of Alberta in front of the Chinook Regional Hospital in support of their collective bargaining efforts
- October 21, 2014 - Finance Committee Conference Call
- November 05, 2014 - Attended Lethbridge & District Area Council Meeting
- November 12, 2014 - Attended Lethbridge & District Labour Council Meeting
- November 13, 2014 - PRC Area Council & Geographical Representatives Conference Call
- November 18, 2014 - PRC Finance Committee Conference Call
- November 19, 2014 - PRC Conference Call (unofficial)
- December 03, 2014 - Attended Lethbridge & District Area Council Meeting
- December 10, 2014 - Attended Lethbridge & Labour Council Meeting
- December 11, 2014 - Steering Committee Conference Call
- January 09, 2015 - Steering Committee Conference Call
- January 21, 2015 - Mediated Q&A during screening of "We Are Wisconsin"
- January 22, 2015 - Attended Area Councils / Committees Meeting (Calgary RO)

January 26, 2015 - Steering Committee Conference Call

January 29 - February 01, 2015 - Attended Leading Change Training (Winnipeg)

February 09, 2015 - Steering Committee Conference Call

February 11, 2015 - Attended Lethbridge & District Labour Council AGM

February 13, 2015 - Attended Lethbridge & District Area Council Meeting

**Michelle Lang**  
**DCL Rep**  
**Prairie Region Council February 2015**

Not much to report. I am partaking on the DCL – Component President Committee and we met for the third time at the beginning of January. We discuss what misconceptions are out there regarding where dues go and exactly how much time DCL use of the Regional Offices and Staff. We seem to be coming to more of an understanding on how the structure works and how PSAC organizes. We bring suggestions forward to better the system.

At my DCL we are in the midst of a change in Executive. I recently became President of my Local and we are in the process of Electing a new SR Vice President. That's about all that's happening.

Michelle Lang  
DCL Rep

**Ben Lemon**  
**Edmonton Area Council Rep**  
**Prairie Region Council February 2015**

- Oct 14 participated on H&S committee conference call
- Oct 15 sent out meeting notices for Nov 25 Bill C4 H&S changes
- Oct 20 sent Jeffrey my information for business card printing
- Oct 22 correspondence re: 2015 H&S conference
- Nov 12 confirmed my attendance at upcoming Dec 9 Edmonton Area Council
- Nov 19 participated on PRC meeting via Conference call from Fort Smith, NT
- Nov 25 accompanied Clint Wirth & Oneil Carlier on tour of Edm Int'l Airport (YEG) then to Public Works office in Telus Tower for a Bill C4 briefing on changes to H&S legislation then to PSAC regional office for evening full briefing on Bill C4 H&S changes
- Dec 9 Edmonton Area Council meeting at PSAC office
- Jan 9 sent RSVP to attend Alberta Federation of Labour Open House on Feb 25
- Jan 14 reviewing new information re: upcoming 2015 PSAC H&S Conference
- Jan 15 Edmonton Area Council meeting at PSAC office

I have a feeling that I have missed an H&S committee conference call probably in November, but can't find anything in my notes!



**Gus Mardli**  
**SE Manitoba Geographical Rep**  
**Prairie Region Council February 2015**

Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

I attended a presentation that was sponsored by the Winnipeg Women Regional Committee, on (Political Awareness – Why We Should All Be Informed). I had a great conversation afterward with the presenter, Sister Kelly Moist, President of CUPE Manitoba. We decided to network and exchange ideas when it comes to political action especially during all elections that Manitoba is expecting: civic, provincial and federal. I think we all need to expand our networking with activists, it truly builds a stronger labour movement.

Participating, the last September, in the Prairie Leadership summit that was held in Regina was greatly beneficial. Action plans and ideas developed at the Summit, and then a steering committee was established with representation from all three provinces. This committee will monitor the progress to implement the action plans.

On October 14<sup>th</sup>, I participated in a Conference Call that was called the PRC Health and Safety Committee's Chair, brother Chad Kemery. The planning for the upcoming Regional Health and Safety Conference was discussed. Also, the committee decided to draft new Terms of Reference for the committee that will be presented to the PRC council this session.

I also participated in a conference call on November 13<sup>th</sup>, where most of Geographical Reps and Area Council Reps were in attendance. Duties of these representatives were discussed along with difficulties and challenges (i.e. technical difficulties to fully represent members in each of these representatives' constituencies). Brother Matt Tijani volunteered to draft a letter to send to the REVP office requesting all the necessary info be provided to PRC Geographical and Area Council, in accordance with the PRC Handbook. The common feeling of most attendants was that when Reps are lacking this needed info, it will hinder fulfilling the duties of our office.

Manitoba PRC members and the 4 Manitoba committee/area council chairs joined Sister Marianne Hladun at a joint meeting on November 24<sup>th</sup>. This was very beneficial to me as it resulted in a discussion with The NW Manitoba Geographical Rep (Sister Jennifer Grant) that we were able to define under which constituency each local in Manitoba falls.

The Canadian Labour Congress designed training for activists that I participated in, this was in Manitoba on January 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. The training was named: Election Preparation Conference. The conference had 6 workshops and each participant was able to take part in 3 of them. My allotments were the following workshops:  
1) Building Allies Locally, 2) Engaging Young Workers. 3) From Engagement to Action.

Unfortunately I missed attending the Prairies Leading Change training for PSAC leaders due to unforeseen circumstances. I will catch up, I promise...

I continue to actively attend meetings held by both the Winnipeg & Area Human Rights Committee and by the Winnipeg Area Council, as well as attending conference calls update called by the REVP.

Wishing all Prairie Region Council members a productive and fun-filled Council meeting.

In Solidarity,

Respectfully Submitted

Gus Mardli

**Jackie Nettleton**  
**Saskatoon Area Council Rep**  
**Prairie Region Council February 2015**

The secretary-treasurer for the Saskatoon Area Council, Nicole Wurm, represented us at the Remembrance Day services and laid a wreath on our behalf.

As president of the AC, I was able to attend the AGM of the UNDE local at the military base at Dundurn and speak about the activities that the AC participates in. I hope to attend more local meetings in the future to inform members about the work of the AC and to recruit more members and locals to participate.

We joined with the RWC in hosting a seasonal open house at the regional office in December. We asked members to bring socks or food for local shelters and the Food Bank. We had a speaker from the SFL who gave a presentation on community organizing.

I sit on the GCWCC committee as the labour rep. from PSAC. This year there was an increase in bad feelings from members toward management which hindered the campaign. Although the past chair on the committee noted that the letter from Marianne helped. He said that there is a perception that managers get bonus points for success in the GWCC campaign which isn't the case. It was decided that at the awards lunch in March we will invite Andrea Howe, the labour rep. at the United Way Office, as a speaker. Andrea came with the United Way/GCWCC rep. Jenny Plotzke, and myself to the National Parole Board when we presented the AC award to the local with the highest participation and spoke about the benefit that labour and management can make to the community when they work together. It was very well received so we want to highlight this at the GCWCC awards lunch.

I attended the CLC educational on Jan. 9 and 10 in Saskatoon. CLC President Hassan Yousef opened the event. There were many ideas about the current political situation and the importance of mobilizing members. Professors David McGrane and Charles Smith gave presentations regarding the best ways to influence voting outcomes. Saskatoon was the first of a series of these CLC educationals and I would highly recommend other members of the PRC to attend them. The CLC is offering them at no charge.

I will be attending the AGM of the Saskatoon and District Labour Council on Feb. 6 & 7. I was also able to attend one of their general meetings in the fall. For the AGM and for SFL conventions I have to go through my local for delegate credentials and funding. I would prefer not to take up a space from my local. Is there a way for PRC members and especially AC members who are supposed to develop ties with the larger Labour Movement to access these opportunities without going through their respective locals?

Jackie Nettleton  
Saskatoon AC rep. to PRC

**Murray Pruden**  
**Northern AB Geographical Rep**  
**Prairie Region Council February 2015**

Happy New Year 2015! Hello, my name is Murray Pruden the Rep for Northern Alberta. This is my first report to the region and being new to the role & position, I must say there has been much going on within the region but also within Canada. Firstly, I should formally introduce myself, with a brief description of who I am. Information provided is from the PRC website pertaining to my Bio:

“Murray Pruden was elected Northern Alberta Geographical Representative on the Prairie Region Council at the 2014 Prairie Region Convention. He has been actively involved with his union for the past six years, after being approached by a co-worker to take the lead in representing members and bringing forward issues and work safety concerns at his worksite. Since then, he has held various positions in CEIU Local 30851, including Shop Steward and Local Vice-President & President. Murray has worked for the federal government for eight years and is currently employed as a Citizen Service Officer for Service Canada providing important services to Canadians, including EI, CPP, and OAS. Murray is Cree from Smoky Lake and believes strong family, community and cultural ethics are sacred. He holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree, as well as a Visual Arts and Drama Diploma, and loves to participate in theatre and music when he has the opportunity.” (<http://prairies.psac.com/murray-pruden-bio>)

So here is a timeline of my work to date:

June 2014- Nominated & elected Geographical rep for Northern Alberta, Prairie Region Convention.

September 2014- Attended the Prairie Summit & first PRC meeting

At the Summit I had the opportunity to meet a great wealth of leaders throughout our region from components & area councils. From young to old, new to experienced, we had the time to invest in each other's plans & ideas of our Union & the tasks at hand. With the Summit we heard President Benson speak to our group with insight to the major obstacles & timeline we have as Union leaders. And with that message I have been assigned a member of the steering committee to aspirations of our agenda: protect public services, support our local bargaining teams & support a change in government. Sitting within our Summit I did realize that within Alberta we have a struggle of creating community support to our Union image. And I do put that challenge to the members across Alberta to start speaking up on the positive of what a Union is & has aspired to be.

The PRC meeting I attended & have the privilege to work with many great minds on the council. Everyone has great drive to what we stand as & where we need to go as a council. As part of my new duties within the council, I have been assigned to the Communication committee. And our mandate as per the passed resolution in Prairie

Region Convention is to improve the PRC representative's communication amongst the grassroots. And we plan to meet that mandate throughout the next 3 years.

Sept 2014 to Jan 2015- attended and participated in the steering committee meetings thru teleconference. As well I have attended the communication committee meetings & PRC meeting.

October 2014- premiered & test trialed the documentary film "We Are Wisconsin" with a Local office in Edmonton, AB. The test was to create a platform & reaction/ response to the message brought by the film to the union members. Many who watched the film were reflective to how something so meaningful could happen in our own region. From this trial I will commence to promote the showing of this powerful documentary within the Northern Alberta region.

Dec 2014 to Jan 2015- Attended the Edmonton Area committee meetings & holds a seat as a member to the council. Currently the Area council has created their executive & are in the works on planning the years campaign & budget for the council and members. I highly suggest all interested grassroots members to attend the Area Council as it needs the ongoing support. I currently hold an executive position on the committee as secretary.

Attended the Edmonton Human Rights committee. Currently the Human rights group is working on their plans for the year which include Human rights rally, Pride day, Aboriginal day, and disabilities day for the year. As all committee I do ask our grassroots to help support the human rights committee.

January 2015- I have started to email locals in Northern Alberta as my first contact to the Area. I have attached a copy of said letter. I do hope that my presence within Northern Alberta will be felt within the next 3 years.

I also had a meeting with Edmonton District Labour Council President, Bruce Fafard, in January. We had the time to discuss the current issues our members within Edmonton & province are dealing with, including the insights of a possible provincial election this spring. But we shared our thoughts on a positive outcome & support to our members within our regions & the working relationship with each other, as within our terms in office.

At the end of Jan I attended the Leadership workshop In Winnipeg. Within the 2 days were invested our time understanding what we see as leadership but also the challenges and support a leader has to achieve. And within the workshop we had the opportunity to create networks within our regions so that we can overcome obstacles but help create open communication. This will help achieve agendas & help support events, rallies & a link amongst the members.

February 2015- I am currently attending the CLC Democracy Skills workshop in Edmonton, AB. Attached is my report from said workshop:

## CLC Democracy Skills Workshop Feb 6-7, 2015

I attended the Democracy skills workshop in Edmonton, AB & have a great respect of the hard work and effort to the CLC for their success on the agendas of the time spent by all delegates of the workshop. The weekend started with the concentrated overview of the 4 national issues we as unions & activists need to address: good jobs, retirement security, and health care & proper child care.

A few concerns that we as Canadians must understand going into the next Provincial & Federal elections:

1. The concerns of harsh risk investments on RRSPs to the point of possibly losing 50% of investment & having no return to retirement.
2. 1.7 million Canadian seniors depend on the Guaranteed Income Supplement through the OAS pension.
3. There are not enough spaces available for infants & children with disabilities in child care facilities.

The largest concentration that all union members must support is the action to vote & making the effort to get those who support proper work ideals & support the community to vote for the right members to lead our nation.

I attended 3 workshops during the weekend. They each had great discussion about the need to have a stand for proper government and steps that we as activists need to take to support election campaigns that are in our regions that mutually respect unions. The 3 workshops I attended are:

1. Building allies locally- the objective to the workshop was to understand the method of building and creating relationships with groups who share similar goals and values. And to always have long term relationships with organizations that are willing to compromise and listen to your values and convictions.
2. Inclusive campaigning- the message that was presented by the workshop was to connect with your union, community and workplace. And as activists we need to do more to connect with our communities and organizations.
3. Effective campaigning- the workshop was maintaining guidelines on how to create effective campaigning strategies. This ranged from having targets, identifying allies, volunteer engagement techniques, and building your message for a campaign.

During the workshop I had the privilege to meet three hopeful NDP candidates that are running for the provincial & federal elections, Maria Fitzpatrick from Lethbridge East, Janis Irwin from Edmonton Griesbach & Oneil Carter from Whitecourt riding. There are many more candidates who are running for the coming elections who attended the workshop & I do wish them all good luck and send my gratitude for your support to Unions in your regions & across Canada. Make us proud. And together we can protect workers' rights & promote fairness in our communities.

As mentioned earlier I had started to make contact with the Northern Alberta Region with my introductory email to my constituents & here was my email message:

## **STANDING TOGETHER** for **BARGAINING**

Tansi & Happy New Year 2015!

Greetings Brother's & Sister's, my name is Murray Pruden- Northern Alberta Regional Rep PRC PSAC & I would like to formally introduce myself to the constituents' for Northern Alberta. I would like to start by saying that I am pleased to represent you all within the prairies & I plan to take my role with as much leverage & responsibility as possible. As members of Northern Alberta, through our grassroots, we have needs & ideas to network with one another & need to communicate to our Prairie Region Council PSAC.

As my mandate within the PRC I do need to take the time to make contact & have open communication with my locals in the region. And my goal within this year, 2015, is to try to make formal contacts with as many Local Components in the region. As I take the time to utilize a network for the PRC & for Northern Alberta I do hope that we as region can communicate & bring to the table any issues or union events that can be shared amongst our members.

We are in a year of change, and it's very simple to see that change occurring around us every day in Canada. Events such as the economy, oil sands production, job losses in our communities, collective agreements, provincial & federal elections. We as grassroots members & members of the PSAC need to start taking action in the changes to help each other out through our locals, through our communities & especially through families. And as Brother's & Sister's we need to work together to get our voice heard in our local areas.

Please take the time to be a part of your union. But also take the time to contact me as your Regional Rep & the Area Council Rep- Ben Lemon to start working together to bring solidarity & the union community together. Let's be the voice. Let us stand together. And let us be the grassroots of our united union. As a braid of sweet grass we

our strong, “Sweetgrass is the hair of our Mother; separately, each strand is not as strong as the strands are when braided together.” ~ quote by Mary Ritchie.

Again, Happy New Year & I wait to hear from you & your Executive, your Local members & our members at large, our grassroots. Take care.

In Solidarity,

Murray Pruden

Northern Alberta Regional Representative PRC PSAC

Prairie Region website: <http://prairies.psac.com/our-organization/prairie-region-council>

Email: [PrudenM@psac-afpc.com](mailto:PrudenM@psac-afpc.com)

Phone: (780) 915-4362



And lastly, to end my report for the Northern Alberta Region I hope to continue to work on my drive to our members for collective bargaining & support in Northern Alberta. And I do hope to report on more communal events & rally support within 2015, including the 19 Minute Campaigns which is alive in Northern Alberta!

When I first attended the Prairie Region Convention in June 2014 I had a feeling of change and movement within me. I walked into the convention hall and admired the size of convention but the size of tables & chairs set for all us delegates and the color of red across the room. And with that image I asked the question in my mind, who are we as a union?

With that question I started to receive the most profound answer. We are the grassroots & define ourselves as the grassroots to the workforce across the nation. But also we are in a cycled time line. See, I have been taught that through generations and with time frames we live in a circular spectrum. Whether it is political, economical, generational, even spiritual we live this circular spectrum- that we always end where we begin.



That in mind, as a Prairie region we are in a historical spectrum of events. As we declare ourselves as the grassroots we are declaring we are people of area, just like my ancestors had declared when signing the treaties with the visitors. As we the grassroots have been stating, "We are in the fight of our lives...", so have been the First Nations people since the signing the treaty agreements with the visitors. We the grassroots are in collective bargaining based on our worker rights for our wellbeing, our families, our communities and our labour force. So too were my ancestors when they signed the treaty agreements with the visitors. My ancestors fought many battles since signing the treaty agreements, held many hardships & lost cultural freedoms and respect. And I say unto you Brother's and Sister's, this is where we are at now with our collective rights, a choice- a choice to overcome & fight for our needs for the better of all peoples in Canada to follow. And with that choice, we have to look at terms of peace & peaceful means within our workplaces & communities.

For you see, we are the grassroots people. We are like my ancestors in this generation- protecting our rights, our wellbeing & our livelihood. Take my wisdom. And let's be the union in true solidarity as guides & protectors and be the shield to our members and communities.

In Solidarity & with Good Tidings,

Murray K. Pruden

Northern Alberta

Geographical Representative

PRC- PSAC

