

## PRAIRIE REGION COUNCIL REP REPORTS JANUARY 2014

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**MARIANNE HLADUN**  
**PSAC Prairies REVP**  
**Report to Prairie Region Council, January 2014**

**ASSAULT ON LABOUR**

As part of our fight back against Bill C-4 and the continued attack on labour, we organized a rally outside the 2013 Conservative Party of Canada Policy Convention in Calgary on November 2. More than 20cm of snow didn't stop hundreds of devoted activists and concerned Canadians from protesting the Conservative's Convention and their impaired judgment and reckless policies.

Guest speakers included Sister Robyn Benson; Gil McGowan, Alberta Federation of Labour President; Brigette DePape, the Senate page that held up the "Stop Harper!" sign during the 2011 *Speech From the Throne*; Sheelah McLean, one of the four original co-founders and organizers for Idle No More; Clayton Thomas-Muller, writer and advocate on environmental justice and indigenous rights; Dr. Diane Orihel, freshwater ecologist with Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Alberta; CUPE National President Paul Moist; and Mike Palecek, CUPW National Union Representative. The Raging Grannies performed, as did the drumming circle Sisters from Another Mother. Attendees also enjoyed food from M&M Meats at the post-rally tailgate BBQ, sponsored by Public Service Alliance of Canada Prairie Region, CUPE and UFCW Local 401.

A special thank you to everyone who supported the event and those that braved the blizzard conditions to speak out. I'd like to recognize the Calgary Area Council and Brothers Alec Goertzen, Timothy Hunt and David Fandrich for their contributions to organizing the event. David also delivered a rousing speech on behalf of PSAC at a separate rally on the Thursday evening.

On November 7, the Prairie Region hosted a telephone town hall with thousands of PSAC members across Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba about Bill C-4. Our guests on the call, Edith Bramwell, PSAC Representation Coordinator, and Denis St-Jean, PSAC National Health and Safety Officer, joined me to provide information about various aspects of the Bill and answer members' questions. Members really enjoyed the opportunity to hear more about the legislation and to ask questions. We've posted audio from the call and feedback from members on the Prairies website.

**YOUNG WORKERS UNITE**

Towards the end of 2013, dozens of young workers attended a series of meetings aimed at bringing young workers together to strategize on the establishment of young workers committees. Young workers who attended the six meetings throughout the Prairies were enthusiastic and interested in getting involved, and identified a need for education geared towards young workers. There was also a determination to ensure unions remain a strong voice for workers and that they are able to retire with dignity and security.

Brother Keith Gauthier attended each of these meetings and collected feedback and contact information. We will continue to build a network of young workers, as well as encourage young workers to take courses offered by their regional office to prepare them to grow within the union.

## **CONFERENCES AND COURSES**

Nearly 600 participants, including almost 80 from the Prairie Region, attended the PSAC National Equity Conferences in Toronto, November 18-21. Delegates made a commitment to political action in the fight for human rights and to preserve the right to fair collective bargaining.

The New Union Development Program was announced in October, an advanced learning opportunity for emerging leaders. However, faced with serious threats to unions in Canada, most recently Bill C-4, the AEC had to assess and realign our membership and staff resources to fight these attacks. As a result, we are postponing the implementation of the 2014 UDP. The UDP will run again in January 2015. We received more than 30 applications for six Prairies UDP spots.

Regional Offices in the Prairies are currently developing education schedules for 2014 and specific course dates will be posted to the website as they become available. Some of the plans include Alliance Facilitator Training, mini union schools, convention prep, and Prairies Union School. For more information on what's to come, visit the Prairies website.

## **BARGAINING UPDATE**

In the past several months we ratified collective agreements with Aramark Canada Ltd. – 15 Wing Moose Jaw, University of Winnipeg, and Hudson Bay Port Company (Churchill). A tentative agreement was reached with the Canadian Museum of Human Rights (Winnipeg) in December and a ratification meeting is scheduled for the end of January.

We are currently in negotiations with Regina Airport Authority, and are set to begin bargaining with Pro-Tec Fire Services of Canada (Saskatoon Airport FR), Prince Rupert Airport Society and Royal Canadian Mint in February.

We also have a newly organized unit with 35 members who work as Protective Services Officers at the Winnipeg Royal Canadian Mint facility. Notice to bargain has been issued and an information meeting was held for new members, along with an inaugural AGM in December. A bargaining team has been elected and the first team meeting is scheduled for late January.

## **CHANGES TO COUNCIL**

There have been a few changes to the PRC since our last meeting. In November, Brother Clint Wirth was the successful candidate for the health & safety rep in the PSAC Winnipeg Regional Office. In December, Keith was the successful candidate for the administrative assistant position in the PSAC Regina Regional Office.

We ran elections for both of these positions. Brother Gus Mardli was the successful nominee for the Southeast Manitoba Rep. Unfortunately, we didn't receive any nominations for Young Workers Rep, so that position will remain vacant until the Prairie Region Triennial Convention.

I'd like to thank Keith and Clint for their contributions to the Prairie Region Council and wish them all the best in their new staff positions. I'd also like to welcome Gus to the Prairie Region Council. He has been active with the Winnipeg Area Council and I know he will bring that same enthusiasm to the PRC.

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

We are continuing to release videos from the Prairies Video Project at varying intervals. Our last release was about sick leave, and future releases include a look at Idle No More, experiences of GLBT members and grievance handling.

The 6th Triennial Convention of the PSAC Prairie Region will be held in Saskatoon, beginning Friday, June 27, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. and concluding Sunday, June 29, 2014 at 12:30 p.m. Deadline to register closes February 12, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,



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 8-11, 2013

This report covers the period from the last NBOD meeting.

**WHAT HAS THE UNION DONE FOR ME?**

This is the question we set out to answer on our 18-day road trip from Edmonton to Winnipeg in August. I had the privilege of travelling to each location to personally speak with Prairies members and discuss their stories and experiences on camera. Within three weeks, we interviewed 43 people in eight different cities across three provinces, spanning Component and equity lines.

For this project, we're not only putting faces to the work we do, but the experiences we've had. We want to preserve our stories and be able to share them with current and future members, as a reminder of where we've come from and where we're going.

We've already released a short trailer as a preview of what members can expect from these videos in the future. The official videos will be released at varying intervals over the next year under a variety of themes. Each video will be an important resource for us to teach members about our history and build solidarity.

The project was produced with union labour, as we enrolled Shaun Roemich of Road Dog Media (Canadian Freelance Union – CEP 2040) as our videographer and editor. Brother Shaun has a long history of union activism and works regularly with labour bodies such as the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour, among others.

I encourage you to visit the PSAC Prairie Region website to view the videos as they are released and to share them with other members and friends. The stories in these videos may come from the Prairies, but the values are ones to which we can all relate.

**ALBERTA SOLIDARITY**

Earlier this summer, Banff, Canmore, Calgary and much of Southern Alberta faced devastating flooding and evacuations. PSAC has more than 4,300 members living in Southern Alberta. More than half work right in the downtown core, which was completely shut down for an extended period of time, including the Harry Hayes Federal Building.

Not willing to stand idly by while flood victims dealt with the aftermath of the disaster, PSAC members took action. In Lethbridge, members assisted with a Flood Relief Concert. PSAC Local 30048 supplied the volunteers for the event and ran the concession. The event raised \$8,740 with more than 250 people in attendance.

Several volunteer days were also organized. In Calgary, members volunteered at the Calgary Drop-In & Rehab Centre, a shelter that offers assistance to homeless and at risk individuals. PSAC sponsored the Friday evening meal and 25 members served 950 meals to patrons of the shelter. In High River and the Siksika First Nation, members helped with cleanup efforts to rebuild communities and repair damages to houses and personal property.

Additionally, PSAC Prairie Region teamed up with PSAC's Social Justice Fund to establish the Alberta Solidarity Fund. We raised \$22,800 to provide support to community-based organizations, Aboriginal communities, inner city neighbourhoods, and community partners. Thank you to all of the Components, Area Councils, Committees and Locals across the country who donated money and helped us provide assistance to the most vulnerable communities in Southern Alberta.

## **FESTIVALS & FESTIVITIES**

June was a month of Pride celebrations across the Prairies. In Lethbridge, members set up a PSAC information booth during Lethbridge Pride Festival and marched in the parade. The Regina Human Rights Committee sponsored and participated in Queen City Pride, while members of the Winnipeg Human Rights Committee marched in the Pride Winnipeg parade. Pride Calgary happens annually in September and the Human Rights Committee once again marched proudly in the parade.

Also in June, members of the Northern Saskatchewan Regional Aboriginal Peoples' Circle were instrumental in organizing a community round dance for National Aboriginal Day on June 21. Unfortunately, the event was cancelled due to weather, but was rescheduled for July 13. Billed as the "World's Largest Round Dance Ever", the event was a success and members were proud to take part.

During the Red River Ex in Winnipeg, members volunteered at the PSAC information booth setup from June 14-23. Hundreds of patrons visited our booth to spin the "We Are All Affected" prize wheel and discuss how cuts to public services are affecting their communities. It was a great awareness and information event, with positive feedback from guests and members alike.

For the third year in a row, the Calgary Area Council and Human Rights Committee participated in GlobalFest, a multi-cultural and international fireworks festival, with support from PSAC's Social Justice Fund. PSAC members partnered with UFCW members to set up a joint-booth, engaging festivalgoers with prizes and information. The HRC and AC participated in all five evenings of the festival, including as a co-sponsor of the Human Rights Forum under the topic of "Multiculturalism in the LGBTQA Community".

Edmonton Regional Women's Committee members handed out hundreds of balloons to children at the K-Days Parade, while Regina Area Council members did the same at the Regina Dragon Boat Festival. Area Council members also handed out information on public services and spoke with parents about the implications of the ongoing cuts.

For Labour Day events, members are always at the forefront of activities happening in their area, recognizing the important contributions of workers. The Lethbridge Regional Women's Committee worked with the Lethbridge Area Council to host a Labour Day BBQ. In Calgary, the Area Council and Human Rights Committee partnered to provide a tent at the annual BBQ. The Prince Albert Area Council donated to their local event and members volunteered. For the BBQ in Saskatoon, the Area Council set up a table and handed out "Public Services are Cool!" tattoos, as well as "We Are All Affected" balloons. In Winnipeg, the Canadian Labour Congress and Winnipeg Labour Council put on a Labour Day event for the first time ever. PSAC was proud to sponsor the inaugural event, which by all accounts was a huge success, serving nearly 1,000 people.

## **COMMITTEE & COUNCIL ACTIVITIES**

It's that time of year for our annual Tools for Schools fundraisers throughout the region. The Winnipeg RWC, as well as the Regina RWC, HRC & AC, each ran successful fundraising drives to collect school supplies and donations for inner-city schools.

Saskatoon RWC members have been very busy this summer. Sisters have been volunteering on a weekly basis to care for the PSAC plot at the Saskatoon Community Garden. The garden is in its third year, however this is the first time participating for RWC members, who have harvested carrots, beets, beans, corn and tomatoes for donation to the local food bank. Another weekly activity for the community was the Summer Snack Program. Each Wednesday, Sisters prepared and distributed healthy, nutritional snacks to kiddie pools and parks in the core neighbourhood.

The Lethbridge RWC supported the *Sacred Spirit of Water* movie premiere in July, presented by the Lethbridge District Labour Council. The topic of safe, clean water is especially important in Lethbridge as fracking exploration continues to expand in southern Alberta. PSAC water bottles and t-shirts were given out as door prizes among the more than 100 people who attended.

Members in Lethbridge were also active in the expansion of the Interfaith Food Bank. Sister Shannan Little and Brother David Pearson sat on the gardening committee to assist with planning and building. Brother Dave did a lot of carpentry work for the project, including building the greenhouse and some of the flowerbeds. The beautiful, new "Teaching Garden" will be used to teach members of the community to grow their own food and is complete with a patio, raised flowerbeds, an underground sprinkler system and children's area.

## LOOKING AHEAD

Preparations are already underway for the PSAC Prairies Convention, to be held in Saskatoon, June 27-29, 2014. Call-out for registrations and resolutions will be sent out this fall and committees will be established at the next Prairie Region Council meeting in Winnipeg, October 18-20, 2013.

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



## **REVP Prairies Activities**

May 21	Travel to Ottawa
May 22-23	AEC Meeting
May 23	Travel to Winnipeg
May 25	MB NDP Convention - Brandon
May 27	FB Meeting - Winnipeg Airport
May 28	PRC Finance Committee Conference Call
May 29	PRC Conference Call
May 30	CEIU Information Session
May 31	Meeting with United Way Labour Rep
June 6	Prairies Video Project Conference Call
June 9	Travel to Ottawa
June 10	AEC Meeting
June 11-14	NBoD Meeting
June 13	Parks Canada Bargaining Meetings re: CS clawback
June 11	PRC Monthly Update Conference Call
June 14	Travel to Winnipeg
June 17	Travel to Brandon
June 17	MFL Executive Council
June 17	Brandon Labour Council Meet and Greet
June 17	MFL Health & Safety Forum
June 18	Travel to Winnipeg
June 19	Freshwater Fish Campaign Meeting
June 19	Travel to Regina
June 20	SFL Labour Legislation/Political Strategy Committee Meeting
June 20	Alberta PRC Reps Conference Call
June 24	AEC Conference Call
June 27	Alberta Flooding Conference Call
July 2	Alberta Flooding Conference Call
July 3	AEC Sub-Committee-Videoconference with CURC
July 4	CMHR Museum AGM
July 5	Protect the Prairie Conference Call
July 8	AEC Conference Call
July 8	NBOD Standing Political Action Committee Conference Call
July 8	Travel to Regina
July 9	Casino Regina Ratification Votes (3)
July 10	Travel to Winnipeg
July 11	Deer Lodge RSCC Meeting
July 12	Travel to Calgary
July 12	Tour of Calgary Drop In Centre & SJF Cheque Presentation.
July 12	Volunteer with Food Prep & Service at Drop in Centre
July 13	Volunteer - Flood Relief in High River AB
July 14	Volunteer & Cheque Presentation – Siksika First Nation

July 15	Travel to Winnipeg
July 17	UTE 50031 – Pledge Form Signing
July 17	Winnipeg Airport Strike Vote
July 22	CMHR Strategy Conference Call
July 25-27	FTMS Pension Training
July 29	Hudson Bay Port Strategy Conference Call
August 1	Call with PRC Women’s Rep
August 1	Call with PRC GLBT Rep
August 2	Call with PRC PWD Rep
August 2	Conference Call with Alberta PRC Reps Re: Conservative Convention
August 5	Travel to Edmonton - Prairies Video Project Filming
August 6-7	Filming in Edmonton & area
August 7	Travel to Calgary
August 8-11	Filming in Calgary & area
August 11	Travel to Lethbridge
August 12	Filming in Lethbridge
August 12	Port of Churchill Strategy Call
August 12	Travel to Swift Current
August 13	Travel to Regina
August 13-14	Filming in Regina
August 14	AEC Conference Call
August 15	Travel to Saskatoon
August 15-16	Filming in Saskatoon
August 16	Travel to Prince Albert
August 17	Filming in Prince Albert
August 18	Travel to Brandon
August 19	Filming in Brandon
August 19	Travel to Winnipeg
August 20-22	Filming in Winnipeg
August 20	Winnipeg Airport GBU Ratification Vote
August 22	AEC Conference Call
August 26	Travel to Brandon
August 26	Conference Call with Alberta PRC Reps Re: Conservative Convention
August 26	Brandon/Shilo TC Ratification Vote
August 26	Prairies Video Project Filming
August 26	Brandon University AGM
August 27	Brandon University Ratification Votes
August 27	Travel to Winnipeg
August 28	ROB Review Conference Call
August 29	SFL – CIU Conference Call
September 2	Labour Day BBQ - Winnipeg
September 3	TC Ratification Vote - NHU Local 50012

September 4	Travel to Edmonton
September 4	Conduct Ratification Vote – Devon, AB
September 5	NHU Local 30016 - Pledge Card Campaign Meeting
September 5	NHU Local 30016 - TC Group Meeting
September 5	Meet & Greet at Edmonton Regional Office with National President
September 6	Conduct TC Ratification Votes (3 sessions)
September 6	Travel to Winnipeg

**Deborah Ferguson  
Alternate REVP  
Prairie Region Council January 2014**

Since the last Prairie Region Council meeting in Winnipeg, Manitoba, I was fortunate enough to have been selected to attend the National Equity conference. For the first time, PSAC had all their Equity groups together. At this conference it was also the first time that a woman's representative was elected to attend National PSAC Convention. Our sister, Nancy Johnson was the successful candidate. Congratulations Nancy!

Although the Equity conference certainly had its challenges due to the fact it was the first time the conferences were held together. I believe the conference was successful as well. I, myself, certainly learnt some new and valuable information regarding the National Childcare Campaign –Kitchen Table Conversations, and the Bread to Roses seminar: the Fight for Equality.

During this term, I have been able to attend, both Edmonton Area Women's Committee meetings. Some of the topics that we discussed were the: December 6 - National Day of Remembrance for Violence against Women, as well as a guest speaker was invited to address the committee about Mental Health.

Over the past four months, I have attended the Edmonton Area Council Special meeting where a new executive was elected and sworn in. During this same meeting “Bill C4” was discussed at length. From this meeting a request has been made to have more materials available for desk drops, containing information stating what the union has done recently, sample form letters so that they can be utilized to send to your Member of Parliament as well as “Did You Know Information”.

Not surprisingly, with the Government's continual onslaught on public service members, “Bill C4” was introduced during this term. I have spent many hours attempting to learn the different areas of this bill in order to educate not only PSAC members but my friends, my family, and my neighbors. During this time, with the help of Edmonton Regional office Representative, Oneil Carlier, I was able to moderate a Town Hall meeting in regards to “Bill C4”. From my understanding, approximately 45 people were in attendance at this meeting. I believe, it is fair to say that many people at this meeting were not happy with the current political environment.

While I was preparing and learning about “Bill C4”, I was able to contact every Member of Parliament's office within the Edmonton area to request for them to attend our Town Hall meeting. I was advised that no Member of Parliament was available to attend. To date, my own Member of Parliament has not returned my phone call.

During this time, two communications committee meetings were scheduled. Unfortunately, the second meeting not enough members of the committee could attend, and once this was identified on the conference call, I canceled the meeting.

Ironically, to date, I had been able to attend all PRC conference calls. However, the Town Hall meeting and the Edmonton area Council meeting happened to coincide with

the conference call schedule. Therefore, I was only able to attend some partial conference call meetings once the meetings I was physically at were concluded.

I am looking forward to this next term, where the Prairie Region will be preparing for Convention.

Please feel free to contact the undersigned with any questions, concerns, or comments.

In solidarity,

Deborah Ferguson  
587 - 926 - 2329  
FergusD@psac.com

**Satinder Bains**  
**Southern SK Rep**  
**Prairie Region Council January 2014**

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

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

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

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

In Solidarity

Satinder Bains

**Dave Burchell  
PWD Rep  
Prairie Region Council January 2014**

13 Nov – Town Hall meeting with Gil McGowan and Deb Ferguson re Bill C-4

16-22 Nov - PSAC Equity Conf as Delegate, Steering Committee member and Resolutions Committee member

Elected as PWD Rep to 2015 PSAC Convention at the Equity Conf.

Attended Area Council meetings

NO HR Committee meetings. Attempt to resurrect this committee will be made on 16 Jan at the Edmonton RO.

**Alec Goertzen  
Calgary AC Rep  
Prairie Region Council January 2014**

Brothers and Sisters of the PRC, this reporting is for the period: Oct - Dec 2013

**Regional Committees –**

Health & Safety:Not much activity has occurred with the departure of PSAC H&S Rep in June, and a competitive process for the placement of a new rep. This only occurred in November with Br. Wirth taking the reins.

**Other activities –**

Conservative Convention – I'm glad to say with planning and what-not of everyone involved for this rally, it REALLY did come together and was said to be huge success in eyes of many of those attending; our affiliates, AEC members, NBOD members, Locals, etc.

Bill C4 – this omnibus Bill was moving along quite fast and attempts were being made to inform members of what changes were coming, and to have members talk with their MPs of what this Bill would do the workforce. Educations sessions were planned in the Calgary area for members but regrettably did not happen.

**Calendar**

Oct 3 – Calgary Area Council Meeting  
Oct 18/19 – PRC Meeting Winnipeg  
Nov 26 – Calgary Area Council Meeting

Respectively submitted,

Br. Alec Goertzen

**Tim Hogan  
Prince Albert AC Rep  
Prairie Region Council January 2014**

Phoned local MP 3 times and e-mailed in regard to budget bill - no response  
Met with local presidents from PIPS and UCCO to discuss joint planning for some action in front of MP office. We will be meeting in January to formulate exactly what action we will be taking.

Monthly conference call as well as education committee call.

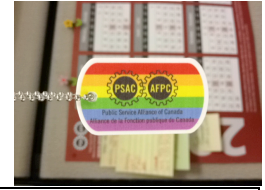
Tim Hogan



**Timothy Hunt - GLBT Rep  
Prairie Region Council January 2014**

**Timothy J. Hunt** 

GLBT Representative | Prairie Region Council |  
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**October 18<sup>th</sup> 2013 to January 30<sup>th</sup> – Report to PRC**

**November 18<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> - National Human Rights Conference**



First time ever all the five equity groups met in Toronto for this “mega conference”. Lots of things worked, some didn’t, timing was a luxury. Great speakers, again not enough time. Hotel was very accommodating though, but the rooms were all over the place!! Workshops were very well run, content was better and facilitators were more “engaging”. Met with all of our ten Pride delegates and “beaded” them for their attendance.

**December 10<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> AFL – Executive Meeting**

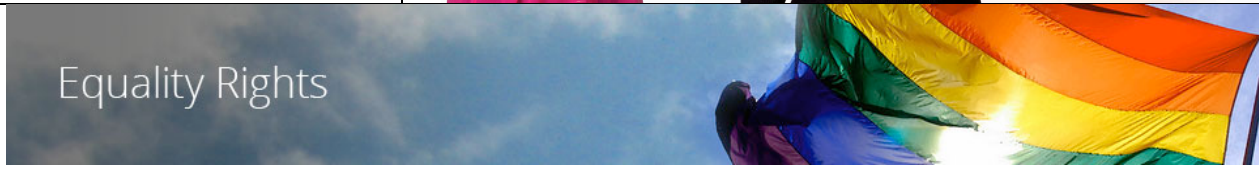


AFL goes on a different tangent with committees, closing all and re-inventing only four new ones. Growing pains will surely be next. AFL also goes after the provincial government on several different topics (including bills 45 & 46). AFL gets new home near the corner of 124<sup>th</sup> Street & Jasper Avenue (fully operational as of January 09<sup>th</sup>).

**December 12<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> – NHRC Meeting (Ottawa)**



This meeting was cancelled (again!!), now rescheduled for March 03<sup>rd</sup> & 04<sup>th</sup>. Many items we couldn’t work on got pushed aside again. Conference calls are not enough, we haven’t had a face to face meeting since December 2012.



Equality Rights

**Nancy Johnson  
RWC Rep  
Prairie Region Council January 2014**

**Regional Women's Committee Rep Report to the Prairie Region Council- January 2014**

After months of planning and participating on the Steering and Resolutions committee, the National Human Rights conference was held in Toronto from November 18-22. It was the first time all equity conferences were held at the same time. The workshops were well attended and we received a lot of positive feedback from our members. Logistically there were some issues but the PSAC staff did a great job to remedy them right away. We also elected two women delegates and two alternates to represent women at the PSAC triennial convention in 2015. I made "herstory" when I was elected as the 1<sup>st</sup> Women's delegate. I want to thank my nominators and the 15 other candidates that put their names forward and provided insights into their world of activism. It was an incredibly empowering moment. The speakers were great but the closing speaker Mary Walsh's satirical humour was a perfect ending for the event. It was an honour to work with the Women's representatives from the other regions and network with the sisters and brothers. I am very proud of the work of the Prairies RWC's.

Held conference calls with National Women's Rep, Andree Cote and REVP, Jeannie Baldwin and the other regional women's reps with respect to International Women's Day, updates to follow on website shortly.

Attended monthly PRC conference call meetings

Attended Fed VP's conference call

Participated in the PRC structural review committee

Reviewed the one-day Health and Safety workshop

Attended the C-4 political action/lobby training in Saskatoon

Participated in Edmonton RWC meetings via teleconference

Promoted the Calgary RWC to members so that it can be reinstated- meeting planned for January 21<sup>st</sup>

Attended Saskatoon RWC meetings

Chaired the Open House on December 5<sup>th</sup>. It was a very special evening as the RWC and Area Council chose to name the Regional office boardroom in his honour. A plaque hangs on the door as you enter and a picture plaque is on the wall. Photos and a short write up will be provided to the communications officer to be posted on the website.

Attended the Convention Host Committee meeting that I am co-chairing with Alex George

Work of the RWC's:

Regina women's committee's one-day workshop in Moose Jaw in October was cancelled due to low enrollment, but plan on doing an event with Saskatoon RWC to increase member participation.

Winnipeg committee continues to be involved in activities throughout their community and plans under way for their seasonal social.

Members attended Sisters in Spirit vigils in Saskatoon, Winnipeg and Regina.

Saskatoon members participated in Operation Christmas child (shoebox gifts), December 6<sup>th</sup> memorial events and our planning to work with women's community group to approach the city of Saskatoon regarding a permanent monument to commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of December 6<sup>th</sup> in 2014.

I had the opportunity to meet with Edmonton area sisters at the women's conference and they shared their commitment to keep the committee active. I will continue to be a presence at their committee meetings so that they meet the active committee requirements. They are extremely passionate about giving back to their communities and having their voices heard. The committee did an excellent distribution of candles at Canada Place for the December 6<sup>th</sup> memorial.

Lethbridge, Regina and Saskatoon RWC member's voices were heard loud and clear during the Resolutions debate at the National women's conference. Prairies women rock!

All committees will be electing their representatives to the prairies convention, preparing budgets and financial statements.

Thank you sisters for the work that you do on behalf of our union sisters.

I also created a year at a glance calendar that I shared with the committees that included important deadlines from registration to financial reporting, etc.

I look forward to the next 6 months leading up to convention.

In solidarity,  
Sister Nancy Johnson

**Jackie Nettleton  
Saskatoon AC Rep  
Prairie Region Council January 2014**

The PSAC regional office was renovated this summer so we were unable to have a face to face meeting in August. However we still managed to organize ourselves for the Saskatoon and District Labour Council's Labour Day BBQ. PSAC volunteers helped prepare the food and then set up our own table. We handed out helium balloons and stickers. Unfortunately the chap sticks arrived too late. Hopefully they will keep until next year. The weather was beautiful for a change and the entertainment was excellent.

We met in regard to Bill C4 and planned lobby groups. Louise Mardell also offered lobby training which several of us attended. However we found that the Saskatoon M.P.s (all Conservative) did not want to meet with us as PSAC. They were only willing to meet with their own constituents and even then, they informed us that they were all booked up.

The Saskatoon Area Council and the Regional Women's Committee partnered again this year to put on an Open House. We had a speaker from the Saskatoon Food Bank. The RWC and AG local 40022 had both participated in the Food Bank garden this past year and people coming to the open house were encouraged to bring a food bank donation. Also, we dedicated the board room to our brother Howard Willems who passed away from mesothelioma due to his exposure on the job. Howard was a dedicated PSAC member and social justice advocate who spent a lot of time in the board room. We now have two plaques mounted on the door and the wall of the boardroom as a reminder of his hard work and dedication. It was especially nice to have people from the Saskatoon Labour Council there to talk of their remembrances of Howard's contributions to the wider labour movement and to the community.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jackie Nettleton  
Saskatoon Area Council

**Matt Tijani  
Winnipeg AC Rep  
Prairie Region Council January 2014**

**November 2013**

- Attended Racially Visible Members Conference in Toronto

Political Action

- o Participated in the Mail out letters to our members in the Provencher Riding for the Manitoba Provincial By-election.

**December 2013**

- Participated in the PRC conference Call

In Solidarity  
Respectively submitted  
Matt Tijani  
WAC – PRC Rep.

**LATE REPORT – Denni Ernst  
North Sask. Rep  
Prairie Region Council January 2014**

Put me down for a nil report.  
Thanks

**LATE REPORT - Alex George  
Aboriginal Peoples Rep  
Prairie Region Council January 2014**

Nothing to report for my area.

**LATE REPORT – Gus Mardli  
SE Manitoba Rep  
Prairie Region Council January 2014**

Nothing to report as I was elected to the position after the deadline. I will be attending the January PRC meeting.

In solidarity,  
Gus Mardli  
SE Manitoba Rep

**LATE REPORT – Susan Norman  
Westman AC Rep  
Prairie Region Council January 2014**

# Westman Area Representative Report

January, 2014

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I do not have too much to report since the last PRC Meeting.

We continue to struggle to have participation by locals in the area. We continue to hold WMAC meetings and try to encourage other brothers and sisters to participate. I attend the Brandon Labour Council Meetings when time allows.

I took part in the National PSAC Equity Conference. I found it to be extremely exciting to be in a room with so many activists, it definitely gets the blood moving. It brought home that so many have the same struggles across all lines of equity.

The WMAC took part in December with decorating the United Way Christmas Tree and Auction.

We will continue to see if there is support for the WMAC Women's Committee. I have been speaking with women and there still seems to be an interest to get it going. Due to health I have not been as diligent as I would have liked to be.

I will be attending the upcoming PSAC Bargaining Conference being held in Ottawa in mid February 2014.

## Calendar of Events

October 18 & 19	Prairie Region Council Meeting	Winnipeg
October 22	WMAC Executive Meeting	Brandon
October 23	Brandon Labour Council Meeting	Brandon
October 30	WMAC General Meeting	Brandon
November 4	PRC Conference Call	
November 7	PRC National Officers Conference Call	
November 18 -22	PSAC Equity Conference	Ottawa
November 27	PRC Structure Conference Call	
December 11	PRC Conference Call	

In Solidarity,

Susan Norman

**LATE REPORT – Petrina Runns  
Directly Chartered Locals Rep  
Prairie Region Council January 2014**

Not much to report. We are in the middle of getting some new executive and seems to be some interest. Keith Gauthier has accepted a position at the Regina regional office. So that's exciting for us as he is the first from our local to now be working for PSAC. We are currently still waiting for our collective agreement to be finalized. That's about all that's happening.

DCL  
Petrina Runns.