

Prairie Region Council Rep Reports September 2014:

Position	Name	Page #	Rec'd by Deadline
REVP	Marianne Hladun	2	Yes
Alternate REVP	Susan Norman	19	Yes
Racially Visible Persons Rep	Sam Akinsanya	20	Yes
Young Workers Rep	Nathaniel Angus-Jackman	21	Yes
Regina AC Rep	Satinder Bains	22	Yes
Northern SK Rep	Denni Ernst	23	Yes
Southern SK Rep	Deanna Getz	24	Yes
Calgary AC Rep	Alec Goertzen	25	Yes
NW Manitoba Rep	Jennifer Grant	26	Yes
PWD Rep	Kim Haynes	27	Yes
Prince Albert AC Rep	Tim Hogan	28	Yes
Southern AB Rep	Sherry Hunt	29	Yes
GLBT Persons Rep	Timothy Hunt	30	Yes
RWC Rep	Nancy Johnson	32	Yes
Westman AC Rep	Glen Johnston	33	Yes
Separate Employers Rep	Chad Kemery	34	Yes
Lethbridge AC Rep	Gregory Krokosh	35	Yes
DCL Rep	Michelle Lang	36	Yes
Edmonton AC Rep	Ben Lemon	37	Yes
SE Manitoba Rep	Gus Mardli	38	Yes
Saskatoon AC Rep	Jackie Nettleton	39	Yes
Northern AB Rep	Murray Pruden	40	Yes
Aboriginal Peoples Rep	Gary Sparvier	41	Yes
Winnipeg AC Rep	Matt Tijani	42	Yes

**Marianne Hladun
Regional Executive Vice-President
Prairie Region Council September 2014**

I am proud to be submitting my first report as your elected Regional Executive Vice-President for the PSAC Prairie Region. I look forward to working together with each and every one of you over the next three years.

I also want to congratulate all of the PRC Representatives and welcome everyone to the Council. For those who have served on the Council previously, thank you for your continued service and dedication to the membership. For those who are new to the Council, please know that you can contact my office anytime for help or assistance in carrying out your duties as PRC Representative.

As promised during my election campaign, I commit to ensuring continued accountability of members' dues, expanded opportunities for members to grow within the union, and representation and support of all members whether component or DCL. I know that, together, we can make this happen.

I'd also like to congratulate all of the newly elected component national officers. Since our regional convention, eight components have held their own conventions. We were happy to be the host region for the National Health Union convention in Edmonton and Agriculture Union convention in Winnipeg. All of the new component national officers from the Prairies have been posted on our website.

UNION PRIDE, SASKATOON WIDE

The 6th Triennial Prairie Region Convention was a complete success and I hope you all enjoyed it as much as I did. More than 320 people attended, including 268 delegates, 32 observers, 11 NBoD and 11 guests.

We asked attendees for their feedback through an online survey and received 109 responses (a 33 per cent participation rate). The feedback provided will help us to make improvements for our next regional convention, to be held in Alberta in 2017.

Most of the feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with 25 per cent of respondents saying the Prairies Convention exceeded their expectations and 64 per cent saying it met their expectations. However, there are some changes to be made. For example, of the respondents that identified as a new delegate, only half attended the first-time delegates orientation. This suggests we need to do more work around promoting this beneficial session.

The Prairies Boutique was a new addition to this year's convention and about 40 per cent of respondents made a purchase from the boutique. In total, we had \$2,500 worth of sales over the weekend. That money went back into the regional budget from which

the promotional items were initially purchased. Feedback from the survey will help us improve this for next time, including having the capability to process debit and credit cards, listing items on the website or in the guide for preview and promotion, and offering sales of items year-round.

It comes as no surprise that 50 per cent of respondents identified resolutions debate as their favourite part of convention. Some comments were that we didn't have enough time for resolutions and that the speeches were too long. However, delegates were able to vote on all resolutions with concurrence recommendations from convention committees, with the exception of four concurrence resolutions in the general resolutions package. The PRC has the authority to debate and vote on those resolutions at our first meeting. So we really were able to get a lot of business done in a short amount of time.

The majority of the criticism was about the logistics of having delegates spread out at three different hotels and a separate location for convention venue. Some respondents felt it wasn't accessible because it was too far to be walking back and forth several times each day. Others said it was difficult to network and attend hospitality suites when delegates were spread out. This will certainly pose a challenge for our next convention.

The obligation to make every effort to ensure that the regional convention rotates through the three provinces of the Prairie Region has always been past practice. However, it has now been entrenched in the By-Laws with the passing of resolution BL-015. There is no location in the Prairies that is big enough to host our convention and all attendees in one venue, other than The Fairmont Winnipeg. This is something we will have to take into consideration when planning our next convention.

As you know, delegates stood together in solidarity to denounce public service cuts by proudly holding up signs that state "Standing Together for Public Services / Standing Together for Fairness". An album of photos from this action has been posted to the PSAC Prairies Facebook page. I encourage you to request signs from your regional office to use in your locals and be sure to share the photos with us.

STANDING TOGETHER FOR SICK LEAVE

From July 8-10, PSAC's bargaining teams met in Ottawa to start negotiations with Treasury Board. They will meet with the employer again from September 9-11. One of the biggest issues of concern for members this round is protecting sick leave.

The PBO released a new report concluding that it costs almost nothing extra to pay sick leave to federal civil servants. This is because most departments don't have policies in place to backfill for sick leave. That means most employees who call in sick are not replaced, resulting in no incremental cost to departments.

Many PSAC members have taken action by writing letters to editors and to their MPs. When Yvonne Hein, PSAC/Agriculture Union member in Winnipeg, heard about Tony

Clement's plan to take away accumulated sick leave benefits from federal public service workers, she wrote a letter to Shelley Glover, MP for Saint Boniface. She has yet to receive a response. Her letter is published on the PSAC Prairies website, along with my letter to the editor that was published in the *Winnipeg Sun* on July 15, criticizing the op-ed ("Sick of union entitlement") that called the attacks on PSAC members' sick leave "common sense".

On April 30, we hosted a live and interactive telephone town hall. Nearly 4,000 members throughout Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba participated in the one-hour call to discuss important information about the attack on sick leave. We also had the capability to ask thousands of members on the call poll questions and receive instant feedback. When we asked participants how much sick leave they take in an average year, 51 per cent answered between 4-8 days, with another 33 per cent indicating between 0-3 days. Subsequently, when we asked participants if they'd ever worked while sick, 65 per cent answered they've come to work sick because of workload pressures, while another 20 per cent answered they've come to work sick because of workload pressures and because they've ran out of sick leave.

Multi-local meetings were held in Prince Albert, Saskatoon, Regina, Brandon, Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton, CFB Suffield, and Lethbridge to discuss our plan for dealing with attacks from this government. The meetings were a huge success, with hundreds of members attending to hear updates from leadership and bargaining team members. We also held two webinars following Prairies Convention for those who weren't able to make a meeting in person. With so much at stake, it's crucial that members get informed and get involved in the early stages of bargaining and not just in the event negotiations come to an impasse.

COMMUNICATIONS

More members have been engaged with the Prairies website than ever before. For January to June of 2014 our website received 80,216 page views from 15,444 different visitors, a 39 per cent and 33 per cent increase respectively over the same period the year before. Additionally, the bounce rate—the percentage of single-page visits or people who leave after viewing only one page—decreased by 10 per cent. The most viewed topics continue to be education and bargaining, and, during this period, regional convention information.

Views on videos from the award-winning PSAC Prairies Video Project have reached over 3,000 collectively on the PSAC Prairies YouTube channel. While this isn't a huge number, the project was never designed for mass public consumption. The stories our members share in these videos are very personal and their situations are unique. The videos were produced to be an archival of our history and an educational tool for members to learn about our struggles and achievements. The clips we screened at convention were a huge hit among delegates, and the majority of respondents on our post-convention survey requested a copy of the videos for their local. We're looking into

this, as well as other options to help us spread the word and promote the project among members.

Additionally, PSAC headquarters has released several useful videos over the past few months including: "PSAC members take a stand against cuts to public services", "Employment Insurance in Canada: Hitting Rock Bottom", "Standing together for bargaining, standing together for public services". You can view these videos on PSAC's YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/PSACwebmaster.

BARGAINING & ORGANIZING

Several regional bargaining units have ratified their new collective agreements recently, including All Nations' Healing Hospital Inc. (Fort Qu'appelle) on May 29 and Freshwater Fish Marketing Corp. (Winnipeg) on June 14. Following a hearing in July, the Manitoba Labour Board imposed a first collective agreement for employees of the Centre for Aboriginal Human Resources Development (Winnipeg) for a one-year term.

Earlier this year, members employed by Canadian Museum for Human Rights (Winnipeg) ratified their collective agreement on January 31, Deer Lodge Centre Inc. (Winnipeg) ratified on February 12, Pro-Tec Fire Services of Canada (Saskatoon Airport) ratified on March 31 and Regina Airport Authority ratified on April 23.

The collective agreement for employees of the Royal Canadian Mint (Winnipeg & Ottawa) expired December 31, 2013. We are exchanging proposals with the employer September 10 and 11. Additionally, we have a newly organized unit with 35 members who perform security services at the Winnipeg facility. Notice to bargain has been issued and bargaining of the first collective agreement will begin the first week of December. We are also meeting this month for bargaining with Sodexo Canada Ltd (Moose Jaw).

The input call and notice to bargain has been issued for Saskatoon Airport Authority, which expired June 30, 2014. Input calls will be issued shortly for Edmonton Airport firefighters and captains, as well as security guards at Winnipeg Airport, both of which expire at the end of 2014.

We have a new organizer in the Prairies working out of the Saskatoon Regional Office. Please join me in welcoming Sister Kathryn McDonald to the Prairies. She will be working on the ground in Saskatoon on some exciting new prospects for at least the next six months. As always, if you have any leads or information that could be useful in organizing new units in the Prairies, please call Sister McDonald at the Saskatoon RO.

HEALTH & SAFETY TOUR

This fall, Clint Wirth, Regional Representative - Health and Safety, will undertake a tour across the Prairies to meet with locals and host evening education and information sessions. Brother Wirth has prioritized his site visits based on discussions with regional

staff and requests from locals who have specific workplace health and safety concerns or committees who are in need of support, information or assistance.

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

Brother Wirth will be reaching out to RVP's responsible for the locals he is visiting to invite them to attend. He will also work with the PRC Health & Safety Committee to ensure the involvement of the Committee. We will keep all PRC Reps informed of evening sessions, likely to be held in the various regional offices. You are encouraged to attend the evening session in your area if you are available.

LOOKING AHEAD

The new Union Development Program (UDP) has launched and we are accepting applications until October 3. UDP was previously postponed for 2014 due to the attack on unions, specifically Bill C-4, and the membership and staff resources required to fight back. The program will run from January to September, with in-person sessions in Winnipeg (March), Ottawa (May), and Edmonton (September). We previously received 30 applications for the postponed UDP. Those applications will be reconsidered with any new applications received for the six Prairies spots.

In addition to our PRC meeting, we're hosting the Prairies Summit with representatives from the Prairie Region Council, Component National Officers, and Regional Committees and Area Councils. Additionally, we're hosting the Prairies Young Workers Conference and Prairies Separate Employers Conference.

It will certainly be a very busy time for everyone, but I look forward to the discussions that will be had and connections that will be made.

Respectfully submitted,



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

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

June 10-13, 2014

This report covers the period from the last NBOD meeting.

STRATEGIC PLAN

In March we submitted our regional strategic plan outlining our planned activities for March through September. The approved plan included a telephone town hall around sick leave and bargaining, which we held on April 30, and an advanced mail out to all Prairies members notifying them of the town hall and other important information. A conference call was held with Prairies National Officers prior to the town hall to provide an update on the regional strategy and get feedback.

Despite some technical difficulties from our service provider Stratcom, our telephone town hall was a success. More than 65 per cent of the people we called picked up the phone live, compared to 47 per cent as an overall average for unions and associations. The average number of minutes that a Prairies member stayed on the call was 31 minutes, more than double the average of 15 minutes. I have no doubt that our increased promotional efforts in advance resulted in the strong outcome for the event.

Additionally, regional reps are reaching out to each and every local to discuss bargaining issues and determine scheduling of local onsite meetings. Where possible, lunch time meetings will be set up at each and every local to meet with members and provide information regarding sick leave and bargaining. PSAC will also hold multi-local meetings at nine locations throughout the region with a number of meetings in the larger centres. These meetings will be an opportunity for members to speak up, provide feedback and get involved. All members from all employers are invited to attend and provide feedback in the ongoing fight back and share ideas for what we can do together to combat concessions and cuts to public services.

For members outside of the regional office areas, we will host an online webinar. We will also be using the webinar format to reach members across the region on an ongoing basis. These webinars will provide educational opportunities on important issues as identified by members and leaders in the region and ensure we maintain the momentum from our meetings throughout bargaining and into the 2015 federal election.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Committees throughout the region have also been busy planning their activities for the months ahead. Many have held AGMs, elected new representatives to their executives, and planned meetings for the rest of the year. Committees are also working together within their regional office areas to strategize on how best to address the continued attacks on public services and unions.

For the National Day of Mourning on April 28, members from the Saskatoon Area Council and Lethbridge RWC attended events in their areas. The Calgary Area Council also attended a Day of Mourning ceremony and presented a wreath on behalf of PSAC members in honour of the 188 Albertans who died on the job in 2013, one of the highest rates in Canada.

Regional Women's Committees throughout the Prairies marked International Women's Day on March 8 by attending different events. The Saskatoon RWC attended a community brunch, while the Calgary RWC participated in a potluck and celebration. Committee members used a PSAC prize wheel to engage the more than 200 attendees in discussions about women's rights and women's "herstory".

Members from the Calgary Women's Committee also attended a fundraising event for Women Together Ending Poverty. The fundraiser was to raise money for three homeless women from Calgary who had been selected to attend the All Our Sisters 2014 National Forum, the second national forum on women and homelessness.

To honour women in Lethbridge, the Regional Women's Committee held an event for women at a local swimming pool offering free admission for women. The event was a success, with more than 100 women in attendance.

The Winnipeg Human Rights Committee purchased baby formula and blankets to donate to Winnipeg Harvest to ensure low-income families have the supplies they need to care for their families. This is an initiative they plan to continue on an ongoing basis.

Each year the month of June brings Pride activities throughout the Prairie Region and PSAC members are always front and center for all the festivities. The Winnipeg Human Rights Committee plans to attend the parade, as they do each and every year, and have sent notices to all locals and committees to invite other members to participate. In Regina, the HRC is a sponsor for Queen City Pride and will be participating in the parade. They also plan to set up an information booth at the picnic after the parade.

VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE CLOSURES

We were proud to support veterans and PSAC members working for Veterans Affairs Canada as held protests and events across the country to mark the closures of Veterans Affairs offices in eight communities, including in Brandon and Saskatoon.

Despite the bitter cold, more than 50 people gathered outside the Veterans Affairs Canada office in Brandon on January 31 to witness the closure of the office and the loss of face-to-face services to veterans. Local veterans who served in WWII, the Korean War, the War in Afghanistan and representatives from the RCMP Veterans' Association attended to speak out against the closure and call on Brandon-Souris MP Larry Maguire, Minister for Veterans Affairs Julian Fantino and Prime Minister Stephen Harper to reopen the offices and fully restore the face-to-face services veterans deserve.

In Saskatoon, veterans gathered for a press conference at the Delta Bessborough organized by PSAC. Every media outlet in the city attended and spoke to veterans about their experiences. Thank you to Brother Yvan Thauvette for coming to the Prairies to attend and speak at the press conference.

PSAC members in Lethbridge, along with CUPW and the Lethbridge District Labour Council, also organized a small rally and march in solidarity with the veterans. Lethbridge wasn't one of the communities affected, but members recognized the importance of raising awareness of the issue since we are all affected by the loss of public services.

We also ran a series of advertisements in community newspapers and an extensive transit shelter campaign, which was extended by the advertising agency pro bono. The ads shed light on the irresponsible cuts by the federal government and called on Harper to reverse the decision and provide veterans with the services they deserve.

PRAIRIES VIDEO PROJECT

I am very proud to announce that PSAC Prairies was awarded the Canadian Association of Labour Media (CALM) award for "Best narrative video, or video series documentary" for the Prairies Video Project. We also received honourable mention for "Best photograph" for a photo from our "Crash The(ir) Party!" political rally in Calgary.

The Prairies Video Project is very important to me. Never before have we collected and shared members' stories in such an intimate and compelling way. I was lucky enough to be on location for the interviews across the Prairies and to speak with these members first hand. I'm delighted that everyone can share in the insights and experiences that these members shared with us, and that the project is receiving national recognition.

Over the past couple months we've added more videos to the series. To recognize National Day of Mourning, we released a special edition to highlight asbestos awareness and the work of the Saskatchewan Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization (SADAO), a non-profit organization co-

founded by former PSAC member Howard Willems. We also looked back at the historic Idle No More movement. PSAC members and activists shared their stories and discussed why the Idle No More movement and labour movement work so well together as allies.

Other videos have included member services, the importance of sick leave and the value of unions. Our next video will coincide with Pride month. The video features stories from GLBT members about their experiences in their workplace and in their union.

PROPOSED SALE OF CASINO REGINA

In February, the Saskatchewan Party government was forced to disclose that they were in discussions with the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority to sell Casino Regina and Casino Moose Jaw, which are currently provincial Crown Corporations. The NDP Official Opposition contacted PSAC and went public with the information.

Since PSAC represents more than 400 members at Casino Regina, I attended a meeting with NDP Leader Cam Broten and several PSAC members from the local to provide information and feedback. Several weeks later, while the Premier would not agree to meet with PSAC members, the same delegation met with Minister of Labour Don Morgan who advised that the sale is no longer on the table. We will continue to monitor as this could potentially re-surface in a hurry or during the next provincial election.

SOCIAL JUSTICE FUND

From March 21 - April 4 PSAC members participated in PSAC's Social Justice Fund delegation to Guatemala. They supported the efforts of grassroots organizations to improve livelihoods of locals through initiatives based on social justice and fair trade.

Jen Botincan, a UNDE member from Winnipeg, was selected to participate in this opportunity. Participants worked together to build schools and community centres. Jen wrote a series of blog entries about the life changing experiences, which have been posted to the Prairies website.

BARGAINING UPDATE

Several bargaining units in the Prairies have recently ratified new collective agreements. Members employed by Regina Airport Authority and those working for Pro-Tec, offering fire services at Saskatoon International Airport, both ratified agreements last month. Members at All Nations' Healing Hospital in Fort Qu'Appelle also recently negotiated a new deal and will hold a ratification vote in the coming weeks.

As we prepare to exchange proposals with Treasury Board and head into bargaining with Parks Canada, many of our smaller regional units are also heading to the table. Freshwater Fish, Sodexo, Saskatoon Airport Authority, and the Royal Canadian Mint—the new group of security officers in Winnipeg and both of the Ottawa and Winnipeg plants—are up for renewal and are

preparing to go to the table.

LOOKING AHEAD

The Prairies Regional Convention is just around the corner, and plans are well under way. Convention will be held in Saskatoon and our host committee is eager to welcome delegates from throughout the Prairies to their city. We're expecting nearly 300 delegates, as well as close to 50 more observers and guests. With 75 resolutions submitted, there is sure to be a lot of interesting debate and discussions.

All eight of the Area Councils in the Prairies have held elections for Prairie Region Council Representative. Welcome to those members who will be joining us for the first time and congratulations to all. The Area Council PRC Reps will be sworn in at Convention and the remaining PRC positions will be elected at Convention in their respective caucuses.

Respectfully submitted,



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

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

February 25-28, 2014

This report covers the period from the last NBOD meeting.

ASSAULT ON LABOUR

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

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

Thank you to everyone who supported the event, including the Calgary Area Council and several PRC members for their contributions to organizing the event, and those that braved the blizzard conditions to speak out.

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

Members from the Prince Area Council lobbied and sent letters to Randy Hoback, Conservative MP for Prince Albert, while members of the Lethbridge Area Council lobbied Jim Hillyer, Conservative MP for Lethbridge Constituency. The Winnipeg Area Council held a phone bank to inform locals about how Bill C-4 would affect them and collect contact information for follow-up activities.

YOUNG WORKERS UNITE

Leading up to the holidays, dozens of young workers attended a series of meetings aimed at bringing young workers together to strategize on the establishment of young workers committees. Young workers who attended the six meetings throughout the Prairies were enthusiastic and interested in getting involved, and identified a need for education geared towards young workers. There was also a determination to ensure unions remain a strong voice for workers and that they are able to retire with dignity and security. We will continue to build a network of young workers, as well as encourage young workers to take courses offered by their regional office to prepare them to grow within the union.

FOCUSED ON COMMUNITY

The Saskatoon Regional Women's Committee participated in the 8th Annual Sisters in Spirit Vigil on October 4. Then, on November 11, the committee got together to make purple ribbons to show solidarity with public sector workers affected by cuts to public services. The sisters who attended made over 600 ribbons for distribution to Locals. Along with the ribbons, they also made purple cards that explain the purple ribbon movement, asking members to wear the ribbons to demonstrate that "We Are All Affected" by the cuts.

Additionally, the RWC purchased gifts for 12 girls for the Operation Christmas Child (Shoebox Gifts) fundraiser. The boxes are made and distributed to a child who would normally have little to look forward to at Christmas. The boxes were filled with pens, pencils, erasers, crayons, note pads, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, brushes, hair clips and accessories, stuffed animals, harmonicas, bracelets, and hard candy. Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Venezuela are some of the countries that the boxes are destined for.

To mark December 6, National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, Sisters from Saskatoon RWC attended the event at City Hall, which was well attended, despite the bitter cold of -47. A few days earlier, a panel discussion on violence against women was held, along with a candle light vigil. RWC members participated by lighting candles for each of the 14 women.

The Saskatoon RWC and AC hosted the December Open House at the Saskatoon Regional office where RWC Chair Nancy Johnson unveiled two plaques to commemorate the work of former PSAC member and health and safety activist, the late Howard Willems. As Howard was an active member and supported the work of both the AC and RWC, committee members felt it only fitting to recognize his memory with this permanent memorial.

In Lethbridge, the RWC participated in several events, including the Sisters in Spirit Vigil, an anti-fracking demonstration at Galt Gardens, Persons Day breakfast, Take Back the Night, and Nifty Knitters, where committee members knitted mitts, toques, and scarves to donate to the Interfaith Food Bank for families in need. The Lethbridge Area Council was proud to co-sponsor

the first annual Canadian Labour International Film Festival in Lethbridge. The event was a success and the vast majority of attendees were PSAC members.

The Winnipeg Regional Women's Committee identified child hunger as a community cause they would support over the holiday season and donated funds to breakfast programs at Donwood Elementary School, Kent Road School, Machray School, and Breakfast for Learning. The committee also donated to the MFL's Manitoba Labour Christmas Tree Project.

Members from the Winnipeg HRC staffed a booth at the UNE Human Rights Conference, October 3-6 in Winnipeg. To prepare for the conference, members developed a brochure focusing on human rights, which were handed out at the conference. The brochure was so well received that the committee plans to continue to hand them out at various union events around Winnipeg and area with the hopes of increasing awareness and building recruitment.

In Regina, the Area Council laid a wreath in recognition of Remembrance Day, as did the Edmonton Regional Women's Committee. The Regina HRC held a seasonal event at the Regina Regional Office in honour of December 10, Human Rights Day.

POLITICS IN ACTION

The Winnipeg Area Council also participated in the by-election for the Manitoba riding of Provencher by preparing a mail out to PSAC members encouraging them to vote, along with an information sheet on Bill C-4.

Following the PSAC Equity Conferences, the Winnipeg Area Council, Human Rights Committee and Regional Women's Committee held a joint meeting to discuss how the committees could address the attacks on public services. The meeting was well attended and a number of initiatives were developed.

Calgary Area Council was involved in several important initiatives, including the planning of the "Crash The(ir) Party!" rally during the Conservative Convention in Calgary, promoting labour-friendly candidates and issues during the municipal elections in Calgary and speaking with locals about Bill-C4.

The Lethbridge Area Council participated in the CLC's Municipalities Matter campaign by encouraging members to vote and providing them with information about the differences between the candidates on issues for working families.

BARGAINING UPDATE

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

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

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

LOOKING AHEAD

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

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

Respectfully submitted,



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

REVP Prairies Activities

Sept. 9 -12	AEC Meeting
Sept. 9	Conservative Convention Rally planning conference call
Sept. 13-14	NCR Young Workers Conference, Ottawa
Sept. 15	Travel to Winnipeg
Sept. 16	Component President Briefing conference call
Sept. 16	Guest speaker at Save Our Science Rally – University of Winnipeg
Sept. 17	Travel to Regina
Sept. 17	TC Ratification Vote, Regina RO
Sept. 18	Travel to Winnipeg
Sept. 19-20	MFL Executive Council
Sept. 20	Manitoba CCPA Annual General Meeting
Sept. 24	Conservative Convention Rally planning conference call
Sept. 26	UNE Local 50773 (CMHR) Strategy conference call
Sept. 30 – Oct. 5	Vacation
Oct. 6	Travel to Ottawa
Oct. 7	AEC Meeting
Oct. 8-10	NBOD
Oct. 10	Travel to Winnipeg
Oct. 11	Royal Canadian Mint Strategy conference call
Oct. 15	Travel to Edmonton
Oct. 15	UPCE membership meetings (2 locations)
Oct. 15	Travel to Calgary
Oct. 16	UPCE membership meeting
Oct. 16	Travel to Winnipeg
Oct. 17	UPCE membership meeting, Winnipeg
Oct. 18-20	Prairie Region Council, Winnipeg
Oct. 23	Conservative Convention Rally planning conference call
Oct. 24	USGE Local 50015 AGM, Winnipeg
Oct. 28	Travel to Saskatoon
Oct. 28	Stewards Project conference call
Oct. 28	Conservative Convention Rally planning conference call
Oct. 29	AEC/Regional Coordinator Convention planning conference call
Oct. 29	AEC Supporting Our Allies committee conference call
Oct. 30-Nov. 1	SFL Convention, Saskatoon
Oct. 30	AEC/Component Briefing conference call
Nov. 1	Travel to Calgary
Nov. 1	Common Causes Teach-In
Nov. 2	Crash Their Party Rally
Nov. 3	Travel to Ottawa

Nov. 4-5	AEC Meeting
Nov. 6	Special NBOD Meeting
Nov. 6	Travel to Saskatoon
Nov. 7	Travel Saskatoon to Winnipeg
Nov. 7	National Officers conference call
Nov. 7	Prairies C-4 Telephone Town Hall
Nov. 13	PRC Monthly update conference call
Nov. 14	AEC conference call
Nov. 14	Meeting with Bob Kingston, Agriculture Union & Manitoba Minister of Agriculture Ron Kostyshyn, Winnipeg
Nov. 14	NHU Local 50012 AGM
Nov. 15	UNE Local 50773 (CMHR) Strategy conference call
Nov. 16	Travel to Toronto
Nov. 17	National Women's Conference Resolutions Committee meeting
Nov. 17	AEC meeting/training session
Nov. 18-22	National Equity Conference
Nov. 20	AEC Meeting
Nov. 22	Travel to Winnipeg
Nov. 26	FB Ratification Vote, Winnipeg
Nov. 26	Travel to Saskatoon
Nov. 27	USGE Convention Preparation Course
Nov. 28	Prairies Staff conference call re: actions around C4
Nov. 29	Travel to Winnipeg
Nov. 30	UVAE Local 50021 Holiday Social
Dec. 3	Federation of Labour VP's conference call
Dec. 3	Joint Winnipeg HRC/RWC/Area Council meeting
Dec. 4	UNE Local 50773 (CMHR) Strike Vote (3 sessions)
Dec. 5	Travel to Thompson, MB
Dec. 5	USGE Local AGM
Dec. 5	CEIU Worksite visit
Dec. 5	USGE NPB worksite visit
Dec. 5	Travel to Winnipeg
Dec. 6	MFL Executive Council
Dec. 6	Dec. 6 th Day of Remembrance Luncheon, Winnipeg
Dec. 8	Travel to Ottawa
Dec. 9-10	AEC Meeting
Dec. 11	Travel to Winnipeg
Dec. 11	UTE Local 50031 Executive Meeting
Dec. 11	Edmonton Area Council meeting (by phone)
Dec. 12	Conference call re: RWC Handbook amendments
Dec. 13	AEC conference call
Dec. 16	AEC conference call

Dec. 16-24, Jan. 2-3	Winnipeg office
Jan. 6-7	Vacation
Jan. 8	Travel to Regina
Jan. 8	Regina Area Council meeting
Jan. 9-10	Vacation
Jan. 10	NBOD Political Action Committee conference call
Jan. 12	Travel to Ottawa
Jan. 13-15	AEC Meeting
Jan. 15	Travel to Winnipeg
Jan. 16	Component President Briefing conference call

**Susan Norman
Alternate REVP
Prairie Region Council September 2014**

Congratulations to everyone on a great Convention. Many of you are new to the position on the PRC (Prairie Region Council) which is exciting. I am not new to Council but I am new to the position of Alternate REVP. I am sorry I was not able to be present at the first meeting of Council but I am there in spirit. Have a great meeting.

As it has been only a few months since Convention I do not have a long report to present. I was invited to the UNDE barbeque held in July in Brandon. I have attended the last 2 meeting of the Westman Area Council. I meet with Marianne to review the finances, which Marianne has made great headway on since our last PRC Meeting.

As many of you have been watching or listening to the news you are aware that another young women was murdered and her body was pulled from the Red River in Winnipeg. I found that this so disheartening to hear yet another women lost her life and the government felt that there was no need to do anything about it. I send an email to each of the party leaders asking for an investigation and/or a committee be struck to look into this. I encourage everyone to send an email or letter to their MP or the leaders of the parties.

Respectively submitted in solidarity,

Susan Norman

Sam Akinsanya
Racially Visible Persons Rep
Prairie Region Council September 2014

Given the limited human resources we have, the HRC did partner with the Area Council committee, the Women's committee along with other union and committees to set up a booth at the Calgary Annual Global-Fest. The booth showcased PSAC, handed out different brochures regarding for example Employment Standards in Alberta. Give the public opportunity a chance to spin "The Wheel of Information" and make the people answer questions to win a price. The booth was well attended on the 23rd of August when I was at the booth but unfortunately I didn't take my camera -- so no pictures from me.

A similar activity also took place today (Labour Day) at the Olympic Plaza in downtown Calgary -- in front of the City Hall. Again the HRC contributed towards the burger and hot dogs (condiments) served to the public by the Calgary District Labour Council. We once again partnered with the Area Council committee and the regional office to set up a booth where the public get a chance to spin the "Wheel of Information", answer a question and win a price. We also had abundant of delicious cookies that were given to the public. See the attached pictures from the Labour Day event.

In Solidarity

Sam Akinsanya
Regional Representative
Racially Visible Equity Group
Phone: [\(403\) 850-3951](tel:4038503951)

**Nathaniel Angus-Jackman
Young Workers Rep
Prairie Region Council September 2014**

On August 12th 2014 I received notice that the current Young Workers Representative had formally resigned the position and that as the First Alternate I would be taking over. Since then I have been preparing for the upcoming Young Workers Conference taking place in Regina. In the short period of time since taking over the position, I have had the opportunity to work with some fantastic activists within the PSAC on developing an agenda for, and shaping the direction of the conference. I am looking forward to contributing further, and to engaging and recruiting young workers within the PSAC.

Satinder Bains
Regina Area Council Rep
Prairie Region Council September 2014

This is the first report to the PRC Council, most of the summer I was away on holidays so my union activity was pretty quiet. Now as we head into September I will be attending all the Area Council and Regina Human Rights meetings. This will be a very busy time as Bargaining will be the main topic for all our members.

As my union rep capacity I did attend at the RCMP Depot Locals seminars where the Civilian members will be becoming PSAC members. In my union capacity I was to answer questions to PSE's or CM's regarding what it means to be a part of the union. Our next session in Regina will be October. We're delivering several of these sessions in anticipation of COE deeming, a mix of PSE's and CM's are attending the seminars. One of the main objectives of this course is to provide CM's and new PSE's with information about what HR looks like for public service employees. We have no new information to date on when/if deeming will occur, but are trying to be proactive in getting information out there.

In Solidarity,

Satinder Bains
South Sask Area Council Rep

Denni Ernst
Northern SK Geographical Rep
Prairie Region Council September 2014

Over the summer I attended the prairie region convention where I was re elected to council.

In early summer there was a plantgate at saskpen which I took part in.

I attended a RAPC meeting on August 6th and co facilitated a mini school August 22-23 in Saskatoon.

I'm glad to be back and look forward to the fall where I'm hoping to be invited to the local meetings and AGMs.

In solidarity
Denni Ernst

**Deanna Getz
Southern SK Geographical Rep
Prairie Region Council September 2014**

Activities to date:

- Attended PSAC Regional conference on June 27th to the 29th.
- Elected as Regional Rep. for Southern Saskatchewan at convention and sworn in.
- First PRC meeting to be attended in Regina from September 18th to the 22nd, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Deanna Getz
Southern Sask Prairie Regional Rep

**Alec Goertzen
Calgary Area Council Rep
Prairie Region Council September 2014**

There was no PRC activity during this period. The only information from REVP to action for the period was email of July 17th; to submit request for position on Standing Committees, which I replied on July 22/14.

Jennifer Grant
NW Manitoba Geographical Rep
Prairie Region Council September 2014

As the newly elected representative for NW Manitoba, I am excited to be attending the upcoming PRC orientation and Prairie Region Summit scheduled within the next few weeks. Since being elected, I have attended the Westman Area Council meeting in Brandon on Aug 27th and registered for our upcoming PSAC Union School in November. I hope to gain valuable knowledge and experience from these training events, and be able to build a great foundation in our area for our members to connect.

Looking forward to Regina!

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Grant

NW Manitoba Geographical Rep

Kim Haynes
Persons with Disabilities Rep
Prairie Region Council September 2014

Prior to being elected the chair of this committee I stressed on how important it is to gather information and then make it really available in a user friend manner.

Knowing that this is just not a one person's job – we Peter (1st delegate) & Bob (2nd delegate) and I decided that we would work together to help the members with disabilities find the resource to address concerns that they have. During the “banquet” others in our caucuses came to me and volunteered their names for assistance.

Prior to leaving the convention we were told that we could not have a list and email address for those in our caucuses and Regional Reps. Hopefully that this was just a misunderstanding.

But that did not stop this team. We have been researching and finding awesome links to assist members and other who have Disabilities concerns.

- Now we need the resources to advertise these links.
- Put names to people who have & won concerns in their fights.

I would like sometime – to talk to our people who look after our website – also there is a strong possibility of wanting to create another site. Would that not be great for “UNIONS”? As always looking after others. And especially PSAC, as right now we need to have a very “positive” view in the general public eye.

Policies are needed. And some components do not have any. So we would like to gather what is out there – shake them up and try to create a genetic format. Then the components can take the format and shag it to suit their needs.

Interneting with others will be really important for our team (PWD), as we do not want to reinvent the “wheel”. So we need names of your component reps & local reps.

**Tim Hogan
Prince Albert Area Council Rep
Prairie Region Council September 2014**

We held a plant gate during Public service Week and distributed pamphlets to members. Also finally received response from our MP.

Sherry Hunt
Southern AB Geographical Rep
Prairie Region Council September 2014

Since being elected into this position at the Prairies Triennial, my main activity has been the planning and coordination of the First Annual Lethbridge and District Labour Council, Free Community BBQ. We plan to feed up to 550 people on Saturday Aug 30 at our downtown park, Galt Gardens. The Lethbridge PSAC Women's Committee, of which I am also a member, is sponsoring the children's games at the event.

Submitted by,

Sherry Hunt

Timothy Hunt
GLBT Rep
Prairie Region Council September 2014



Timothy Hunt

GLBT Representative | Prairie Region Council |
 403-292-4150 bus | 403-818-9675 cell
 E-Mail @ work > Timothy.Hunt@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca
 E-Mail: @ home > hunt@psac.com
 Residence Address: 399 Inverness Park SE, Calgary, AB, T2Z 3P6
July 01st – September 22nd, 2014 – Report to PRC



Edmonton Pride Parade – June 07

The hubby and I attended the AFL float and joined up with some brothers and sisters (pictured far right is Brother James Somers) to carry the PSAC banner and flag.



2014 Convention - 2014

The conference was held in Saskatoon this time, lots of friendly faces and great meeting space. I was successful for retaining my seat as PRC – GLBT representative



World Pride Conference / Games - Toronto

Our union's presence at WorldPride events in Toronto was particularly notable. PSAC activists attended an international human rights conference and more than 250 of them marched in the trans and dyke marches, as well as the main parade – spreading the union message to millions of bystanders. We sent two members of the Prairies Region, Brother Chris Gagne-Little (a/RVP UNE-Winnipeg) and Sister Kate Hart (Passport Cda/UNE-Edmonton) to be ambassadors from our region.



Calgary Pride – August 21st to 31st

Many different events located around the city



Equality Rights

Nancy Johnson
RWC Rep
Prairie Region Council September 2014

Welcome to our newly elected PRC members and welcome back to our re-elected members. I look forward to working with you all over the next three years. Thank you for putting your names forward to represent our members. I am certain that you will find the work on the council very rewarding and an opportunity like no other to grow your leadership skills.

Personally, I would like to thank Marianne and the PRC for the thoughtful cards and condolences on the recent passing of my mother. The last six months had been a priority caring for her. Your kind words and thoughts were very much appreciated and there are no words that can adequately describe my gratitude.

As an Alliance Facilitator, I co-facilitated the Mini Union School in August in Saskatoon with Sister Ernst and the members enjoyed the workshop. My favourite session was the "Treasurer's Chest", we had a lot of fun with that.

Kicked off September at the Labour Day BBQ in Saskatoon, where PSAC Area Council had a table with balloons, tattoos, fans, and potato chips. It was a lot of fun and the weather was great too. Thanks Sisters Nettleton and Wurm for your participation.

Excited to connect with the RWC committee chairs at the Leadership Summit later this month.

In solidarity,
Sister Nancy Johnson

Glen Johnston
Westman Area Council Rep
Prairie Region Council September 2014

I was elected as the Alternate for the position of the Westman Area Council Rep in support of Susan Norman who was elected as the WMAC Rep. At the PSAC Prairie Region Triennial Convention in June 2014, Susan Norman was elected as the Alternate REVP which meant that I then assumed the position as of the end of Convention.

There hasn't been a lot of activity with the Area Council since the Convention as we were rolling into the summer months and people were heading off on vacation to spend time with family and to recharge their batteries and get ready for the coming battles with Treasury Board in relation to Bargaining and the struggle ahead in trying to deal with the Conservative Government in many areas, not least of which is cuts to Government services.

I attended the Westman Area Council Meeting on 9 Jul 14 where we discussed adding a Young Workers position to the Executive and also looked at ways to get more involved in the community. Discussions were also held in regards to the United Way Christmas Tree Auction which the Area Council has supported for the past three years.

A first and second alternate for the position of Westman Area Council Rep to the PRC were also elected, 1st Alternate: Mike Weisgerber, 2nd Alternate: Martin Kaminski.

I was unable to attend the WMAC meeting on the 27th of August due to illness but did have a discussion with Susan Norman after the meeting. At the meeting Jennifer Grant was elected as the President of the WMAC. Discussions continued on community involvement and connecting with the new DCL at Brandon University.

Respectfully submitted,

Glen Johnston
WMAC Rep to the PRC

**Chad Kemery
Separate Employer Locals Rep
Prairie Region Council September 2014**

- Re-elected at the Prairie Region Triennial Convention in Saskatoon June 27-29, 2014.
- Emails and callouts for the prairies Separate Employer and Directly Chartered Local Conference. September 23-24 Regina.
- Attended UCTE's 16th Triennial Convention from July 20-23.
- Email and conference calls regarding September 23-24 conference.

Chad Kemery

Gregory Krokosh
Lethbridge Area Council Rep
Prairie Region Council September 2014

After an absence from Council for six years, I look forward to the opportunities to work with Brothers and Sisters from across the Region for the benefit of members.

Since our Convention I have been busy with our Component Convention where I was elected delegate to the upcoming PSAC National Convention and acclaimed for a second term as Alternate Regional Vice-President for Rocky Mountains Regions, Union of Taxation Employees.

I was on the organizing committee for the Lethbridge & District Labour Council's 1st annual Labour Day BBQ and was safety officer for the event held on Saturday, August 30. Hamburgers, hot dogs, sno-cones, popcorn and water were served to approximately 300. We are all affected buttons were distributed and several discussions were held with members of the public. Participation included members of UFCW, USW, CUPW, PIPSC and PSAC.

I look forward to the first meeting of this new Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory Krokosh

**Michelle Lang
DCL Rep
Prairie Region Council September 2014**

Being newly active on the PRC I have nothing to report

In solidarity

Michelle Lang

Ben Lemon
Edmonton Area Council Rep
Prairie Region Council September 2014

I was sworn in to Prairie Region Council in Saskatoon during PSAC Regional Convention June 29, 2014. My first official duty was to have a meeting with Oneil Carlier at the PSAC office on July 28th. Our priority is to “Reboot” the Edmonton Area Council (EAC). The EAC seems to be anemic at this point. The group needs a goal to focus on & move towards, in my opinion. I plan to call the executive members of the EAC before going to Regina to get any ideas they may have to focus on.

We discussed possible ideas, coming up with the upcoming federal election & defeating the current Conservative government. We thought perhaps having a workshop on gaining confidence talking to MP’s & other candidates. I have since come up with a few other ideas but the upcoming federal election should be our priority at this time.

I am looking forward in learning more & hearing other ideas at the upcoming PRC meeting in Sept. I think I may be the only new PRC member, so I have a steep learning curve ahead of me.

Respectfully submitted,

Ben Lemon

Gus Mardli
SE Manitoba Geographical Rep
Prairie Region Council September 2014

Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

This reporting is for the period of July to September 2014.

It has been an honour and a privilege to be re-elected to this position at the last Prairie Triennial Convention. I am looking forward to work with each and every local in this geographical area.

Following Convention, I started on setting- up a communication network to ensure receiving information from locals in SE Manitoba. I also wanted to make sure that information is being disseminated to these locals and to promote activism in the broader labour movement.

I also have been sharing information on relevant community and social justice organizations that share common interests with our members.

The one great thing I participated in is the march that was put on by the Winnipeg Labour Council on Monday, September 1st. The march started at Memorial Park at 1:00 pm, marching to Portage Avenue, then West to Vimy Ridge Park, where the Labour Day Picnic took place from 2:00 PM until 4:30 PM.

I am also looking forward to attend the special presentation, put on by the Winnipeg Women Regional Committee, on “Political” with presented by Sister Kelly Moist, President of CUPE Manitoba. This event is going to be include brothers in the Winnipeg area as well.

I will also be actively attending meetings put forth by both the Winnipeg & Area Human Rights Committee and the Winnipeg Area Council.

I wish all PRC members a productive and fun-filled 3 year term, especially the newly elected members with my warmest welcome.

In Solidarity,

Respectfully Submitted

Gus Mardli

Jackie Nettleton
Saskatoon Area Council Rep
Prairie Region Council September 2014

Most of the work of the members of the AC in the past several months has been in taking part in the Host Committee for the Prairie Region Convention that took place in June. It was a lot of work but also a lot of fun and delegates seemed to appreciate our efforts. Now that that huge project is finished we can focus on our usual pursuits.

We again participated in the Labour Day BBQ sponsored by the Saskatoon and District Labour Council. Every year unions in Saskatoon get together and put on a free bbq in one of the city's core parks. We gave out balloons and temporary tattoos to the kids and helped serve burgers, hot dogs etc. We also gave away a fair number of "Idle No More" posters that were well received as the Riversdale neighbourhood is home to a large number of First Nations people. It was also nice to meet up again with friends and activists from other unions.

Jackie Nettleton

PRC rep. Saskatoon Area Council

**Murray Pruden
Northern AB Geographical Rep
Prairie Region Council September 2014**

Nil report from northern Alberta.

Murray Pruden

**Gary Sparvier
Aboriginal Peoples Rep
Prairie Region Council September 2014**

It has been my pleasure to represent PSAC members in the Prairie Region over the past 3-year term as the alternate Aboriginal Representative. Although I was not involved in the day to day business of the Aboriginal representative portfolio, I am very interested to be able to serve the members of the Prairie Region Council (PRC) with dedication and respect.

In general this will be my first report of many to come:

- I attended the Prairie Region Convention in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan on June 25 - 29, 2014.
- At this convention I was elected as the Aboriginal Representative of the PRC, I look forward to the next three years and hopefully get to meet all the members.

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

Respectfully,

Gary J Sparvier
Aboriginal Representative
PRC Member

Matt Tijani
Winnipeg Area Council Rep
Prairie Region Council September 2014

June 2014

- Nothing to report.

July 2014

- Nothing to report

August 2014

- Nothing to report

September 2014

- Participate in Labour Day Parade and Picnic

In Solidarity

Respectively submitted

Matt Tijani

WAC – PRC Rep.