

## Prairie Region Council Rep Reports November 2015:

Position	Name	Page #	Rec'd by Deadline
REVP	Marianne Hladun	2	Yes
Racially Visible Persons Rep	Sam Akinsanya	25	Yes
Young Workers Rep	Nathaniel Angus-Jackman	30	Yes
Regina AC Rep	Satinder Bains	31	Yes
Southern SK Rep	Deanna Getz	32	Yes
Calgary AC Rep	Alec Goertzen	33	Yes
PWD Rep	Kim Haynes	35	Yes
GLBT Persons Rep	Timothy Hunt	37	Yes
Aboriginal Peoples Rep	Janette Husak	38	No
RWC Rep	Nancy Johnson	39	Yes
Westman AC Rep	Glen Johnston	41	Yes
Southern AB Rep	Deb Kosteniuk	43	Yes
Lethbridge AC Rep	Gregory Krokosh	44	Yes
DCL Rep	Michelle Lang	45	Yes
Edmonton AC Rep	Ben Lemon	46	Yes
SE Manitoba Rep	Gus Mardli	48	No
Saskatoon AC Rep	Jackie Nettleton	51	Yes
Northern AB Rep	Murray Pruden	53	Yes
Winnipeg AC Rep	Matt Tijani	60	Yes

Separate Employers Rep	Chad Kemery	No Report
Prince Albert AC Rep	Trudy Lerat	No Report
Northern SK Rep	Melanie Markling	No Report

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

A lot has happened since our last Prairie Region Council meeting, held February 27-28, 2015 in Winnipeg. I will touch on some of the highlights in this report, but I encourage you to read through the June and October NBoD reports attached to this report for full details on regional activities and updates throughout the year.

**FEDERAL ELECTION**

Without question, federal election work was our top priority this past year, as first outlined by the NBoD in PSAC's top three priorities. Prairies leadership wholeheartedly supported this position at the Prairies Summit, held September 20-21, 2014 in Regina and began planning our work within the region. Delegates at the PSAC National Triennial Convention reaffirmed our goal to unseat the Conservatives and defeat Harper and passed an emergency resolution allocating special funds to support the work.

With a unanimous mandate from our 17th Triennial Convention, PSAC launched the Vote to Stop the Cuts public awareness campaign on July 13. The message: stop the cuts to public services by voting out the Harper Conservatives. After its launch, Vote to Stop the Cuts went viral. The two campaign videos received 5.3 million views; Over 370,000 people visited [VoteToStopTheCuts.ca](http://VoteToStopTheCuts.ca); Campaign content got 1.3 million Tweets, Facebook likes and shares; Canadians sent 5,339 letters to candidates; and PSAC's Facebook following grew from 9,000 followers, to 28,000, making us one of the most influential Canadian unions on social media. An Ekos poll, taken right before the election suggested eight out of ten respondents believed that cuts to public services would influence the way they voted. The campaign owes its success to PSAC members who spread the message, through face-to-face conversations, by wearing a campaign button, sharing campaign messages on social media and sending letters to candidates.

In the Prairie Region, Area Councils and Committees spent months reaching out to members to discuss election issues and encourage members to vote in advance polls. Candidates' forums were held in five potential swing ridings in the Prairies and were well received by members and the public. In some cases they were the only forums planned for those ridings during the entire election campaign. In Prince Albert, Area Council and RAPC members held an event called "One Vote Counts", where members discussed election issues. I was invited to attend to provide an update on PSAC's election plans and answer questions from members.

Dozens of members organized mail-outs from each regional office to Prairies members in the area. The mail out included a newsletter with information about various activities and ways to get involved, as well as a letter addressed to members in specific ridings. The newsletter was

one way to promote the regional telephone town hall about the federal election and the webinar about writing a letter to the editor. Members also participated in phone banks, calling members in certain ridings to discuss the election, important issues and ensure they vote.

All of this was in addition to the monthly activities Locals participated in to mark the 19<sup>th</sup> and ensure public visibility and workplace discussion about the election and bargaining. I want to thank the Locals that participated in these events for their dedication and the creativity demonstrated by some of the unique and attention-grabbing actions.

While it was disappointing to see the NDP lose so many seats across the country, it was heartening to see the increased voter turnout—the highest since 1993—and the overwhelming message from Canadians that we deserve better and expect more from our government. After months of work, we successfully defeated the federal Conservative government and #StoppedHarper. We look forward to working with the new Liberal government, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Treasury Board President Scott Brison to restore critical public services and programs across the country, and to resume bargaining as soon as possible. Mr. Brison has already reached out to PSAC National President Robyn Benson with a phone call to offer greetings and discuss a meeting in the near future.

## **PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS**

Alberta's NDP won the May 5 provincial election by a landslide, sweeping to power with a majority mandate. The NDP gained 49 seats for a total of 53 out of the 87 seats.

We are proud to see three PSAC members/staff elected as NDP MLAs, including David Shepherd (UTE member) in Edmonton-Centre, Maria Fitzpatrick (USGE member) in Lethbridge East, and Oneil Carlier (former Agriculture member & PSAC Edmonton Regional Rep) in Whitecourt-Ste Anne. We look forward to working together with them on important issues for our members in Alberta.

It was a truly inspiring night for PSAC members and Albertans who favour socially progressive policies that support working families, protect our environment and invest in our future.

We were happy to have Siobhan Vipond join us on our recent federal election telephone town hall to share her experiences from Alberta and the important role labour played. Now, we can take the lessons learned in Alberta, and more recently in the federal election, and apply them to the upcoming provincial elections in Saskatchewan (April 4, 2016) and Manitoba (April 19, 2016).

In Saskatchewan, Brad Wall's Saskatchewan Party government is riding high in the polls, but their dominance is impacting public services across the board. Crown Corporations are at risk of privatization—despite a campaign promise that explicitly stated otherwise—and labour rights are being stomped on. The NDP made headway in several important ridings in Saskatchewan in

the federal election, which may signal Saskatchewan residents are ready for progressive representation at the legislature.

In Manitoba, the NDP remains in power, but is increasingly at risk. The alternative is truly frightening; with the Progressive Conservatives promising wide reaching cuts to public services, privatization of profitable Crown Corporations, and a far right wing agenda on social issues.

It's obvious there is work to do in both provincial elections, and I know PSAC members will step up to the challenge, as they did in the federal election, and work together with other unions and community groups to promote election issues.

## **REGIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN**

A large part of the regional strategic plan was focused on election activities. However, other initiatives were geared at general membership engagement.

We held six interactive webinars on a monthly basis leading up to the summer, with topics including bargaining, retirement security, childcare, political action, labour history, and health and safety. Participation varied depending on topic, but feedback was always positive. Members were grateful for an opportunity to learn and engage with their union from the comfort of their homes. We plan to hold more webinars and I welcome any feedback or suggestions for topics or how to improve the experience.

We also worked with CCPA to investigate the effect of cuts to several important public services and programs in the Prairies. With the election of a new government, we have a unique opportunity to use this data and research to call on the Liberal government to reinvest in public services and reverse some of the damaging cuts made by the Conservative government. We expect the CCPA to release this report by the end of the year, at which point we will promote it and distribute it to members.

Although not included in the strategic plan, we have been looking into making some changes to the Prairies website to improve user experience and make it easier for members to quickly access the information they need. We have an outline of proposed changes, reviewed and approved by the PRC Communications Committee, and have a cost estimate from the agency used to develop the PSAC regional and national websites. However, I would like to include this in a broader discussion on member engagement, and look at the ways we can get more members involved, and communicate to members in the way that's most effective. This discussion should also include potential member surveys and other research.

## **BARGAINING**

Following a case conference with the Ontario Superior Court, a new date for the hearing of our injunction application on C-59 has been set for March 1-2, 2016. The parties consented to the adjournment as a sign of good faith to give the new government elect an opportunity to confirm their campaign promises of not exercising their powers under C-59, the law that allowed the government to unilaterally change provisions in federal government employee contracts and skip over collective bargaining.

Bargaining with most of our government units is on hold while the new government gets organized. The Parks Canada team has exchanged demands with the employer. The CRA bargaining team is hoping to be in contact with the employer in the very near future to start the process of returning to the table to have meaningful negotiations.

For further updates on regional updates, please refer to the bargaining section in the two most recent NBoD reports.

## **ORGANIZING**

Following certification of a new unit at the University of Saskatchewan including research assistants, teaching assistants, fellows and student assistants, Local 40004 has held an inaugural AGM. Welcome to the newly elected Local executive and the bargaining team members.

We are also in the process of organizing post docs at the University of Saskatchewan and expect to file before the end of the year.

## **NATIONAL UPDATES**

With the new government we have an exciting opportunity to forge an open, transparent, respectful dialogue that benefits public service workers and all Canadians. The NBoD will meet for a strategy session in Dec. 2015 to discuss the situation and our priorities moving forward. We will once again bring together PRC and national officers at our first PRC meeting in 2016 to build on this with regional input and dialogue

PSAC has released several great videos over the past six months on various topics, including childcare, past PSAC victories, veterans' issues, and cuts to public services. Visit [youtube.com/psacwebmaster](http://youtube.com/psacwebmaster) to view the latest collection of videos.

## **CONFERENCES & COURSES**

The 2015 UDP West/North wrapped up a couple months ago and applications have already been received for the 2016 cycle and are being reviewed. Members who applied will be notified early in the new year. The first face-to-face session will take place in March 2016 in Vancouver.

The Prairie Region Health & Safety Conference will be held in Winnipeg, November 21-22, with over 60 members from across the Prairies coming together. The overall focus will be the current challenges in dealing with employers, with particular attention to the roles of Workplace Health & Safety Committees, and the challenges faced by committee members. We have an exciting keynote speaker, Dr. Leigh Quesnel, on the issue of psychological bullying and harassment, as well as panel presentations and workshops on violence prevention in the workplace, mental health first aid and medical disclosure. Participants will also discuss structure and mandate options for a regional health and safety committee, as was mandated by the PSAC National Triennial Convention.

A resolution passed at the 2015 PSAC National Triennial Convention established Regional Racially Visible Conferences for the 2016-2018 budget cycle. Regional racially visible reps have already participated in an initial discussion, as they will play an important role in the planning and execution of this new conference. PSAC also launched an online survey seeking input from racially visible members to help prepare.

Additionally, we are due to hold our next Regional Women's Conference and are looking at separate dates in spring/summer 2016 for both conferences.

The PSAC Prairie region is pleased to once again offer the Unionism on Turtle Island course December 12-16, 2015 at the PSAC Edmonton Regional Office. The Unionism on Turtle Island course will bring together up to 20 PSAC members from across the Prairie Region for an intense five days. Participants will explore the history of oppression and resistance, Aboriginal issues at the bargaining table, creating a representative workforce, and opening the union to Aboriginal activists.

## **PRAIRIE REGION CONVENTION**

I want to thank you all for your feedback on the PRC conference calls to choose a convention location. We have now confirmed the 7<sup>th</sup> Triennial Prairie Region Convention will be held in Winnipeg, April 21-23, 2017.

Understandably, some people were disappointed that we weren't able to bring convention to Alberta—including myself. Alberta is a great province to visit, and the convention facilities were impressive. But we must respect the ruling of the National President and our commitment to support unionized facilities and services. The AFL recently advised me that several unions are actively organizing hotels, so I am hopeful that it will be possible for the 2020 convention to be held in Alberta.

We have already begun planning and have established a timeline of important dates, which we will provide at our PRC meeting. We also have several Convention related topics to discuss, so we can continue to move ahead. I look forward to your feedback.

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 27-30, 2015**

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

**FEDERAL ELECTION**

Preparing for the federal election has been the main priority for Prairies members over the past few months, and especially since the writ dropped. It's all hands on deck as we gear up to elect a new government on October 19.

We continue to offer various educational opportunities to members throughout the Prairie Region in preparation for the election and campaigning. These courses include: Setting the Stage for the Next Federal Election, Electing Our Future mini workshops, Political Action Skills for Activists, and a special Regional Women's Committee election training initiative, in conjunction with this year's Prairie School for Union Women.

Area Councils spearheaded candidates' forums in five potential swing ridings in the Prairies. We sponsored, organized and moderated all of the forums, but they were open to the public and questions came from the floor. The events were well received by members and the public. In some cases they were the only forums planned for those ridings during the entire election campaign. In Prince Albert, Area Council and RAPC members held an event called "One Vote Counts", where members discussed election issues. I was invited to attend to provide an update on PSAC's election plans and answer questions from members.

Dozens of members organized mail-outs from each regional office to Prairies members in the area. The mail out included a newsletter with information about various activities and ways to get involved, as well as a letter addressed to members in specific ridings.

The newsletter was one way to promote the regional telephone town hall about the federal election, scheduled for October 7, and the webinar about writing a letter to the editor, to be held on October 1. This two-hour webinar will be remounted from a full-day course held in the NCR and facilitated by former *Ottawa Citizen* journalist Pauline Tam.

Members have also been busy participating in phone banks, calling members in certain ridings to discuss the election, important issues and ensure they vote. Feedback from members on these calls has been overwhelmingly positive and appreciative. It's also been a great way to get members involved that haven't been involved in the past.



We've also brought two members in as Elections Assistants to help Area Councils reach PSAC members, coordinate events and actions and provide communications support to our office. They've been an asset to our election preparations.

### **COMMITTEES IN ACTION**

National Public Service Week is an annual opportunity to remind members and the public of the cuts to public services and the hypocrisy of the Conservative government. This year, members also used the opportunity to help launch PSAC's Stop The Cuts campaign. The Calgary Area Council, RWC and HRC participated in the PSAC Family Day BBQ on June 14 to demonstrate our boycott of National Public Service Week and show appreciation for the membership. The Saskatoon Area Council promoted the boycott by joining other unions in the community on June 21 to celebrate the work of labour in Saskatoon instead of participating in employer events.

Pride events were held across the Prairies this summer. Members of the Saskatoon AC and Lethbridge AC participated in the Pride parades, as did members of the Winnipeg HRC and Edmonton HRC, marching in the parade and handing out hundreds of tattoos, flags, slap fans, and Pride-themed informational pamphlets.

For the first time, PSAC participated in Fiestaval Latin Festival at Calgary Olympic Plaza in July. The Calgary Area Council, RWC and HRC worked together to promote PSAC's Stop The Cuts campaign and hand out information and other materials. Many people who visited the tent expressed discontent with the current government and were surprised by the extent of the cuts made to the public service.

Our Calgary committees continued to work together for PSAC's annual participation in GlobalFest. This year PSAC co-sponsored the citizenship ceremony with PIPSC. We also sponsored a cultural healing panel on the theme of reconnecting with lost heritage. The panel included Sister Victoria Norris who is a member of HRC. Sister Deb Kosteniuk, Calgary RWC Chair, gave closing comments for this forum.

Members in Lethbridge were busy this summer, participating in the Young Chef Tomato Project with the Lethbridge Food Bank. The Area Council is getting members involved in activities in larger numbers than ever before and is making our union known in the community. In May, the Lethbridge RWC distributed #votechildcare2015 treat bags of candy pacifiers at the Lethbridge Research Centre and the local Canada Revenue Agency office. In June, the RWC supported the Area Council by participating on the PSAC team at the Lethbridge Rotary Dragon Boat Festival. The team placed third in the Community D Division, a great accomplishment for a team of members who have never paddled a dragon boat before. In August, the Area Council and RWC participated in the Lethbridge Whoop Up Days Parade, distributing Standing Together for Public Services lollipops and stickers and ladybug PSAC tattoos.

In Saskatoon, members participated in National Childcare Week by chalking up sidewalks in the downtown and at local parks to raise awareness of this important issue. Members volunteered at the Summer Snack Program one day a week and, together with the Area Council and UTE Local 40023, sponsored a PSAC pizza day for the program. Committee members have

volunteered at the Saskatoon Food Bank Community garden throughout the summer with garden plots maintenance and care. This will yield large amounts of vegetables for the community throughout the summer. Committee members also supported the Aboriginal walkers who came into Saskatoon by providing them snacks and refreshments as they are walking across Canada to raise awareness against violence against women and the need for National inquiry for MMIW.

The Northern Saskatchewan Regional Aboriginal People's Circle has been working closely with the Prince Albert Indian and Metis Friendship Centre on several community events, including a walk for missing women, National Aboriginal Day Round Dance and helping the aboriginal community register for the upcoming elections

The Edmonton RWC volunteered at the Vote Child Care 2015 Mother's Day Family Picnic. They also planted a community garden and donated hundreds of dollars of school supplies through a donation drive for an inner city school.

The Edmonton HRC hosted their first ever National Aboriginal Day celebration on June 20 at the Alberta Legislative Building. In August, the Edmonton Area Council hosted a Solidarity BBQ for approximately 400 members and distributed elections materials.

Area Council members in Regina, Saskatoon, Lethbridge, Winnipeg and Westman attended their respective Labour Day picnics and set up a PSAC booth, distributing fruit snacks, balloons and other materials to attendees. In Calgary, the Area Council took the lead with the annual Labour Day BBQ at Olympic Plaza—a co-operative effort with other unions and the District Labour Council.

## **BARGAINING UPDATE**

This collective agreement for members employed by the Royal Canadian Mint expired December 31, 2013. Membership update meetings were held on May 2 in Winnipeg and May 23 in Ottawa. Our last round of negotiations was July 2015, but little progress was made. The next round is scheduled for October 26-30. Meanwhile, the next round for the Winnipeg Protective Services Officers at the Royal Canadian Mint is December.

The collective agreement for the Centre for Aboriginal Human Resource Development (CAHRD) expired on August 7, 2015. A bargaining team has been elected and team meetings have been held. We expect to exchange in October.

Bargaining preparations are underway at the University of Winnipeg and University of Saskatchewan as these units seek a first collective agreement. Bargaining also continues for a first collective agreement with Churchill Marine Tank Farm.

This collective agreement with the Winnipeg Airport Authority expired June 30, 2015. Our bargaining team has been selected, and a membership meeting was held June 4. We plan to exchange proposals on November 27. Meanwhile, at the Edmonton Airport, the collective

agreement for the FR & Captains unit expired December 31, 2014. We have already exchanged proposals and our next round is scheduled for November.

Finally, the collective agreement for members employed by Atco Structures and Logistics 15 Wing Moose Jaw expires December 31, 2015. The input call and notice to bargain have been issued.

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

The Prairie Region Health & Safety Conference will be held in Winnipeg, November 21-22. The overall focus will be the current challenges in dealing with employers, with particular attention to the roles of Workplace Health & Safety Committees, and the challenges faced by committee members.

We have scheduled our next Prairie Region Council meeting for November 26-29 in Edmonton, where we will discuss our plans going forward with the new political climate, post federal election. We will also begin discussing plans for the Prairie Region Triennial Convention, which has been scheduled for April 21-23, 2017. Due to an insufficient number of unionized hotel rooms in Alberta, Convention will be held in Winnipeg.

Respectfully submitted,



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

## REVP PRAIRIES ACTIVITIES

May 10, 2015	Travel to Ottawa
May 11 - 12	AEC meeting
May 12	Travel to Winnipeg
May 13	Childcare Rally
May 13	Sodexo LOU Rat Vote Conference Call
May 13	Prairies "Turn Back Time" Webinar
May 14	NBoD Education Committee Conference Call
May 19	TB Mobilization Conference Call
May 26	Political Action Committee and Collective Bargaining Committee Conference Call
May 27	Travel to Brandon
May 28 - 30	MFL Convention
May 29	Meeting with Brandon University Local Executive
May 30	Travel to Winnipeg
May 31	Travel to Ottawa
June 1	AEC Meeting
June 1	NBOD Strategy Planning Committee Meeting
June 2-3	NBoD Meeting
June 2	Standing Education Committee Meeting
June 2	Prairie Region Council Conference Call
June 3	Parks NSCC Meeting
June 25	Travel to Ottawa
June 26	Polcom/REVP/Regional Coordinators Federal Election Meeting
June 26	Travel to Winnipeg
June 29-30	AEC Meeting
June 30	Travel to Winnipeg

July 2	Standing Education Committee Meeting
July 4	UVAE Family Day BBQ
July 7	Organizing Proposal Conference Call
July 7	UCTE Local 50602 Ratification Meetings
July 8	Meeting with UNE RVP MB
July 8	Travel to Brandon
July 8	Westman Area Council Meeting
July 8	Travel to Winnipeg
July 9	Meeting with PRC Young Workers Rep
July 14	Conference Call with SFL re: Own It Anti-Privatization Campaign
July 14	Winnipeg Area Council Meeting
July 15	NBOD Strategy Planning Committee Conference Call
July 15	Travel to Vancouver
July 16-19	ATMS Training
July 20	Travel to Winnipeg
July 20	Regina Area Council Meeting by Conference Call
July 21	Federal Election Campaign Conference Call
July 25	CLC Doorknocking - Elmwood-Transcona
July 27	UNE Conference Call
July 28	RCM NSCC by Conference Call
August 4	CFCR Radio Interview - Saskatoon
August 5	Conference Call with Director, Finance
August 5	Election Group Conference Call
August 5	Saskatoon Area Council Meeting
August 6	Meeting with NextUp Sask. Coordinator
August 6	Public Event for Federal Leaders Debate, Saskatoon
August 7	Travel to Winnipeg

August 10	Meeting with Liberal Candidate, Winnipeg South
August 13	MFL Meeting re: C-377 and Federal Election Planning
August 13	Edmonton RWC by Conference Call
August 14	UNE Local Meeting at Riding Mountain National Park
August 18	CLC Doorknocking - Winnipeg-Centre
August 19	Agr Union Membership Meeting
August 20	Attended Agr Union Food Safety First Press Conference, Winnipeg
August 20	Elections Group Conference Call
August 26	Meeting with Research Assistant
August 26	NBOD Strategy Planning Committee Conference Call
August 27	CLC/AFL Federal Election Conference Call
August 31	Conference Call with Research Assistant
Sept. 2	Federal Election Conference Call with Prairies Staff
Sept. 2	CLC/SFL Federal Election Conference Call
Sept. 2	PRC Conference Call
Sept. 3	Elections Group Conference Call
Sept. 4	Winnipeg 1919 General Strike Walking Tour
Sept. 7	Labour Day March & Picnic, Winnipeg
Sept. 7	Travel to Ottawa
Sept. 8	Standing Education Committee Meeting
Sept. 8	Travel to Montebello
Sept. 8	NBOD Strategy Session Planning Committee – Meeting with Facilitators
Sept. 9	NBOD Meeting
Sept. 9-11	NBOD Strategy Session
Sept. 10	PRC Conference Call
Sept. 12	AEC Meeting

Sept. 12	APSAR Annual Meeting
Sept. 14-15	AEC Meeting
Sept. 15	Elections Group Meeting
Sept. 16	Travel to Saskatoon
Sept. 16	Moderate Area Council Candidate Forum for Saskatoon-West
Sept. 17	Travel to Prince Albert
Sept. 17	Federal Election Membership Townhall in Prince Albert
Sept. 17	Travel to Saskatoon
Sept. 18	Travel to Edmonton
Sept. 18	Doorknock in Edmonton Centre
Sept. 19	Chair UDP-West Mock Convention, Edmonton
Sept. 21	Travel to Saskatoon
Sept. 21	General Membership Meeting Local 40004 - Univ. of Sask.
Sept. 22	Travel to Winnipeg
Sept. 22	Moderate Area Council Candidate Forum in Elmwood-Transcona
Sept. 23	AFL Political Strategy Committee by Conference Call
Sept. 23	Travel to Shilo
Sept. 23	Meeting with FR (SV Group) Members
Sept. 23	UNDE General Membership Meeting, Shilo
Sept. 23	Travel to Winnipeg

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

**June 2-5, 2015**

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

**ALBERTA PROVINCIAL ELECTION**

Alberta's NDP won the May 5 provincial election by a landslide, sweeping to power with a majority mandate. The NDP gained 49 seats for a total of 53 out of the 87 seats in the Legislature. PSAC Area Council presidents in Edmonton, Calgary and Lethbridge mailed a joint letter to members encouraging them to vote and get involved in the election.

We are proud to see three PSAC members elected as NDP MLAs, including David Shepherd (UTE member) in Edmonton-Centre, Maria Fitzpatrick (USGE member) in Lethbridge East, and Oneil Carlier (former Agriculture member & PSAC Edmonton Regional Rep) in Whitecourt-Ste Anne. We look forward to working together with them on important issues for our members in Alberta.

It was a truly inspiring night for PSAC members and Albertans who favour socially progressive policies that support working families, protect our environment and invest in our future. The results give us renewed hope and determination heading into the federal election. If we can make change happen in a province with a 44-year Progressive Conservative stronghold—the longest unbroken run in government at the provincial or federal level in Canadian history—we can make change happen anywhere.

**REGIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN**

We continue to work on the activities outlined in our regional strategic plan.

On March 16, the PSAC Prairie Region hosted a telephone town hall for Treasury Board members to give updates on Treasury Board bargaining and answer questions. We called nearly 10,000 PSAC members employed by Treasury Board throughout Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

We also held another round of multi-local meetings throughout the region to update members on bargaining issues, our continued fight for sick leave, the upcoming federal election, and more. Over twenty meetings were held in nine different locations throughout March, April and May.



Webinar Wednesday continues to grow in popularity. The monthly, interactive webinars are an outlet for members to learn about critical issues, get important updates and ask questions. To date, we've held four webinars on bargaining, retirement, childcare and political action. Our May webinar was scheduled to be about labour history, however, given the recent attacks on sick leave and collective bargaining in the federal budget, we changed the topic to focus on sick leave. In June, the topic will be health and safety.

The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives Manitoba Office has provided us with the first draft of our sponsored study on the effects of public services cuts in the Prairies. We will review and make revisions, with the goal of releasing the study later this month.

As part of our ongoing Prairies Video Project, we interviewed several PSAC members in Lethbridge who are currently undergoing cancer treatments. They described their experiences and how invaluable their sick leave has been for them and their families. That video is now available on the PSAC Prairies YouTube channel or the PSAC Prairies website. We will also be compiling all of the Prairies Video Project videos onto USB sticks to share with locals.

In March, we mailed out a newsletter to PSAC Prairies members containing important updates, including information about the webinars, multi-local meetings, telephone town hall and 19<sup>th</sup> Day of Action. This information went out to over 20,000 members.

Working with a specialist, we 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.

Prairies members were in attendance at all three of the CLC's Election Preparation Conferences, in Edmonton, Saskatoon and Winnipeg.

PSAC Prairies was proud to sponsor Public Interest Alberta's Advocacy Conference. The conference brought together key leaders and advocates to envision what a just and fair Alberta would look like and how we can work together to make it happen. The speakers were top-notch and the discussion was relevant at the federal level, as well. Our support helped bring Avi Lewis, award-winning documentary filmmaker and television journalist, to the conference as the keynote speaker.

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

On March 19, PSAC members participated in actions and stood together for healthy workplaces. Hundreds of members participated in a dozen different actions held throughout the Prairies.

Members held rallies in Calgary, Edmonton, Regina, Saskatoon and Winnipeg, with strong support from PSAC members and affiliates and fabulous guest speakers to get the crowds fired

up. Members outside of those major event centres also took part by posing for photos outside the workplace in coordinated colours or holding PSAC flags.

The day before, UTE took part in a national bargaining action. In Edmonton, UTE members wore red and stood together for a photo outside the workplace. In Regina, UTE members had "I Support My Bargaining Team" t-shirts made and took a group photo wearing them. In Winnipeg, the UTE Local held a rally over the lunch hour

All of these events are very popular among members and are getting members mobilized who aren't typically involved in union activities. For the May 19 Day of Action, members will focus on communicating and contacting federal MPs, as they are back in their home riding for the week of May 19-22, 2015.

### **COMMITTEES IN ACTION**

PSAC sisters recognized March 8 International Women's Day by participating in various activities throughout the region. In Calgary, the RWC held an event under the theme, "Make It Happen". The event was co-hosted with a number of unions and non-profit groups, including the Women's Centre of Calgary and the Alberta Network of Immigrant Women, and was well attended by over 200 women. The Saskatoon RWC event was also held in conjunction with other community organizations.

Providing support to those less fortunate continues to be a priority for PSAC members in the Prairie Region. In March, the Winnipeg Human Rights Committee volunteered at Siloam Mission, an organization that provides meals, clothing and services to Winnipeg's homeless community. After a tour of the facilities, they spent time helping out and assisting with sorting clothes, among other tasks.

The Winnipeg Area Council launched a new partnership with Ndinawe, an integrated service organization for youth, focusing on shelter, education, outreach and support. With funding from PSAC's Social Justice Fund, the Area Council was able to purchase small appliances and equipment for use in their kitchen, as well as food to start a meal program. Next, Area Council members will work with Ndinawe to start a container gardening program, using old recycling bins and other containers to produce vegetables to use in the kitchen.

In Regina, the RWC raised money for Sofia House, which delivers essential programs that support abused women and children when they leave emergency shelters or are referred from other agencies. The money was raised with donations from attendees of the RWC-organized self-defense for women class. The event was well attended and instructed by a member and certified trainer from Local 40005.

Regional Women's Committees across the Prairies have been inviting special guest speakers to meetings to give members a new perspective on important issues. In Winnipeg, the RWC welcomed RCMP Corporal Bettina Schaible, a founding member and investigator on the

Manitoba Integrated Task Force on Missing and Murdered Women, to speak about the project and her experience as a female police officer.

The Calgary RWC welcomed Brenda Crompton from the Brenda Strafford Society, a shelter for women and their children who have fled domestic violence. Brenda spoke about how she changed her life for the better, after growing up in foster homes and a cycle of abuse. On another occasion, UTE member Victoria Budd did a two-hour presentation on the effect of racism towards Aboriginal peoples and the intergenerational impact.

Members from the Calgary Area Council, RWC and HRC worked together with members from the Lethbridge Area Council and RWC to come up with the perfect way to let Stephen Harper know exactly how they feel. They developed a special Valentine's Day card that read, "Dear Steve: Roses are red, violets are blue. We want a new Prime Minister, and it isn't you!" The message was shared on social media.

In February, PSAC members distributed postcards condemning the closures of Veterans Affairs offices across Canada, including the Brandon office, which provided services to 2,400 clients. Members of the PSAC Westman Area Council organized this initiative by rounding up a team of volunteers to flag down cars just past the port of entry at Boissevain. Dozens of cars pulled over, despite the freezing temperatures, to discuss the impact of the closures for our veterans. Those who pulled over were very interested in learning more and took extra postcards to distribute to their friends.

## **BARGAINING UPDATE**

More than 1,100 academic workers at the University of Saskatchewan have joined the PSAC. The bargaining unit was certified by the Saskatchewan Labour Relations Board on April 23, 2015 and comprises all registered graduate students, including teaching assistants, teaching fellows, student assistants and research assistants. The academic workers voted 96 per cent in favour of joining PSAC. We will work to establish a local executive and bargaining team to begin negotiation on their first collective agreement.

Negotiations continue with the University of Winnipeg and Avion Services Corporation, which include the security guards at the Winnipeg Airport, as well as the Royal Canadian Mint and the Winnipeg Protective Services Officers at the Mint. After we filed an unfair labour practice several months ago, Churchill Marine Tank Farm Company has agreed to resume negotiations. If an agreement is not reached, we will proceed with the ULP as scheduled.

Notice to bargain has been served to the Centre for Aboriginal Human Resource Development (CAHRD) and Winnipeg Airport Authority. Both collective agreements expire this summer.

Members working for the Saskatoon Airport Authority recently ratified their collective agreement after several months of bargaining.

## CONFERENCES & EDUCATION

Over 300 members received PSAC training through the 18 courses held during the first quarter of 2015. This includes the Leading Change course held in Winnipeg, January 30-31. The two-day course brought together 45 leaders who will help move our union forward, including those elected to Component Executives, Regional Councils, NAPC, and the National Human Rights Committee.

We were pleased to host Step 2 of UDP West/North in the Prairies. The first face-to-face meeting of the UDP group was held in Winnipeg, March 19-22, with 21 participants, including 7 from the Prairies. Thank you to Bob Jackson and Jack Bourassa for coming to speak with participants. I'd also like to extend a special thanks to the facilitation team for their ongoing hard work and dedication to ensure the New UDP is a total success.

The 2015 AFL Convention was held in Calgary, April 15-19, under the theme "Dream No Little Dreams: How and Why Unions Need to Redefine the Possible". More than 400 labour activists and leaders, including a small delegation of PSAC members, attended the convention.

Respectfully submitted,



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

## REVP PRAIRIES ACTIVITIES

January 23 - 24	CLC Election Preparation Conference - Winnipeg
January 26	Prairies Steering Committee Conference Call
January 27	Meeting with CCPA Manitoba, Re: study on public service cuts
January 29	PSAC National Triennial Constitution Committee Conference Call
January 30 – 31	PSAC Leadership Training
February 3	Royal Canadian Mint NSCC
February 4	Travel to Saskatoon
February 6	Meeting with U of S Organizing Team
February 7	Privatization Panel at Saskatoon & District Labour Council AGM
February 8	Travel to Winnipeg
February 9	Prairies Steering Committee Conference Call
February 10	Prairies Organizing Meeting
February 10	Travel to Ottawa
February 11	PSAC Triennial Convention Committee Chairs Meeting
February 11	Prairies “Retirement Revolution” Webinar
February 12 - 13	AEC Meeting
February 16 - 20	PSAC Triennial Convention Committees Meetings
February 21	Travel to Winnipeg
February 27 - 28	Prairie Region Council Meeting
March 1	Travel to Ottawa
March 2	AEC Meeting
March 3 - 4	NBoD Meeting
March 3	Parks NSCC Meeting
March 5	Travel to Winnipeg
March 9	USGE/RCMP Info Picket
March 9	Travel to Brandon

March 9	Multi Local Meeting - Brandon
March 9	Travel to Winnipeg
March 10	Standing Committee on Education Conference Call
March 11	Travel to Lethbridge
March 11	Prairies "Childcare: Our Vision For Tomorrow" Webinar
March 12 - 13	Filming of Sick Leave Video Project
March 13 - 15	Agriculture Regional Seminar, Alberta
March 15	Travel to Winnipeg
March 16	AEC Conference Call
March 16	Prairies Telephone Town Hall, Treasury Board Bargaining
March 17	AEC Conference Call
March 17	Prairies H & S Conference Planning Meeting
March 18	UTE Day of Action - Winnipeg Tax Centre
March 19 - 20	MFL Executive Council Meeting
March 19	PSAC National Day of Action - Winnipeg
March 21 - 22	UDP West/North Step 2 - Winnipeg
March 23	U of W Bargaining Update Conference Call
March 27	Travel to Regina
March 28 - 29	Agriculture Regional Seminar, Saskatchewan
March 29	Travel to Winnipeg
March 30	AEC Meeting via Video Conference
March 30	Travel to Edmonton
March 30	AEC Meeting via Video Conference (a.m. only)
March 30	Food Safety First Press Conference
March 30	Travel to Winnipeg
April 1	Multi-Local Meetings - Winnipeg
April 1	TB Mobilization Conference Call

April 2	Royal Canadian Mint NSCC
April 2	LOU Sodexo Proposal Conference Call
April 7	Travel to Edmonton
April 7	Multi-Local Meetings - Edmonton
April 8	Multi-Local Meetings - Edmonton
April 8	Edmonton HRC Meeting
April 8	Prairies "Let's Get Political" Webinar
April 9 - 10	Public Interest Alberta Advocacy Conference
April 10	Travel to Winnipeg
April 13	Travel to Calgary
April 13	NRC Worksite Visit & Calgary RWC Meeting
April 14	UVAE Worksite Visit & Multi-Local Meetings - Calgary
April 15	Multi-Local Meetings – CFB Suffield & Drumheller
April 16-17	AFL Convention - Calgary
April 17	Travel to Winnipeg
April 20	Winnipeg Area Council Meeting
April 21	AEC Conference Call
April 22	NBoD Conference Call
April 24	Travel to Quebec City
April 25	NBoD Meeting
April 26 - May 1	PSAC National Triennial Convention
May 2	Travel to Winnipeg
May 3	Travel to Saskatoon
May 4	Site Tour, USGE Local 40161
May 5	Multi-Local Meetings - Saskatoon
May 6	Tour of Core Neighborhood Youth Co-op (SJF Project)
May 6	Multi-Local Meetings - Prince Albert

May 7	Travel to Regina
May 7	NHU Local 40013 Meeting
May 7	Multi-Local Meetings - Regina
May 7	PRC/Staff/Committee meeting - Regina
May 8	Casino Regina AGM (two meetings)
May 8	Multi-Local Meeting - Regina
May 8	Travel to Winnipeg



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

1. **Date of Events: June to November, 2015.**

2.  **In person**

**Teleconference**

3.  **Aboriginal**

**Access**

**PRIDE**

**RV**

**Women**

**Component**

**BBQ Day instead of Public Service Week: June 14, 2015**

In collaboration with the CAC president, participated in the planning and carrying out the BBQ Day in Calgary as an alternative to the participation in the Public Service Week.

**National Human Rights Committee (NHRC): June 18, 2015.**

Participated on a conference call that was chaired by Sister Robyn Benson. The teleconference call lasted for about 1.5hrs.

Agenda for the teleconference included:

- ✓ 2015 Elections – National and provincial
- ✓ Discussed PSAC Strategy
- ✓ The role of NHRC representatives
- ✓ Discussion on the date for the National Equity Conference (NEC) scheduled for March 24 – 28, 2017.
- ✓ Also discussed the dates for the next NHRC's face to face meeting Scheduled for November 2 - 4, 2015.
- ✓ Finally, discussed the new format for NHRC face to face meeting which was slightly changed from previous years.

**Racially Visible Members - WG (NHRC): June 26, 2015.**

Participated on another teleconference as dated above and chaired by Sister Jeannie Baldwin. The agenda for the meeting is very similar to the previous one chaired by Sister Benson. The difference this time was that it was specifically for the RVM WG of the NHRC and how we could assist with the action plan in order to positively affect the outcome of the National election on October 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Summer Action Plan: Latino Fiestaval - Organized by the Calgary Human Rights Committee Under the Leadership of the Prairie Region RVM Representative – July 17, 18 & 19, 2015.**

With the collaboration of the Area council, RWC and CHRC, planned and organized the participation of the PSAC in the Latino Fiestaval. This event took

place at the Calgary Olympic Plaza. The objective of the event was to interact with the members of the public attending the event to discuss the 2015 elections both at the provincial and national level. Attendance at the event was estimated between 40 – 60 thousands people. With the exception of the first day of the event (which rained cat & dog), the event was very successful with the volunteers engaging the public in various conversations. The “**Wheel of Swags**” was a big attraction that attracted many people into our booth. We gave away lots of information to the public about the election as well we gave away lots of swags over the 2.25 days. The event turn out to be a success and if I may add, this is an effective way to be engaged with the public at large on a continuous basis without braking the bank account. In the meantime, here are some email feed-back from some of the volunteers who worked some of the shifts.

A. *Sam, I am pleased that you took on this project and saw it to the very end!!  
Bravo!*

*You've now learned some of the hard lessons I learned long ago! You just have to find the right people for the right events.*

*This particular project was very interesting and not all that expensive to join.  
The exposure was just about right with 40k visitors to the park.*

*Aside from weather, our booth was well represented. We could have used more give away items, however, I was quite delighted with some of the conversations that were sparked during the time visitors were in our both as questions about the sandwich board posters, our new handout and the public service in general.*

*The only down falls for this year may be timing, its always harder to get volunteers for the summer months. I think if we work closer with our Regional representatives we can garner a listing of on-going volunteers from all the locals in our area. We need to work more on the presidents who are filtering our messages out to the grass roots members.*

*The festival was great place to meet people and exchange ideas with other non-profits and unions as well.*

*I would be in favour of continuing this event again next year!*

B. *Hello Sam, I was very pleased with the event and the interaction with public. I know you worked tirelessly on recruiting, scheduling, ensuring we had what was needed DAILY for volunteers to interact and get our message out, and going so far as to secure materials in your own vehicle so they would not have to be left in the park overnight.*

*Comments on the event to consider:*

- *location - on my days I thot our tent was to far away from the main walkways for public to see and access or stop in.  
The selection of location is not always our choice, and there are usually*

issues with access etc. but it maybe it could be noted to the event hosts when possible.

- *outreach - absolutely yes, I think we need to engage with public at these type of events. Its provides the most concentrated grouping of public at a location that we can reach out to during a given time. However, we are only volunteers, but our time is as valuable as anyone else's. I work 5 days a week .. many of us do. I have a personal life and commitment, and my Coll. Agreement does not provide time nor allow for me to host at an event during work week. To get our message out should not be on the backs of exhausted volunteers...we shame the employer for overworking us why does our union make or ask the same? Do functionally make the impact we need of getting our message out, we need support from the RO and financial support from the REVP office.*

*Thanks again Sam! It was a great event!*

- C. *Sam I loved the time I spent there on Saturday and talking with people, I was really energized and happy to hear many of them express the fact we need a change of government. People seemed very receptive about It was a great venue, our tent was in a really great spot. Was it any better on Sunday after the tent was moved closer to the entrance?*

*I think we should do this again next year, but start the drive for volunteers much earlier. If I had realized that so many in my component do not pay attention to the things we post on the board (heard all about it today) I would have really really really promoted it more by word of mouth. We also have a lot of people that take leave with income averaging so they can be gone all summer and this year a lot of people took vacation and LIA in July.*

- D. *Hi Sam, Congrats I think you did a great job organizing this event. In terms of feedback I would like to echo some of the comments from other volunteers. Although we had traffic going by our booth, I felt we would have had a lot more exposure if we were in a different location (more on the front row).*

*The give always were good (water bottles were very popular) but I agree that we could have had more variety as well.*

*Finally I too agree that there should be more financial support from the REVP and RO's. We also need to find better ways to attract more volunteers to these types of events, this I know is easier said than done.*

**P Global-Fest: August 25, 2015.**

In collaboration with the Calgary Area Council, RWC and CHRC, participated in the planning, organizing and volunteering for the Global-fest event. Participated and volunteered with the Citizenship ceremony on August 25, 2015 at the Ellersly Park in Calgary.

**P Labour Day Action: September 7, 2015.**

In collaboration with the Calgary Area Council, RWC and CHRC, participated in the planning, organizing and volunteering at the Labour Day activities in Calgary.

**T PRC Conference Call: September 10, 2015.**

Participated on the teleconference call by the PRC to discuss and select a date and location of the next Prairie regional Triennial Convention in 2017.

**T NHRC Statements of Principles September: (1) 22, 2015.**

The NHRC met to discuss various PSAC policies that are being redrafted as “Statement of Principles”. The NHRC was asked to discuss as a way of getting the inputs of all the equity representatives into the final draft respecting the contents and context of the new document. On this particular meeting, the subject matter for discussion include:

- ❖ Statement of Principles respecting - Pay Equity
- ❖ Statement of Principles respecting - Technological Change
- ❖ Statement of Principles respecting - Childcare
- ❖ Statement of Principles respecting - Telework
- ❖ Statement of Principles respecting – Women’s Equity and Human Rights.

**T NHRC Statements of Principles: (2) September 29, 2015.**

As a continuation of the September 22, teleconference meeting, a second meeting was held to discuss the remaining Documents of Statements of Principles. The subject matter for discussion at the second meeting include:

- ❖ Statement of principles respecting – Human Rights
- ❖ Statement of principles respecting – Sexual Orientation
- ❖ Statement of Principles respecting – Literacy
- ❖ Statement of Principles respecting – Employment Equity
- ❖ Statement of Principles respecting – Racial Equity

Suggestions were made from several persons at the meeting and we hope to see a final draft during our face to face meeting in November 2 – 4, 2015.

**T NHRC – Racially Visible Members WG: October 14, 2015.**

This meeting was called and chaired by the REVP for the Ontario region – Sharon DeSousa. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Racially Visible Members annual regional conferences under the newly passed resolution GEN-145 at the National Triennial convention in Quebec City. (*Provide details verbally for the benefit of the PRC members if needed*).

**P NHRC – Annual Conference: November 2 – 4, 2015.**

The format this year for the annual NHRC conference was slightly modified as a result of cost consideration. The six groups were split into two and unlike previous years, each group travel on different day to Ottawa. Day-1 for the RVM WG was on Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>. This was also the day that all the six equity groups met at the Plenary.

Highlight of the discussion focused on Identifying opportunities after the defeat of the Conservative government to engage with the new Liberal government.

- Identifying what we would like to see the Liberal government deliver to the PSAC within the first 90 days in office.
- How do we as human rights activists want to respond to fear, prejudice and hatred.
- What are the human rights issues that we will still have to fight for with the new government?

**Day-2: Nov.4, 2015.**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> day saw each WG in their respective caucus. Most of the conversation at the RVM WG for the day was focused primary at the upcoming regional RVM conference in 2016.

Discussion regarding the event include:

- ✓ Coming up with a theme for the 2016 conference and making it first priority above all else.
- ✓ Setting up and agenda template for the event
- ✓ Communicating with members on issues
- ✓ Encouraging RVMs to be activists
- ✓ Development of two workshops to be offered at the conference with a national flavor based on the response from the survey sent out.
- ✓ Need to develop a 3<sup>rd</sup> workshop with a regional flavor – to be determined in the region by the steering committee (yet to be set up).

**Note:**

If a formal minutes of the NHRC conference is sent out at a future date by the head office, I will forward it accordingly.

In Solidarity,

**Sam Akinsanya**

Regional Representative,  
Prairie Region,  
Racially Visible Equity Group  
Public Service Alliance of Canada  
Phone: (403) 850-3951

**Nate Angus-Jackman  
Young Workers Rep  
Prairie Region Council November 2015**

After successfully amending the age definition for young workers at the PSAC's National Convention earlier this year from 30 years of age to 35, the job of building a once non-existent communications network has become less difficult. We have been able to identify workers who fall within these new age parameters and include them on our distribution list and communications tree. This has resulted in the continued growth of the network, which was one of the main objectives for the year.

Given the importance of the recent federal election, and the implications that its results had for the labour movement here in Canada, an important emphasis was placed on motivating young workers in the region to have important political discussions and most importantly to get out and vote. While the evidence is anecdotal, my sense is that we were very successful in not only helping to motivate young workers to vote, but additionally to get them to help others become mobilized and involved politically.

As a member of the National Young Workers Working Group I have continued to communicate with and develop ideas/strategies with my counterparts across the country. The rollout of our national survey at Convention this year, and the subsequent participation of membership has been something very positive. We are now in a position to begin analyzing the information gleaned from the survey and plan to incorporate the results in the development of subsequent initiatives and communication strategies.

Finally, my objective for the coming months will be the establishment of two Young Workers Committees here in the region. I have been able to identify members here in Winnipeg who are willing to sit on the committee and participate in its activities, and additionally I am working actively to identify another city where this will be feasible. This objective, along with facilitating the continued growth of the communications network will be my main goals in the upcoming months.

Respectfully submitted,

Nate Angus-Jackman

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

March 11<sup>th</sup> made phone calls to all local presidents and to update the local executive list information from the Regina Regional office. Informed all local presidents to encourage their members to join with our colleagues to support our common campaign for healthy workplace on March 19, 2015 downtown Regina.

March 25<sup>th</sup> Attended the Regina Area Council AGM

April 16<sup>th</sup> attended the Regina Human Rights AGM

June 1<sup>st</sup> attended the PRC conference call

June 19<sup>th</sup> Day of Action was held at the RCMP Depot to make the employees and the public what our concerns are around sick leave and how it affects us all.

July 20<sup>th</sup> Regina Area Council identified three activities leading up to the next federal election. The activities will consist of an all-candidates' debate, an issues based flyer campaign and a telephone bank. More detail and a proposed budget for each activity were discussed and along with the activities for the Canada Labor Day picnic in Regina Sask.

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

Since our last meeting in February, PRC reps has been very busy working with PSAC on electoral issues. I worked with the Regina Area Council by assisting with planning an all candidates forum that was held September 30th in one of the targeted ridings, Regina Lewvan. The forum was a great success in drawing out voters. Comparing our numbers to last year, we almost doubled our turnout. It was standing room only as the candidates (all but the Conservative candidate who chose not to attend) answered many tough questions put forth by voters and even upcoming voters, the youngest attendee being only 14 years of age.

I have attended area council meetings in June, two meetings in July and another in September. Some of the items discussed was the planning of our participation in the Labour day picnic, the all candidates forum and listening to Marianne speak with regards to political campaigning, including the do's and don't' before and after the writ has been dropped.

I participated in the mail out that was sent to members in the Regina Lewvan area along with an additional mail out to the members encouraging members to take the time to make an informed vote.

I assisted with my own local in manning our booth at the Labour day picnic. Despite the cool weather, the turnout was very successful.

I sat in on the town hall meetings held prior to the election with our own leaders, Robyn Benson & Marianne Hladun.

I also participated in several phone meetings for both the PRC Communications committee and the PRC. The Communications committee discussed what swag would be ordered with the budget we were given for the year. The PRC discussed & voted on the next location for the Prairie Regional Conference to be held in 2017.

The next conference was to be held in Alberta, but the guidelines provided by National made it difficult to find the facilities needed to make that possible. Saskatchewan was considered along with Winnipeg, but the committee voted to have the conference in Winnipeg as it would be more cost effective to have everything held in the Winnipeg hotel vs Regina having to bus people to the meeting location and catering in lunch. I'm glad to see we now have a new boss to lead us to victory. I'm very happy with some of the changes I see being made, such as the continued door to door delivery of our mail by Canada Post.

Gone are the days of dictatorship. The people spoke and change was made.

Respectfully submitted,

Deanna Getz

PRC Southern Regional Rep



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

Brothers and Sisters of the PRC, this reporting is for the period: Feb – Nov 2015. There has been a 9-month time lag from our last meeting and that is unfortunate, in my opinion. It was the decision of the REVP to postpone our September meeting in favor of federal election activity.

**Regional Committees –**

Finance: With the approval at last PRC to move forward with audit of PRC financials, some discussions took place in April to find and cost a company that would meet our budgeted amount to perform the audit. The audit began in May and was completed soon after. With communications beginning in July to have debrief about the audit results, due to miscommunication and scheduling a conference call for the results this did not occur until early October. Chair of Finance committee will be presenting those results to PRC.

Also in early Spring, a conference call was held to discuss and review each committee's financials received and move to recommendations for 2015-Allocations. Once again I am disappointed that these took an exasperatingly amount of time to be approved and issued out of the REVP office. It was a complete surprise to me that the allocations would be co-joined with the RAP budget requests for hold back. I have hope that a better, more open, and certainly more timely process can be implemented before 2016 allocations.

**Other activities –**

Alberta Provincial election – History was made on May 5th in Alberta! A letter writing campaign to all PSAC members occurred with encouragement to vote and consider another option to the Conservative Prentice government. A 40-year Conservative reign was (orange) 'crushed' for a new NDP government... and we are all thankful for it.

NPSW BBQ – in support of boycotting NPSW, the CAC proceeded to host a BBQ event for members to attend. The event went ahead rain and shine on June 14. The venue was great, our friends at M&M Meats had lots of food for everyone that attended. A few things learned in organizing for future. A big thanks to everyone who helped with the organizing to the event's success. I attended as PRC rep to speak to members and families about the upcoming election for support to defeat the Conservatives under PSAC priorities.

Convention 2017 – a conference call was hosted by REVP in October to discuss options for the host city. It was disclosed that efforts to host the convention in Alberta (next in rotation) were not going well due to the maximum number of expected attendee's. Booking was made with Winnipeg Fairmont Hotel, before any consultation began with PRC. In addition, it was communicated that President Benson issued a memo to all regions that in planning and booking regional conventions we must support

and favor unionized facilities and services. With this, it obviously proved to be more difficult in the 3 cities considered – Edmonton, Calgary, and Banff. Each are unique but no one could handle the quantity of guests at hotels that was unionized, or there was no facility large enough that was unionized to host the plenary sessions. From the size of our Prairies convention, together with the Presidents memo, this basically rules out all hopes of Alberta every being a host city. . . and this deeply saddens me as an Alberta member in the Prairies.

Federal Election – With no targeting ridings identified in Calgary, and due to restrictions under the Elections Act, activity was limited to having discussion at gatherings with members only.

### **Event Calendar**

Mar 19 – Walk together for Healthy Workplaces  
Apr 10 to 12 – Public Interest Alberta Conference, Edm  
Apr 21 – Calgary Area Council Meeting  
Apr 26 to May 1 – National Convention, Quebec City  
Jun 14 – NPSW BBQ  
Sept 7 – Labour Day BBQ  
Oct 7 – Calgary Area Council Meeting

Respectively submitted,

Br. Alec Goertzen

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

National Human Rights Committee Meeting

2-3 November 2015

NHRC had a very busy & productive meeting in Ottawa. Listed below are a few highlights and if you would like the full 5 page report please feel free to email me at [kimpsac@gmail.com](mailto:kimpsac@gmail.com) I will be very happy to forward it to you.

On Monday each HR working group work together with their counterparts across our great country. The Priorities of 2016-2018 were discussed. And as this is a living document some were changed.

PSAC Duty to Accommodate Booklet is getting old we are going to review the document & make suggestions & additions for change. *Any assistance with this project would be greatly appreciated. So please if something is missing or unclear or due to the current demographics please contact me.*

As this working group is made up of new & old members, we all felt that our roles & responsibilities were not distinctive. So we are going to be reviewing what we feel should be our Terms of References also adding in training that would be beneficial. *Again if any member wishes to add any input on what they feel should be our responsibility or duties please contact me.*

Building a Network: The Prairie region is large – and therefore it is intimidating so *I need your assistance* to get a network of people. Opinions count I need yours to be an efficient representative. As a representative for Person with Disabilities I need your input so that I can assist in the most effective manner.

Mental Health is a really big issue & was discussed in many different forms over the weekend. Soon we, PSAC will have training for Stewards on this very important illness. And we as a small form had the privilege of listening to Guest speaker Denis St. Jean of the JLP about Mental Health National Standards.

Statement for the PWD is another project that we need to work on. It was decided that we would start with the last paragraph from our last statement. It reads as.....

*“The PSAC encourages all members, including members with disabilities to not only celebrate the many contributions of persons with disabilities but also to support and raise awareness of the struggles and challenges still facing them today.”*

We then plan to list the challenges and way to overcome these challenges. *Again any suggestions &/or comments would be helpful* and of course make this “Statement” truly ours.

Schedule teleconference dates are the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of each month being March, June & September, and shortly after I plan to send out updates to the Region.

During the Open Forum will all the members of the National Human Right Committee some of the Resolutions were talked about – but nothing that I felt was too serious, however my notes are available to all.

Other concerning issues where:

- 1) Duty to accommodate for persons with disabilities
- 2) Bully attitude
- 3) Parking issues
- 4) Accommodations were sometimes not centralized
- 5) Childcare (great video) Did you know that Sweden, Iceland, Denmark & Finland are the top four countries for childcare & Canada is in the Bottom. We should find out what & how they are being so successful & use them as a mode.
- 6) Mental Health issues – again I cannot wait for the training package.

The Next cycle was talked about and the big take aways were:

- Inquiry for the missing aboriginal women
- Childcare
- Long census forms
- Mental health
- Transgender Rights
- Removing the ugly Conservatives “Bills”

*Your voice also counts so please email with any issues you want me to forward to the group.*

**Timothy Hunt  
GLBT Rep  
Prairie Region Council November 2015**

February 27<sup>th</sup> to November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015 – Report to PRC

- Feb 05 NHRC-GLBT conference call
- April 15-19 AFL Convention (Calgary)
- June 10-11 AFL Executive Meeting (Calgary)
- June 17 National Human Rights Conference call with PSAC President (Robyn)
- July 13 Broadbent Society Presentation for the PSAC National
- July 18 Fiestaval 2015 – Latin Festival at City Hall
- August GlobalFest 2015 – Social Justice Fund event
- Sept 10 PRC Conference Call
- Sept 22 NHRC - Conference Call - Statements of Principles:
  - Human Rights
  - Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity
  - Literacy
  - Employment Equity
  - Racial Equality
- Sept 29 NHRC - Conference Call - Statements of Principles:
  - Pay Equity
  - Technological Change
  - Child Care
  - Telework
  - Women's Equality and Human Rights
- Sept 30 AFL Executive Meeting (Calgary)
- Nov 03-04 Attended National Human Rights Committee (Ottawa)

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

February 5, 2015 – attended women’s committee in Saskatoon

February 27, 2015 – PRC meeting in Winnipeg

March 11, 2015 – RAPC meeting – Prince Albert

September 17, 2015 – RAPC meeting – Prince Albert friendship centre

September 17, 2015 – Prince Albert Members Forum – Town Hall

September 22, 2015 – RAPC meeting Prince Albert friendship centre

September 26, 2015 – RAPC Voter ID Registration Clinic – North Battleford friendship centre

October 24, 2015 – NAPC course – Regina (co-facilitated course)

November 1, 2015 – NHRC meeting in Ottawa

November 13, 2015 – NAPC course – Edmonton – (co-facilitated)

November 26, 2015 – PRC meeting - Edmonton

I’ve also participated in PRC and NAPC conference calls. Attended monthly Days of Action - 19<sup>th</sup>. I will be attending the RAPC AGM the third week of November. Date TBD. I will also be working with the NAPC male rep for Prairie Region on organizing a RAPC committee in Alberta and Manitoba.

In solidarity,

Janette Husak

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

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) Women's Leadership
- 2) Child Care
- 3) Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women and Girls
- 4) Domestic Violence at work

Encouraged the National Human Rights Committee members to attend a rally while in Ottawa on Parliament Hill during our lunch break about MMIW and action plan for a National inquiry. It was a very moving rally, red dresses were held representing the missing women and girls.

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

The National Human Rights Conference will be held in Toronto in March 2017, 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.

Lead contact for the March 19<sup>th</sup> day of action is Saskatoon. Guest speakers Emanuelle Tremblay CAPE President, and Scott Bell, NDP candidate for Grasswoods. Many unions participated and about 93 activists were in attendance. There was great coverage and many photos take which were sent to Jeffrey for posting. Thanks to Jackie and Karen for taking care of the food and refreshments. Saskatoon CTV and Global had great coverage of the event.

Attended the PSAC National Convention in Quebec City where I was the 1<sup>st</sup> elected women's delegate and was honoured to speak on resolutions of MMIW-national inquiry, child care and domestic violence at work. Networking with delegates prior to the resolutions hitting the floor really made a difference when it was time for debating. All the resolutions were voted concurrence and now so the work begins.

I will be meeting with the Edmonton Women's Committee in November and assist them in their planning and financial reporting requirements for 2016.

As the PSAC VP on the SFL, I am the chair of the Women's committee where I have been connecting with other affiliates to raise awareness on women's issues. The committee has partnered with the Provincial Association of Transition Houses in Saskatchewan (PATHS), who has received funding from Status of Women for a 3 year project, titled "Working Together to Build Protective Factors into Workplace Policies and

Procedures for Victims of Intimate partner Violence. The project will partner with unions to develop policy, programs, and tools to assist employees who may be experiencing violence and empower all employees to know what to do when encountering situations of violence. The National Human Rights Committee, women's working group will be reviewing the PATHS project proposal.

A PSAC Women's Forum on the results of the CLC Domestic Violence Survey and how PSAC can move forward will be held in December.

Thank you Marianne for your prize donation to the SFL convention, Women's Committee luncheon, it was very much appreciated.

Attended the Setting the Stage for the Next Federal Election training in August and canvassed in the targeted riding of Saskatoon West candidate Sheri Benson, who was successful in winning her riding, as well as candidate Claire Card, NDP candidate.

Organized and planned the Saskatoon RWC and AC candidate's forum and REVP was our moderator and did a great job. Participated and organized mail-outs for Saskatoon Area Council and RWC, participated in the regional telephone town hall about federal elections and the webinar on letter writing.

All our RWC's were active in activities around the federal election and it was positive to see all the components working together.

Participated and organized activities for national childcare week, where members chalked up sidewalks in the downtown core and at local parks, volunteered and organized a PSAC/UTE pizza day for the Summer Snack Program. Provided snacks and refreshments for aboriginal walkers as they walked through Saskatoon on their walk across Canada to raise awareness against MMIW and the need for an inquiry.

RWC's across the prairies attended/organized October 4<sup>th</sup> candle light vigils, participated in Take Back the Night marches and are preparing for December 6<sup>th</sup> events.

I thank each and every one of our volunteer chairs and participants who are raising awareness on issues that affect women and girls and our union sisters, your work continues to make this a better place for all.

In solidarity,

Sister Nancy Johnson



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

This reporting period has been dominated by the Federal Election and the need to make a change in our Federal government.

Unfortunately, the Westman area chose to return a Conservative Representative to Ottawa.

This period has also been extremely busy for me in my Component and Local.

In June, as the WMAC Rep to PRC, I attended a meeting in Winnipeg where the PSAC National President spoke to members about bargaining, our political rights, how best to commit our support to our bargaining teams, and how to get involved in the fight back efforts to protect our sick leave and elect a federal government that respects worker and union rights.

In August, I attended the Brandon District Labour Council meeting where we began planning the Labour Day event to be held at Errol Black Park in Brandon, MB.

The WMAC sponsored a table in the Labour Day event in September. We met with great success interacting with people from the Brandon Area. Many people stopped by to offer their support for the work that we do on behalf of all Canadians.

In September, with the help and support of our PSAC Staff Rep, volunteers from the WMAC and our former Alternate REVP met to stuff envelopes with information pamphlets about the Federal election. These letters were then mailed out to PSAC members in the Westman area.

The WMAC was back at work in early October where volunteers again gathered to divvy up coffee sleeves that were to be distributed to the Public. The coffee sleeves had one simple message, "VOTE" and "Are you registered to vote Oct 19<sup>th</sup>?" and "Please check [electionsCanda.ca](http://electionsCanda.ca)".

In November I will be attending the PRC meeting scheduled for the 27<sup>th</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> of November.

08-Apr	Westman Area Council Meeting
02-Jun	PRC Conference Call
11-Jun	Attended Meeting in Winnipeg/PSAC Nat Pres
08-Jul	Westman Area Council Meeting
10-Aug	BDLC Labour Day Event Planning Meeting
02-Sep	Westman Area Council Meeting
02-Sep	PRC Conference Call/Convention Location
07-Sep	BDLC Labour Day Event
10-Sep	PRC Conference Call/Convention Location
17-Sep	WMAC Mail out Campaign for Federal Election
07-Oct	Meeting to discuss coffee sleeve distribution
26-Nov	PRC Bylaws Committee Meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Glen Johnston  
 WMAC Rep to the PRC

**Deb Kosteniuk**  
**Southern AB Geographical Rep**  
**Prairie Region Council November 2015**

I became the new Southern AB Geographical Rep in July, 2015 after Sister Sherry Hunt stepped down to work with Maria Fitzpatrick, one of the new NDP MLA's here in Alberta. Congratulations to Sister Sherry, I know that she will bring the same passion and conviction to her new role as she did as an activist and member of PSAC.

I have been regularly attending the meetings of Calgary Area Council and the Regional Women's Committee and attended one meeting of the Lethbridge Area Council in October 2015, as well as my own local. I participated in one teleconference with the PRC regarding the Regional Triennial in 2017. I participated in the UDP program with the final steps of that taking place in September in Edmonton. I also participated in the CLC's Edu-Action course and Better Choice Campaign

I was able to participate in the PSAC picnic boycotting National Public Service Week in June, 2015, manning PSAC booths at Fiestaval in July, GlobalFest in August, 2015 and the Labour Day BBQ organized by Calgary Labour Council.

In addition to volunteering at the PSAC booth at GlobalFest, I was the closing speaker at the GlobalFest Human Rights Forum on the day the topic was Cultural Healing. PSAC and Human Rights Committee member Victoria Norris was one of the speakers at the Human Rights Forum that day, talking about the Metis Nation and its move to heal and move forward.

Also in August, I participated in a rally at Stephen Harper's office in Calgary to support CUPW's save door to door delivery.

At the time of writing this report I am also working on taking over the Southern Alberta Geographic Rep newsletter started by Sister Hunt. This newsletter will keep members in the Southern Alberta informed and connected to the PRC, the regional committees, councils and the REVP.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deb Kosteniuk  
Southern Alberta Geographic Representative, PRC, PSAC

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

February 23, 2015 - Steering Committee Conference Call (cancelled)

March 04, 2015 - Attended Lethbridge & District Area Council Meeting

March 11, 2015 - Attended Lethbridge & District Labour Council Meeting (cancelled)

March 19, 2015 - Attended March 19 Day of Action (Edmonton)

April 08, 2015 - Attended Lethbridge & District Labour Council Meeting

April 09-12, 2015 - Attended Public Interest Alberta Advocacy Conference (Edmonton)

June 01, 2015 - PRC Teleconference

June 02, 2015 - PSAC Teleconference

September 02, 2015 - PRC Teleconference

September 07, 2015 - Labour Day Family Picnic

September 09, 2015 - Attended Lethbridge & District Labour Council Meeting

September 10, 2015 - PRC Teleconference

October 04, 2015 - Participated on Paintin' the town Orange....  
Attended Sisters in Spirit Vigil

October 07, 2015 - Attended PSAC Election Town Hall Teleconference

October 08, 2015 - Attended Finance Committee Teleconference w/ Auditor

October 13, 2015 - Attended Q & A with Robyn Benson & Marianne Hladun

October 14, 2015 - Attended Lethbridge & District Labour Council Meeting

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

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

- I have completed the Union Development Program, with this course it taught us how to bond together and work off each other for new ideas. I recommend this course to our up and comers in the union. I learned how to put together action plans and make smaller goals that will reach into the higher goal.
- I attended the PSAC National Triennial Convention. I spoke on multiple resolutions including ones dealing with Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Sisters. Multiple ones surrounding Directly Chartered Locals. As well as sat on a resolutions committee.
- Organised Women's Self Defence Class with the Regina Regional Women's Committee. We had a morning and afternoon class and we charged ten dollars admission that was donated to the Sophia Transition House. Our instructors were trainers that train the city police. They also donated what we paid them to the Sophia House.
- Attended the all candidates debate in Regina
- Attended the training Setting the Stage for the Federal Election
- I was asked to sit on the Resolutions Committee for the SFL Convention.
- Attended the SFL Convention and spoke on resolutions on child care, privatization, and domestic violence.
- I am looking forward to attending the Prairie Regional OH&S Conference.
- I have emailed all the Directly Chartered Locals and have yet to receive a response.

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

Note - On stress leave from EC January 12 – March 30, 2015

Feb 26, 2015 - Attended OHS committee meeting in Winnipeg

Feb 27 & 28, 2015 - Attended PRC Meeting in Winnipeg

March 16 – OHS committee conference call

March 18 – Attended Edmonton Area Council (EAC) meeting

March 19 – Attended rally for the 19<sup>th</sup>

April 7 – Meeting at PSAC office in Edmonton

April 10 & 11 – Attended Public Interest Alberta conference in Edmonton

April 15 - Attended Edmonton Area Council (EAC) meeting

April 17 – Attended briefing on the results of latest PSES survey

May 20 - Attended Edmonton Area Council (EAC) meeting

June 3 - Attended Edmonton Area Council (EAC) meeting

July 2 - Attended Edmonton Area Council (EAC) meeting

July 16 - Attended Edmonton Area Council (EAC) meeting (planning PSAC BBQ for Aug 19)

July 28 – Attended Electing our Future workshop at PSAC Office Edm & sent flight request for travel to Ottawa in August

Aug 4 – Attended PSAC Action Skills workshop at PSAC Edmonton

Aug 6 - Attended Edmonton Area Council (EAC) meeting (final planning PSAC BBQ for Aug 19 +planning of All Candidates Forum in Sept)

Aug 27 – flew to Ottawa to attend Make up Leadership training

Aug 28-29 – Attended make up Leadership training in Ottawa

Aug 30 – flew home from Ottawa

Aug 31 – Attended PRC Conference call re: 2017 regional convention location

Sep 2 - Attended PRC Conference call re: 2017 regional convention location

Sep 9 - Attended Edmonton Area Council (EAC) meeting (final planning for Sep 23 All Candidates Forum)

Sep 10 - Attended PRC Conference call re: 2017 regional convention location

Sep 23 – All Candidates Forum set up & cleanup of hall

Sep 29–Nov 5 - sick with cold from hell, off work 5 weeks out of 6. No EAC meeting in October 2015

Respectfully submitted,

Ben Lemon

**Gus Mardli**  
**South-East Manitoba Rep**  
**Prairie Region Council November 2015**

Greetings everyone,

During the last several months, it was a crucial period of time for activist as we all fought the fights of our lives defending our union from the former Harper government's attacks on labour and social justice in Canada. I took every opportunity to talk to union members and to friends and acquaintances about the importance of change on the federal level to hopefully elect a government that respect Canadians and all public service employees.

On this geographical level, I continued participating in events and actions put forth by both the Winnipeg & Area Human Rights Committee and the Winnipeg Area Council.

Below is a summary of some of the events that took place:

February:

- Attended training in Winnipeg that was organized by the CLC (Canadian Labour Congress) about Election Preparation.

March:

- Volunteered a day at the Winnipeg Regional office making phone calls to local president to promote the participation in the March 19<sup>th</sup> event and to promote other actions and events that are taking place in the area.

April:

- Attended a Multi Local Meeting in Winnipeg, which was hosted by our REVP sister Marianne Hladun to update on Treasury Board Bargaining Units and introduced some bargaining team members who addressed some questions along with sister Hladun.
- Attended the PSAC 2015 National Triennial Convention which was very productive as so many important resolutions were dealt with and very important decisions were made. It was a successful Convention.

May:

- On the 19<sup>th</sup> of the month I joined Local 50056 in Morden -along with PIPSC members who joined as well- and picketed at the office of the local area MP (Conservative) protesting the Harper Government. It was something out of the ordinary I guess in a small conservative community; so we made it on the news at a local radio station and an online news site.

June:



- Attended a meeting in Winnipeg on Bill C-59 and Bargaining Updates that was presented by our National President Sister Robyn Benson.
- Volunteered few nights at an information booth that was sponsored by the Winnipeg Area Council and talked to the public at the Winnipeg Red River Exhibition event about the importance of voting in the Federal Election, the importance of educating oneself about how crucial for the Federal Government to treat Canadians with dignity and how important Public Services are for Canada and Canadians.

#### July:

- Attended the training at the Winnipeg RO on setting the stage for the next Federal Election.

#### September:

- Participated in the Annual Labour Day *Marche* and Family Picnic that was organized by the Winnipeg Labour Council. The PSAC and the Winnipeg Area Council sponsored a promotional table at the picnic. It was the largest PSAC members' participation at this annual event so far.
- Volunteered at the Winnipeg Regional Office to stuff envelopes with specific information pamphlets that suits every riding in the area about the Federal election. The mail-outs were then sent to PSAC members in the South East Manitoba.
- Attended an All Candidates Forum for the Elmwood / Transcona Riding in Winnipeg. All the Candidates were in attendance and participated except for the Conservative Party Candidate, BUT despite that, Sister Marianne Hladun still did a great job moderating 😊

#### October:

- Was invited to attend Local 50073's AGM. I spoke about the importance of voting, the importance of finding out which political party supports and stands up for public services the most; and I reminded everyone about all the Harper Government's attacks on Public Services. I also assisted the Local in electing their executive at their AGM.
- Participate in 2 separate conference calls on a two separate dates to discuss the hosting city options for the 2017 Regional Triennial Convention. After gathering all the information and based on the XO that was sent by the National President - Sister Robyn Benson – which instructed all regions that in planning and booking regional conventions we must support unionized facilities and services; It was concluded that the Winnipeg Fairmont is the unionized facility that can accommodate the number of attendees to convention. The PRC decided, after a recorded vote, to move the Convention to Winnipeg.

#### November:

- Being on the PRC Health & Safety Committee – it has been busy early November participating on conference call and organizing the Regional Health &

Safety Conference along with the committee members and our Regional Health Safety Officer brother Clint Wirth that is going to be held in Winnipeg.

Looking forward to keep working with everyone on PRC and with all activists in my area to keep empowering one another and keep building our union.

In Solidarity,

Respectfully Submitted

Gus Mardli

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

**Day of Mourning**

I was the delegate to the PSAC Triennial Convention in Quebec this spring so I wasn't in Saskatoon for the Day of Mourning ceremony that the Area Council always participates in along with the Saskatoon and District Labour Council (SDLC) and other Saskatoon unions. Unfortunately, I forgot to ensure that someone attended on our behalf. We may think that nobody notices the work we do but they seem to notice when it's not being done. The Regional Office was asked why we hadn't shown up.

**Days of Action**

As part of our "19<sup>th</sup>" actions we held a rally/pizza lunch at the government building downtown at lunch time. Emanuelle Tremblay, the president of CAPE spoke as well as Scott Bell, a PIPSC member and NDP federal candidate, spoke and the event was well attended. We had press there but the only coverage I saw was in the Saskatoon paper that mentioned the Regina rally.

Another "19<sup>th</sup>" day I was able to meet with my own MP (Conservative) and discuss how we were being treated with regards to sick leave and a lack of negotiations. The same day several of us gathered at another MP's office but the staff locked the door so we decided not to try to have a meeting. It was very difficult to get to talk to MPs – ours were all Conservatives – because they would only meet with their own constituents and seemed reluctant to do even that.

**Pride Parade**

In June we marched in the Saskatoon Pride Parade and gave out temporary rainbow tattoos to kids. There were only two of us with the banner because the usual activists that help out with the parade were participating with their own MP and MLA candidates but there were a fair number of PSAC members in the parade and others attending.

**Public Service Week**

Public Service Week was boycotted and we left alternative activities up to the locals. For the first time CUPE and other public service unions organized a bbq in one of the city parks to celebrate Public Services on June 21. We didn't hear about it in time to organize anything re. PSAC but a couple of us attended and helped out. They intend to have another bbq next year so hopefully it becomes an annual event and PSAC will have a bigger presence.

## **Federal Election**

During the election the riding of Saskatoon West was targeted as the constituency with the greatest chance of getting rid of a Conservative. Along with the Regional Women's Committee we participated in holding an all candidates meeting for this riding. However, even though all the declared candidates were invited, only the Liberal and NDP candidates showed up. The SDLC sponsored a canvassing day targeting Saskatoon West and Saskatoon University that AC members participated in as well. The AC and RWC stuffed envelopes that were sent out to PSAC members containing information provided by the RVP's office. Saskatoon West elected the NDP candidate but unfortunately the rest of Saskatoon is still Conservative so we still have work to do.

## **Labour Day BBQ**

In the midst of the election we participated in the SDLC Labour Day BBQ. Despite the rainy weather it was well attended and we handed out a lot of balloons, play-dough and swag. Special thanks to Martha Johnson's partner for getting a shelter for us so we weren't completely soaked.

## **Remembrance Day**

We will again be laying a wreath on behalf of PSAC at the Remembrance Day ceremony which is held each year at the Saskatoon arena.

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

Tansi Brothers & Sisters,

So as citizens we have declared a new government... twice. In May 2015 Albertans and Union members elected a new government. As Albertans we have never seen change in a provincial government in over 40 years. I can actually say I have lived in Alberta my entire life under a Conservative government, till now.

Let's work together with the NDP government to bring good change to the province, to our communities and to the work force. I must say that the current provincial government has taken steps to actually meet & invited First Nation leaders, for the first time in history, in the province to work together on issues facing First Nation communities. And let's mention the NDP government has taken another step to help pressure our Federal government on the campaign to an inquiry on missing and murdered Aboriginal women.

And most currently, October 19, Canadians have made their voices of change heard from coast to coast to coast. We have declared a new Liberal government, with a new Prime Minister and with election promises on all levels to mandate. I do hope our new government will take the needed steps to support the public service that all Canadians need. And I do hope we as a Union can work effectively with our new government to achieve proper job security, collective agreements & job safety. I hear that we need innovation in areas of mental health. And we will strive to complete that awareness for our members.

Since my last report on Feb 2015 there has been much work and promotion focused on the Federal election in Oct. Our Union has been trying to engage members to get active in the election, get informed of the issues at hand, and basically get out voting. The Edmonton Area Council has worked with the Prairie Region to the promotions that Region & National has created to support our members to vote in the Federal election. And Area Council has also taken the step further to inform our communities to vote as well. As an Area council we have created information pieces to engage interest groups who are targeted as people of concern: Seniors, Veterans, Youth, Disabled, the Homeless & Aboriginal. As an Area council we are pleased that we did an Election debate for one of the targeted ridings in Edmonton- Griesbach. The debate was well received and had members & community engaged in the topics to the election.

In the region we had many successful 19 Minute campaigns leading to Oct 19. And I would like to congratulate all Locals & volunteers for the support to the campaign. It has been a fresh experience for the region & we can take the participation from the events for future planning of possible 19 minute and rally events. I would like to congratulate Edmonton Area council of the BBQ event on Aug 19 for our members in the downtown area. The lead to bring members out to mingle and be informed on Union issues was

great to see happen. We can & will advance mobilization within the PSAC & Northern Alberta. We will continue the great ideas PSAC & our grassroots brings to the table for rally support & mobilization. If there are any ideas, please inform myself & the Edmonton Area Council so we can keep members engaged & active now & into the future.

I know the Edmonton Human Rights & Women's committees have made great strides to be eventful this year in the region. And I applaud all our executive and volunteers who have created such solidarity in the movement of equity and community involvement. Both committees have created good events and platforms for the future of the committees and the region.

Our Women's committee have taken steps to support our communities. This year the committee has provided a community garden for one of our inner city schools in Edmonton. It was quite the task and support of volunteers that made the task successful. I took the time to come out and volunteer to help with the project & no one could ask for greater weather for that day. This fall the committee also donated school supplies to another school in Edmonton with the Tools for Schools project. And I do know many of our Locals in the Region donated monies to help the Women's committee drive. Thank you so much for all of your given efforts and volunteer work involved with your projects for the year. And I salute the Edmonton Women's committee for their continuous support to communities in need. I do call on our Sister's in the Region to take the time to participate with the committee for future events, rallies and community support. We all succeed when we all share the involvement of our Union community support.

As for the Edmonton Human Rights committee, it has been a year of history for the committee. Not only for the committee, but for PSAC, for the Region and our members. This year the committee has taken a direction of positive messages. The committee has decided that we want to promote messages of hope and understanding, and that equity must be met in the workplace and also within our families and communities. For the year the committee has decided to focus on 2 main events- Gay pride day in June & also National Aboriginal day in June.

The committee worked to participate in the Edmonton Pride day festivities in June. The committee with the support of the AFL entered a float into the parade. The parade had a huge turnout of spectators, including Premier Rachel Notley as part of the parade extravaganza. And I say extravaganza because there were so many people participating and spectating down Whyte ave. And when one has to park 6 blocks away from the event you know the community is in full swing for celebration. Our committee with its volunteers showed their pride and support to the GBLT community, and were a great bunch to watch during the huge parade route. Speaking to volunteers of their stories, many had such surprise of the many grassroots members who were watching and supporting the Pride day festivities. As Pride day grows in success in Edmonton so will our support to this grand display of self-pride for our members, for our GBLT community and the strides to equity.

The Edmonton Human Rights committee also created a new event that displayed awareness for Aboriginal people within our membership, within our communities and within Canada as a nation. As part of our celebration for National Aboriginal day, the committee decided to embark on the issue of missing and murdered Aboriginal women, and the need of the inquiry that many Canadians have been asking the Federal government to produce. But the committee wanted to create a positive and peaceful message to the horrendous issue at hand. The committee created a walk called A Path of Light, and with the support of PSAC national, Region, Edmonton and District Labour Council, members Components, the city of Edmonton & APTN, the walk was welcomed and happened with great success and awareness. Without the much hard work and volunteers from the locals, from the community, from other Unions, from the Area council & Women's committees, the Aboriginal communities, our elders, and our families, the event would not have been achieved. Also without our Components donations we would not have proven and shown our support to our missing and murdered Aboriginal women and their families. And I say with an open heart to all our supporters, thank you. We started a movement for our Union to take further to all our members from coast to coast to coast. We have given light to a dark matter in our country. We have given light for our missing Sister's spirit and support for the families who continue to search for their missing loved ones. Thank you for allowing us to participate with our Aboriginal community to remember and celebrate our brave Sister's.

Here is a brief description of the task that we produced for the A Path of Light event:

I would like to bring an event to light to the Northern Alberta community, to which I live in. This event is happening June 20, 2015 in Edmonton Alberta and welcoming all Canadians. Its purpose is to commemorate the lives of missing and murdered Aboriginal women in Canada. And voice a message of hope for their spirit.

On June 20, 2015 we, the Edmonton Human Rights Committee of PSAC (Public Service Alliance of Canada), are inviting all Canadians to join us in a walk commemorating Our Aboriginal Sisters. We are walking to commemorate the spirit of our missing & murdered Aboriginal women. It is time we honour the lives of our Aboriginal women, and that is why we have named the walk- A Path of Light.

Our walk is set to give the opportunity for our First Nations, union members, organizations & communities to work together in a positive way. To celebrate together as Canadians the spirit of our missing sisters. And as a unity we can bring their spirit to the light. Maybe as a voice together our government will hear a call of action to our Aboriginal sisters.

This year Edmonton is one of the satellite cities for the APTN broadcast of the National Aboriginal day event. We have been invited by APTN to participate with them with the National celebration of Aboriginal Day on June 20 here in Edmonton. APTN has respected our walk & the message we are trying to produce to Canada. So as a joint effort APTN is asking us to walk to the APTN concert event in McKinney Park to come together in honour & celebration of our Aboriginal sisters. As part of our participation

APTN will give our walk & participates a Grand entry & honour song to welcome us to the APTN celebration. And with that honour many across Canada will be watching us coming together in awareness for our Aboriginal sisters.

Here is the structure to our event for the day on June 20:

Phase 1 – Blessing at Kihciy Askiy (formerly known as Fox Farms)

Phase 2 – At 10am Gathering at the Legislature where we will have opening prayers, remarks from our guest speakers, and a march.

Phase 3 – Start our procession to Louise McKinney Park, stopping on the way for a BBQ lunch

Phase 4 - Proceed to Louise McKinney Park where we will be honoured by a Grand Entry as we merge with the main event of the APTN crowd.

How our event came to be was our Human Rights committee was challenged to produce events for the year that will be a positive reflection to our members & community. So I, Murray Pruden, member of the committee, had an idea that would jumpstart the committee's action to creating a walk for National Aboriginal day. One Sunday morning, after watching the West block with Tom Clark, the show Context with Lorna Dueck was airing. And her topic for that day was the issues on missing & murdered Aboriginal women. After watching that show & the topics that were discussed I thought- We need to help our Sisters out of the dark. So I thought that as activists we can create an event to celebrate our Aboriginal sisters, create unity in our communities & give a Lighted path for our sister's spirit. That they're not alone or forgotten. And a message to Canada- maybe the world, that the human spirit can come together and fulfill a respectful event for our First Nation peoples. I, Murray Pruden & co-facilitator Genevieve Babineau presented the idea of a walk to the Human Rights committee, and here we are today coming together on June 20 for a walk, on the path of light, for our Sisters, so they will not be forgotten.

The symbol we have created for the event is a campfire. The fire is burning at the base with wood, embers, ash & rock. And the smoke rises to the sky above. We all start on a path in our life, and we all carry on through different means on our path in our lifetime. But at the same time we all have the same path, like a campfire. We are born on this earth, and then we pass on & carry on to our next path to the Creator. Our prayers are carried to the Creator by smoke. A fire starts by a spark and then rises to smoke in the air to our Creator. We may have different paths; however we like the smoke rising from a fire go to the Creator. The colors in the smoke are Blue, to represent the waters, Green, to represent the land, and Red to represent the fire. But our other element Air is there too. Though you cannot see it, it is there bringing the other three elements together in the rising smoke. A Path of Light is then created to welcome all people together and to welcome the spirit of our missing sisters.



I also attended the PSAC Triennial Convention in Quebec City. Here is my report:

It was a long convention in Quebec City. And as an observer I was restraint from voting on some important issues at hand during the convention. I believe there was some good & not so good made at the convention by the delegates from across Canada.

The one resolution that passed at convention was Gen-145 Regional Racially Visible Conference. I believe that this resolution needed further discussion & amendments. The reason why I say this is the idea of having a conference, regionally for one equity group, and only one is discriminatory in acceptance by PSAC. The other issue at hand is, there are not enough active Racially Visible groups across Canada to hold said conferences. There are apparently only 3. There has been no active involvement by the groups, and I mean no active volunteer committees to have delegates to attend in Canada. I believe, the first step is to have members volunteer their committees, and then ask for regional conventions. I believe convention made a quick judgment to accept this resolution & after speaking to other equity groups that have active committees feel rejected by the resolution. The racially visible group has missed a step in the process to committees & now we have to pay for regional conventions for no reason & purpose for the next 3 years.

During convention I was busy interacting with different caucuses & meetings, and invited events to discuss my issues with Aboriginal leadership in the PSAC. I must say I was disappointed with the turnout of Aboriginal members attending the Aboriginal caucus. The main reason why I was disappointed was there was no Aboriginal youth in attendance. These youth are the ones who will carry on the Aboriginal representation in the PSAC. I also felt set to the aside by membership from the Aboriginal leads at convention, especially when I was discussing the Aboriginal walk we are creating for June 20 in Edmonton. So I see now there is no communication between our National representation & the grassroots. And this will need to change swiftly. I am currently taking the time to further discuss action to get Aboriginal youth involved from the prairies with our youth rep Nate from the prairies. We have 3 years to get them involved.

I did enjoy the convention. And I was busy with discussions, meetings & events that I felt important to my members. I did not have much time to see the beautiful city as others did because I wore a hat for many different committees & needed to ensure I was getting the right invested ideas from the right people & groups. I also have new opportunities to work with other members on a plan to start a new campaign for alliance & we have taken the time to start interaction on the ideas, and hopefully present to the PSAC in the future. I do hope I will attend the next PSAC convention & I do hope to attend as a delegate. I must also say that the PSAC convention was very component driven. I believe a convention at this level needs to be more Alliance driven to salute solidarity rather than group vs group ideals. One can hope that the means will be in place for the next convention.

This year I had the pleasure to be a participant of the UDP- Union Development Program. I completed the program and have met and made great friends within the

program. We continue to support each other as activists and leaders across Canada. Part of the program gave me the opportunity to have mentors supporting me like Marianne Hladun & my personal mentor Teresa Eschuk from the prairies. I also had the opportunity to facilitate a workshop in Ottawa on Activism through Street Theatre. Street theatre can be used effectively to propagate social and political messages and to raise public awareness regarding critical issues. Street theatre breaks the formal barriers and approaches people directly in a variety of creative ways. The 3 day workshop allowed us to show our generation of leaders the skills to promote art activism in our Union. The UDP has proven the need to collect the minds and trust of our members together to strengthen our act of solidarity. And I know from this moment on, the members I have embraced within the UDP will be my brother's and sister's for a lifetime. Thank you to the PSAC and the UDP for molding us as leaders.

There has been so much work done within this year and yet so much more to do within the region. I do hope to continue the much needed work within the Northern Alberta region. I will continue to promote to the PSAC the Edmonton Humans Rights campaign- A Path of Light. I have received 3 requests from the West coast & North groups to help support them with this campaign for their regions. And I do hope to promote the campaign to the rest of the Prairies region. This past Oct 4, was the Sisters in Spirit vigil with the Native Women's Association of Canada. And with their organization I created a candle light vigil for my community in Smoky Lake with the help of the United Church of Canada. At the event I spoke of the A Path of Light campaign. Many people attended, even a family from Fishing Lake travelled 2 hours to participate in the event. So this proves that as members of community and activists we can create a message for movement within the community and within our Union. On that day of Oct 4, I made a promise to the Creator that I will not stop my campaign of A Path of Light for our missing Sister's until we have a successful inquiry made by our government.

I will continue to work with the PRC to create more effective communication methods for our region rep's and grassroots to use to keep the network alive and informed. It is an issue we as members have embarked on for some time and with time we will better our communication networks within the membership and region. I do call upon our grassroots to contact me to with ideas to help invest in our future as a Union.

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, and next year, 2016, 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.

As I stated in my last report, 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 as change has occurred in Canada it is now time to make our government accountable to the needed support of public service and labour

work force. We took the step to change but now we must now actually act on that change. We cannot stand idle and let important decisions on our livelihood go unanswered. Remember to support your bargaining teams as best you can. And as a union we can keep the important changes alive for the betterment of labour rights. "My friends, love is better than anger. Hope is better than fear. Optimism is better than despair. So let us be loving, hopeful and optimistic and we will change the world"- Jack Layton.

Murray K Pruden

Geographical Representative

Northern Alberta

Prairie Region Council PSAC

**Matt Tijani**  
**Winnipeg AC Rep**  
**Prairie Region Council November 2015**

March 2015

- Attended Winnipeg Area Council meeting
- Attended 19<sup>th</sup> of each month March and Rally activities in support of collective bargaining at Winnipeg Via Rail Station.

April 2015

- Attended Winnipeg Area council Meeting.
- Attended Winnipeg Multi Local Meeting. Bargaining Unit Update

May 2015

- Participated in MAY Day gathering and March at Winnipeg City Hall
- Attended Winnipeg Area Council meeting.

June 2015

- Nothing to report

July, 2015

- Attended training for Setting the Stage for the Federal Election

August, 2015

- Attended PSAC Leadership Leading Change training in Ottawa.
- Attended Political action Rally for Change in Winnipeg

September, 2015

- Attended **POLITICAL ACTIONS SKILLS WORKSHOP**
- Attended Labour day rally and picnic in Winnipeg
- Participate in 2 conference calls.
- Participate in stuff envelopes for an election mail out
- Did political action phone bank.

October, 2015

- Attend Winnipeg Area Council meeting.
- Attend AGR Local 50073 AGM

November, 2015

- Nothing to Report

In Solidarity

Respectively submitted

Matt Tijani  
WAC – PRC Rep.