

Marianne Hladun Alternate REVP

PSAC Prairie Region Convention Report June 2011

It has been my pleasure to represent PSAC members in the Prairie Region over the past three years. Moving from a Geographical Representative to the Alternate REVP was a transition as it took a conscious effort to step out of one role into the other.

In general, I continued my participation by:

- ❖ Submitted written reports to each Prairie Region Council meeting as per the Bylaws.
- ❖ Participating in the Communications Committee of the PRC.
- ❖ Attending Saskatoon & District Area Council meetings & Prince Albert & District Area Council meetings to provide advice and support.
- ❖ Attended when possible, the Saskatoon & Prince Albert Regional Women's Committee to provide advice and support.
- ❖ Acted as a liaison between the Saskatoon & District Area Council and the Saskatoon & District Labour Council.
- ❖ On behalf of PSAC, attended Saskatoon & District Labour Council events such as the Annual Labour Day Barbeque, Summer Snack Program, Remembrance Day ceremonies, International Day of Mourning commemoration, Labour Council AGM.
- ❖ Administrative responsibilities such as chairing an investigation committee and communicating with the REVP on issues affecting members in the Prairie Region.
- ❖ Chairing a PSAC Prairie Region Convention Committee.

Political Action

- ❖ Co-Chair the SFL Political Strategy Committee that is coordinating a Labour Issues Campaign for the upcoming Nov. 2011 Provincial election and liaising with the REVP and PSAC locals in Saskatchewan.
- ❖ Assisted with lobbying efforts during the Casino Regina strike including being a media contact in Saskatoon (my first media scrum!)
- ❖ Volunteered in federal, provincial and municipal elections including door-to-door canvassing, data entry, flyer drops and inside and outside scrutineering on election day.
- ❖ Attended the May Day 2011 rally at the Saskatchewan Legislature in Regina.
- ❖ Representing PSAC members on the United Way Board of Directors as a Labour Representative and a member of the Labour Advisory Committee & Human Resources Committee.

Overall, while it has been a transition, I thank the members for giving me the opportunity to take on a new leadership role. I believe that there is more that can be done in this position to mentor and build new leadership. With my years of participation in the PRC and skills and knowledge acquired at the CLC Labour College of Canada, I believe there is more than can and should be done to move us forward in what will be an assault on our membership.

As such, I will be putting my name forward at the June 2011 Prairies Convention for the position of Alternate REVP and welcome any discussions on how we can grow our movement in our workplaces and our communities.

In Solidarity,

Marianne Hladun

Gerry Pendulak South East Manitoba Geographic Representative

PSAC Prairie Region Convention Report June 2011

It is truly amazing how time does fly. This report covers three years from June of 2008 until now June of 2011. I am very proud of my commitment to the Prairie Region Council (PRC). I have served you the members of the PSAC with dedication and most importantly respect and dignity. I have participated in the PRC quarterly meetings, teleconference calls and emails during this period. I have attended all meetings that I was capable of attending.

Some of the highlights of this reporting period were participating in the number of Federal Elections that were held in this timeframe. This election however was most disappointing as our Prime Minister continues to be Stephen Harper. Not only is this disturbing to me but now he is in a majority position. This is my total rant on the man.

I have a list of activities that I participated in either by myself or with a bigger body:

- I was the Chair of the Winnipeg Area Council for one term.
- I met with my member of Parliament on a couple of occasions.
- I participated on a number of phone banks dealing with the Federal Elections.
- I sent out a letter of introduction to all the locals that I was responsible for.
- Letters sent out to the membership dealing with varied topics.
- I attended both Prairie Leadership sessions held in Winnipeg.
- I presented sessions of the role of the PRC at a variety of functions.
- I was on the picket line supporting the membership of the Postal group as a PRC Rep.
- I made myself available for all functions that my terms of reference would allow me as your Geographical Representative.
- I was part of the UTE Local that sent out coffee and donuts to a picket line here in Winnipeg.

This list is not all inclusive, but represents the wide variety of activities that one wants to be part of as your Geographical Representative.

I wish to thank you for your support over this term and more importantly the last 2 and a half terms.

Respectfully submitted by

Gerry Pendulak
Prairie Region Council (PRC)
South East Manitoba
Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC)

Glen Johnston North West Manitoba Geographic Representative

PSAC Prairie Region Convention Report June 2011

The Prairie Region Triennial Convention in 2008 saw the creation of a new position on the Prairie Region Council, the Area Council Representative. This in turn led to the creation of a new geographic region in Manitoba, the North – West Region. I was elected as the North –West Manitoba Regional Representative at this Convention.

Since my election I have struggled to define my role as a geographic rep for Manitoba. While I live in Southern Manitoba, which includes the area of the WestMan Area Council Representative's responsibility, the majority of the people I represent live in northern Manitoba (above a line running east to west roughly parallel with the southern tip of Lake Winnipeg).

With the addition of the Area Council Rep position to the Prairie Region Council (PRC), some of the roles and responsibilities that the Geographic Rep were tasked to fulfill became the Area Council Reps responsibility.

While holding office on the PRC I do not feel that I fulfilled all of my responsibilities as the Geographic Rep, however I do believe that I contributed to the PRC in achieving their mandate by assisting the WestMan Area Council Rep in fulfilling their role, by participating on the PRC Communications Committee, by discussing with members at large the role of the PRC and the PSAC in the Prairie Region, and by Co-Chairing the Bylaws Committee for the 2011 Prairie Region Triennial Convention. A more complete list of my activities can be found within the PRC Meeting minutes that are posted on the Prairie Region website.

<http://prairies.psac.com/prairies/about/rc/PRCDocuments.shtml>

During my tenure on the PRC I also attended several training seminars, most notably the PSAC Leadership Program – Phase I, Leadership seminars and strategy sessions on the way ahead for the Prairie Region.

I was part of the PRC Communication Committee along with the A/REVP, Sister Marianne Hladun and our staff resource Jeffery Vallis. Our mandate was to look at ways to streamline and improve communications within the Prairie Region. As such the Committee developed an email protocol for use by the Prairie Region Council, and eventually Area Councils, Regional Women's Committees, Human Rights Committees, etc. While we have not been totally successful in having this protocol adopted, we are hopeful that the day will come.

The committee also looked at ways to improve the Prairie Regions website, the need to ensure the minutes of the PRC meetings are posted in a timely manner and the possibilities of using video conferencing by internet to hold small meetings and discussions.

The Communications Committee was also tasked with the responsibility for the Honors and Awards that will be presented at the 2011 Prairie Region Triennial Convention.

A large part of my time since the PRC meeting in April 2010 has been spent working on the Prairie Region By-Laws. I was asked to Co-chair the By-Laws Committee, along with Susan Norman, and have spent many hours reading the By-Laws from other PSAC Regions and the PSAC Constitution. After several discussions with Sister Benson about the proposed changes, the resolutions were written and then in December of 2010, Susan and I met with Sister Benson, Pat Davis and Deana Kimball to discuss the proposed changes to the Prairie Region By-Laws. After this meeting the resolutions were rewritten, discussed and rewritten again for presentation to the PRC in January of 2011. During this meeting and in conjunction with conference calls that followed, a resolutions package was developed and voted upon by the members of the PRC for presentation to the By-Laws Committee.

The By-Laws Committee met in April 2011 to discuss the resolutions and prepare a report for the upcoming Convention in June. After much spirited discussion and a couple of follow-up conference calls the By-Laws Committee Report was finalized.

In closing I would like to take the opportunity to thank my fellow members of the PRC for the time we spent together on the Council and for the many discussions we had, both heated and civil. While I do not know at this time whether I will be seeking a seat on the Council for the next mandate I am sure that the new and returning representatives will do their best to ensure that our membership in the Prairie Region is well represented, as they were during this mandate.

Respectfully submitted,

Glen Johnston
PRC Manitoba North-West Rep

Matt Tijani Winnipeg Area Council PRC Representative

PSAC Prairie Region Convention Report June 2011

It has been my pleasure to represent Winnipeg Area Council on the PRC over the past three years.

The role of Area Council Representative on PSAC Prairie Region Convention is to serve as a Liaison for Locals, Branches and the PRC. Area council is also tasked to be part of the Political wing of the PRC. During my term, I

- Attended each Prairie Region Council meetings and submitted written reports.
- Participated in teleconference meetings to attend to decision making issues.
- Attended Winnipeg Area council meetings and provided updates from the PRC meetings in order to enlighten the membership on the activities of PRC as well as disseminate information regarding the ongoing issues of PSAC.
- Talked to members about the importance and the need to believe in the union.
- Encouraged members to get involved and to participate in union activities.
- Participated with the lobbying team that visited Members of Parliament offices within Winnipeg to express concerns on issues that are very important to the Public service and to get the MPs reactions.
- Made presentation on Diversity and Race Relations at Rockwood Institute Corrections Services, Winnipeg on March 21, 2010, to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.
- Distributed PSAC materials to raise the profile of the PSAC and services provided by and to our members

Committees:

1. PRC Political Action Committee

As a member of the Political Action Committee I:

- Participated in the election campaigns for the Civic, Provincial and federal elections.
- Participated in the political strategy of mobilizing our members to get out and vote and encouraged our members to vote for labour friendly candidates. The strategies included mail outs and phone calls.
- Promoted the use of available resources and encouraged members to become politically and socially active in their communities
- Communicated to members, the definition and meaning of political and social activism
- Participated in the Think Public Campaign.

2. Bylaw Committee 2011 PSAC Prairie Region Convention 2011

As a member of the Bylaw Committee we:

- Established a title for each resolution
- Provided committee recommendations (concurrence or non-concurrence)
- Developed rationale for the recommendations

Respectively Submitted,

In Solidarity,

Matt Tijani,
WAC, PRC Rep.

Susan Norman Westman Area Council Representative

PSAC Prairie Region Convention Report June 2011

As a newly elected Westman Area Representative the past three years have been interesting, challenging and encouraging.

Interesting in the fact that I was exposed to a lot of learning and new ideas.
Challenging in getting all the Components involved and excited about the Area Council and having them attend our meetings.

Encouraging with hosting a meeting in Riding Mountain and having a number of our Park members attend that would not normally be able to.

I produced a letter of introduction explaining what and who is the Westman Area Council and the councils mandate. The letter was sent to all the members within Westman Area.
We looked at the feasibility of holding an all candidates meeting in Westman Area in the previous election. I had the opportunity to attend the all candidates' debate this election.
We have been holding regular meetings bi-monthly. We continue to struggle to have members participate but we continue to try and build on what we have.

I have been attending the Brandon Labour Council Meetings on a regular basis to bring awareness of issues within the Westman area.

Along with Glen Johnson, I presented information on PSAC Prairie Region Council and Westman Area Council to the Parks National Component.

We have been able to create interest in forming an Area Women's Committee which requires the participation from 3 Components'.

I have also attended the regular meetings of the Prairie Region Council and participated in conference calls as required.

I have had the privilege and opportunity to attend numerous workshops and conferences that have assisted me in my union role;

Leadership 1 – Calgary

Leadership 2 – Regina

Activists Conference - Edmonton

Manitoba Leadership Seminar – Winnipeg

Regional Women's Forum – Winnipeg

PRC Strategy Meeting – Winnipeg

Pension Forum – Brandon

Ratification Votes – Brandon

PRC Regional Women’s Conference – Saskatoon

Fight Back Campaign – Brandon

MFL Convention – Think Public Campaign – Brandon

I strongly believe in our members and that we have a huge challenge ahead of us and our union in future months, years with the election of a majority government. The Think Public Campaign has to move forward more now than ever as erosion of services to Canadians that we provide deteriorate. Together we stand strong.

Respectively submitted.

In solidarity,

Susan Norman

Westman Area Representative on the Prairie Region Council

Nancy Johnson North Saskatchewan Geographic Representative

PSAC Prairie Region Convention Report June 2011

The PRC members have spent the last six months preparing for Convention, by writing, reviewing, submitting, debating and submitting resolutions for the members to debate and ultimately vote on. I was very fortunate to work with SK members of the PRC on the Finance/General resolutions committee. We spent a long Saturday in Saskatoon via teleconference debating the resolutions. I am very proud of the work of our committees and the resolutions submitted by our members.

With the Federal election call, your Northern Reps were quick to get involved in campaigning for "Labour Friendly" candidates, this included attending all candidates' forums, canvassing, scrutineering at the polls, campaign managers and mail outs to PSAC members. Our main focus was to get our members out to vote for their employer as this next round of bargaining will be tough with a majority government and threats of reduction of services on the back of our members. I would encourage members to get involved at all levels of lobbying, together we can make a difference. A huge "Thank You" goes out to Brother Wiegers, Sisters Nettleton, Casey and Hladun for their support. Our Regional staff members Heather and Louise for their encouragement and support, they work hard for all members.

As well I attended International Women's Day celebrations in Saskatoon with several members of the Regional Women's Committee, it was a great evening reflecting on the great accomplishments of the Women's movement and how far we have come but how far we need to go for complete Equality. The conservative party has not been our biggest supporters with cuts to women's programs at various levels. We have the strongest union women in the prairies who continue to fight effortlessly for our sisters.

I have attended all meetings of the council in the last three years and I have found the work very rewarding. We had a good mix of new and experienced members on the council and committees, which resulted in great debate on many issues with respect and dignity. Thanks to all the PRC members for their participation and hard work and especially to Deanna and Alison for their excellent organizational skills, we all appreciated your accommodating yet firm approach to making things run smoothly for council. I have really enjoyed my 1st term on council and will be looking for support from the members for re-election as your Northern SK Rep.

In closing, I would like to thank the members who give so much of their personal time for the betterment of the union movement on behalf of our members, for without them our union would not be strong. THANK YOU members.

Respectfully submitted

Sister Nancy Johnson

Shaun Brennand Regina Area Council Representative

PSAC Prairie Region Convention Report June 2011

It has been my privilege and my pleasure to be the PRC Representative to Regina Area Council and to represent the Local members of the PSAC over the past three years. Being re-elected for another three year term, I look forward to the challenges, victories, and friendships with my union Sisters and Brothers that this position brings.

My role as a first time PRC rep provided many new challenges. My work depends on our members volunteering their time to bring our agendas forward. With Political Action being one of my tasks, I found it extremely difficult to execute our programs when only a handful of activists would come out. If not for the dedication of Regina Area council, many of our tasks would have not been completed. In my next term, I will make it a personal goal to engage our membership and challenge our members to become activists. We can only do this if we make it a priority. Without active members, our issues can sometimes not be completed.

My role in Regina Area Council is to be the liaison between our REVP and the members in Regina. With Regina Area Council we engaged in many union activities over the past three years.

- In a show of solidarity, we joined the picket line with the striking Vitara workers and provided them with lunch in September 2008.
- Engaged in a political action campaign with the provincial election in the fall of 2008 by phoning our membership.
- Involved with the think public campaign.
- Joined the picket line with our sisters and brothers of Casino Regina.
- Save our pension campaign.
- Labour Day Picnic
- Lobbying Members of Parliament.

The next three years will certainly bring challenges. We will have to closely monitor the new conservative government and challenge them when ever they attack our collective agreements and social programs. We will certainly be involved with the upcoming Provincial Election and will need to take a strong stand with our political agenda. Our members will also need to be heard when we return to collective bargaining.

Over the next three years, I will work hard on the following areas:

- Engaging our membership to become activists in their locals and in Regina Area Council
- Lobbying our locals to affiliate with Regina District Labour Council and the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour
- Work with the PRC and REVP to ensure that the council agenda's are met.

I also look forward to working with the PRC, old members and new and am confident that your elected officials will have similar agendas as mine. Your Prairie Region Council is in my experience the very best of any regional council.

In closing, I would like to personally thank the members of the PRC and Regina Area Council for all their hard work and commitment. These are all volunteers giving up evenings and weekends to work hard for their members. I thank you for the opportunity to represent you. I thank you for your dedication to improving the working lives of our members. I look forward to working with all of you to meet the challenges of the future.

Respectfully Submitted

Shaun Brennand

Jackie Nettleton Saskatoon & District Area Council Representative

PSAC Prairie Region Convention Report June 2011

In the three years since the last Prairie Region Convention the Saskatoon Area Council has been active in all the yearly activities that we traditionally have been involved in:

- Day of Mourning
- Summer Snack Program
- United Way Day of Caring
- Public Service BBQ
- Remembrance Day
- December Open House
- Labour Day BBQ

In addition we held two Habitat for Humanity builds.

We were involved in the 2009 municipal election. Members worked with the Saskatoon and District Labour Council to interview and endorse candidates and we sent out information to our members regarding the election encouraging them to vote and especially to consider voting for candidates that were labour friendly.

We had a table at the **We Are Many** environmental festival. We had a display highlighting the work that PSAC members perform to protect the environment. We also had a display on the decline of fish populations and gave out information on the **Our Fish** campaign of the Union of Environment Workers.

In other political action activities we developed information for the locals and our members to use to fight against Bill C10. We contacted locals regarding the Pension Campaign and sponsored an open house with James Infantino. Area Council members were able to attend the National Farmers Union Convention in Dec. 2010 where we had an information table that generated considerable interest and were able to network and make contacts.

Finally, we were active in the 2011 federal election. We partnered with the Prince Albert Area Council to send out information to all our members in Northern Saskatchewan. Despite our best efforts no labour friendly candidates were elected and we will have our work cut out for us in the years ahead.

Despite the departure of our long term and very competent president, Carol Casey, who left us for the Joint Learning Program, and many other changes, we have been able to muddle through and keep up with most of our past initiatives. This is due in large part to Louise Mardell and Heather Longstaff who run the PSAC office, to the other PRC reps. in Northern Sask. and to a core of very dedicated members.

In Solidarity,

Jackie Nettleton, President Saskatoon Area Council

Gerald Wieggers Prince Albert & District Area Council Representative

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The following includes activities I have been involved with since the January PRC Meeting:

February

- ❖ Attended a forum co-sponsored by a Prince Albert Activist Group, RPIC (Renewable Power-the Intelligent Choice) and The Council of Canadians from Prince Albert. This Forum pertained to the prospect of a nuclear waste site being considered within the Province of Saskatchewan. The Guest presenter, Dr. Jim Harding spoke on the problems associated with any such site development.
- ❖ Attended the Prince Albert & District Area Council meeting at which time the Election of new Officers was conducted. PRC members Maryann Hladun and Nancy Johnson were present for this Meeting. Discussion also concentrated on our Council endeavor to bring more local members onto the Council.

March

- ❖ Participated in a Conference call of the PRC wherein the discussion included: Convention resolutions, discipline issue, racist letters received by members in Montreal, NBOD Pension, Prairie Voice Awards, two possible strike sites in Sask. and an overview of preparations for the upcoming Prairie Region Convention.
- ❖ Attended the March meeting of the Prince Albert & District Area Council at which time the election for our incoming PRC Representative was determined. Discussion also proceeded on our Council's preparations for an expected upcoming Federal Election.

April

- ❖ Participated in a quite lengthy Conference call along with other PRC members whose task it is to oversee the Finance resolutions for the upcoming Prairie Region Convention.
- ❖ Attended Meeting of ARPIC at which topics discussed included: a nuclear waste ban campaign, Earth day at City Hall, Chernobyl 25th. Anniversary, presentation of anti-nuclear petitions in Sask. Legislature and Metis Nation letter to Sask. Attorney General respecting a request for prosecution of The Nuclear Waste Management Organization.
- ❖ Assisted, along with Saskatoon Area council members, to produce a flyer letter for the Federal Election that would be sent out to all PSAC members in Northern Saskatchewan. The flyer letter, along with a pamphlet from the CLC was stuffed into individual envelopes for distribution. This letter urged all members to get out to vote and reminded each that the Political Party having achieved the greatest number of votes would likely become our employer.

- ❖ Attended an All-Candidates Forum that had been organized by the local Council of Canadians. Candidates from the NDP, Green and Action Parties were present while Candidates from the Conservative and Liberal Parties failed to show. It was a well attended forum with several well formulated questions directed to the candidates.
- ❖ Visited with Locals within Prince Albert to discuss members getting out to vote and providing each with the PSAC “Our Vote Counts” buttons.

This is my final report as a member of the PRC. I wish to express my gratitude and appreciation to Sister Robyn, the PSAC Regional Office Staff and fellow PRC members for all your kind support and the time we spent together over the past three years towards carrying out the work of the Prairie Region Council.

With my sincere appreciation and thanks,

Gerald Wiegers

Joanne Chelick North Alberta Geographical Representative

PSAC Prairie Region Convention Report June 2011

Time has literally run wild and where have things gone too. Short and simple is my report:

January

Attended a PRC meeting in Calgary to go over business at hand and to discuss the preparations for our convention in June. The Convention has moved from Regina to Winnipeg.

February

Participated in the annual “Memorial Walk” on the 14th and the weather was actually very nice but cold. The walk was to honour the women who were brutally beaten and died – both street and domestic.

My local had its annual general meeting on the 22nd

Met with Robyn on the 16th to go over some changes in the meeting processes for RWC, HR and AC. As well we talked about other events that are coming down the pike from Ottawa and events that are happening around the western regions.

March

Attended the Area Council meeting

Joined in on a couple of teleconferencing meetings in regards to discipline

Again my local had to have a special general meeting to vote on two seats on the executive that were in error after the AGM in February.

30th had a teleconference meeting with Robyn

April

6th was Area Council meeting to draft a design for our entry into the X Days parade (old Klondike parade).

28th was the Area Council plant gating morning and I ended up missing it because came in late because of construction. However had some pins that I handed out at my desk or one could help themselves.

May

2nd was Election Day and from Edmonton only one NDP was elected and that was Linda Duncan. Again the push to members to get out and vote didn't seem to make much of a dent in the process because the numbers were low again in getting people out to vote. My opinion is that one would get the impression that many thought the “people” vote was dead and the only vote that counted was “corporate”, so they decided not to vote.

As you can see my report is short but had made previous quarterly reports so not going to repeat them or waste space.

It has been a great year and a half and I hope that this convention is even more exciting than previous and that the results are satisfying and complete.

Prepared by

Jo Chelick
Northern Alberta Rep.

Kevin King South Alberta Geographic Representative

PSAC Prairie Region Convention Report June 2011

I write this report as my accountability for Southern Alberta for regional matters between January 30th, and the spring of 2011.

Health and Safety Portfolio – PSAC Prairies:

In conjunction with Technical Advisor Bruce Campbell, we will be recommending to the Prairie Region Council, it is hoped to establish the dates and the theme for the Prairie Region Health and Safety Conference about 6 months after the PSAC Triennial Convention of 2012.

Timeline specific issues within this reporting period:

Collective Bargaining conference: Parks Canada bargaining Unit

A bargaining conference for members of Parks Canada across two Components of the PSAC (National Component and UCTE) occurred February 6-9, 2011.

Elections occurred on February 9th, with an electronic voting procedure, the first of its kind within PSAC. I was fortunate to be successful representing parks employees, and the Prairies on the upcoming negotiation team. Sister Loretta Moor, from Riding Mountain National Park, was also selected as a second voice within PSAC Prairies, to be on what I consider to be a strong negotiation team.

As our unit is now out of sequence with the other bargaining units, our resolve will have to be greater than ever before to achieve a fair and just collective agreement.

Term Representative: Calgary Regional Office, PSAC:

I was selected to be a term representative of PSAC, helping out the Calgary regional Office between mid February and Mid March of 2011. I was allowed to participate on two conference calls while I was on “staff”, with agreement from both Sister Robyn Benson and Sister Pat Davis.

Convention Committee – PSAC Prairies:

I look forward to participate on the General Resolutions Committee of PSAC Prairies on April 9, 2011.

Convention – PSAC Prairies 2011:

I look forward to be at Convention in 2011, as a fully accredited delegate. I expect to participate in the Convention debate on convention floor.

General:

I must add commentary with respect to the PSAC Supplemental Pension Plan for elected officers of the PSAC:

I am not happy with the current perceived sense of entitlement of the full time paid officers of the Alliance Executive Committee (AEC). In my opinion, there has to be a completely new methodology to how terms and conditions of our AEC Elected Officers in conducted.

First, any change to AEC terms and conditions of employment has to be in an open forum, and not behind closed doors, cloaked in secrecy.

Second, a discussion needs to take place within a singular motion on a Convention floor of the future, and not shrouded in financial documents of an organization that only actuaries and perhaps those on a Standing Finance Committee of the PSAC understand. This matter cannot be politically manipulated as a procedural motion on Convention floor the opening morning of the PSAC Triennial Convention in 2012.

Third, it has to be discerned that any amendment to those terms and conditions of employment is a true financial loss, with supporting documentation that truly disadvantages the elected officers of the AEC.

Fourth, it has to be determined what members equity (members 'money) should be apportioned to deal with such an "injustice". Members' equity should be used to fight those challenges in the legal system; like it was with pay equity at Treasury Board, or through legal avenues of collective bargaining, to end discriminatory practices of regional rates of pay for occupations such as General Labour and Trades or General Services. Members' collective equity should not be used to "top up" an injustice to well paid elected officers within PSAC. A legal challenge should be the only legal costs that members' equity should sustain.

Fifth, it would only be at this stage that the necessity for an augmentation to the PSAC elected officers terms and conditions of employment be considered from both a philosophical perspective; in keeping with a finally pragmatic discussion regarding the state of members' equity; now and into the future.

I would not be surprised if members challenged the incumbent for elected office, by either declaring early, or by running off of the convention floor, a democratic privilege afforded by the PSAC Constitution.

Sadly, this issue detracts from our collective and heartfelt purpose of building our union.

Closing:

It has been a privilege to serve PSAC as a volunteer representative in Southern Alberta. I look forward to speaking with any of you prior to and during the PSAC Regional Convention June 10-12 in Winnipeg.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin King
Southern Alberta Geographical Representative
Prairie Region Council, PSAC Prairies

Nina Kiviluoma Edmonton Area Council Representative

PSAC Prairie Region Convention Report June 2011

The following is what I have accomplished as the Prairie Region Council Edmonton Area Council Representative in my three year term:

- Assisted in preparing All Candidate Letters for the Federal Election Campaign in 2008 and mailed out the responses to Members
- CUPE Strike Fund donations 2008
- Participated on the CUPE picket line 2008
- Worked on Bill C-10 Campaign at the RO 2008
- Participated in the Activists Conference in 2008
- Participated in Social Justice work (Bissell Centre donations, Tools for Schools ect) 2008-Present
- Called all Local Presidents to introduce myself as well as see what would be the most effective way to communicate with them 2009
- Worked on the Pension Campaign 2009
- Attended Budget Watch in 2009 at the Edmonton Regional Office
- Organized a Solidarity BBQ feeding over 900 members in 2010
- Reviewed and made Bylaw Changes to the Edmonton Area Council Bylaws 2010
- Attended the Workplace Fightback Campaign Session 2010
- Worked with the Regional Office to draft a municipal election Letter 2010
- Assisted in the drafting of budgets for the Edmonton Federal Election Campaign 2010
- Handed out pamphlets for the CLC campaign Pension Security for Everyone 2010
- Federal Election Campaign 2011 assisted in the drafting of letters to be sent in mail outs to members of the Strathcona Riding where Linda Duncan NDP was re elected
- Packaged Mail Outs for the Federal Election Campaign 2011
- Called Local Presidents looking for Volunteers to help with the Election Campaign 2011
- Did a Plant Gate a Canada Place handing out "Our Vote Matters" buttons 2011
- Volunteered at a phone bank and called members from the Linda Duncan Riding encouraging them to vote
- Represented PSAC at the Edmonton May Day Parade 2011
- Sat on the General Resolutions Committee for the Prairie Region 2010-2011
- Attended Edmonton Area Council Meetings regularly 2008-2011
- Participated in my local by distributing information 2008-2011
- Attended regular Prairie Region Council Meetings
- Participated in many Conference Calls with members of the PRC
- Supported and will continue to support PSAC Committees

Thank you so much to all the Sister's and Brother's who elected me into this position. This was my first term as a Prairie Region Council Representative and I have had many opportunities and I feel that I have grown significantly as an activist. I look forward to term two!

If you have any questions regarding this report please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned,

In Solidarity,

Nina Kiviluoma
Edmonton Area Council Representative to the PRC

Alec Goertzen Calgary Area Council Representative

PSAC Prairie Region Convention Report June 2011

Although only coming on to the PRC in June 2010, replacing the former representative Brother Danial Curotte, I have come to have a growing appreciation the work of the Council, the work it does, and the members it serves. Since being acclaimed into the position of PRC Representative for Calgary Area Council (CAC), I have also taken time to familiarize myself with the role of CAC President, and I have done a needs assessment of CAC activities and direction. In consultation with Regional Representatives in the Calgary Office, I have decided to make communication to Components & Locals a priority in order to increase their involvement and awareness of the important role the CAC has to make to the union movement. Consultation will continue throughout the summer and a strategy plan will be drawn up for the next 3-year cycle.

Opportunities were presented to the CAC for continued support and coalition work with other Labour affiliates; particularly the Calgary District Labor Council (CDLC), and the Alberta Federation of Labor (AFL) for Calgary area. CAC activities that were supported were through volunteering with event organized by HRC-Calgary for “Rides n Rods” and awareness for Calgary-Handibus, involvement with the CDLC’s 2nd Annual Labor Day BBQ, and the AFL’s campaign and Christmas demonstration towards the Finance Minister’s meeting in Kananaskis, to support changes to the Canada Pension Plan

The 2010 year ended with a ratification vote on for our members of the PA, EB, and SV tables, and soon after began with federal budget and then election. As part of a commitment to defending quality public services, and together with the CAC, activities were held to respond to the federal election announcement. The objective was to promote and ensure members participated in the election process through: voting, volunteering, and engaging in election activities in their ridings and areas. Successful lunch n learns throughout the city were held, as well as partnering with other Labour organizations to promote labour friendly candidates. While the outcome was not what was hoped, we continue to serve the membership and continue to raise issues to keep quality public services.

Lastly, I would like to thank the Calgary Area Council and its members for their support and cooperation this past year. I am honored to have been elected to another term as their representative on the Prairie Region Council starting in June 2011. Just some of the planned activities by the CAC include participating in the Labor Day BBQ – Think Public, and a Bullying in the Workplace campaign, among other things.

Respectfully submitted.

In Solidarity,

Brother Alec Goertzen
Calgary Area Council
PRC Mem

David Pearson Lethbridge Area Council Representative

PSAC Prairie Region Convention Report June 2011

I was elected as the first Lethbridge Area Council representative to the Prairie Region Council. The Lethbridge Area Council in the past three years has putting our name out front in the local community. From the rally in the summer of 2008 to the plans of the upcoming year the Area Council has generated interest among local PSAC members.

Local PSAC members rally in front of our local MP constituency office, in the summer of 2008, and presented to the MP via his constituency office manager with bag of peanut (symbolize the wage offer) and spoke with his executive constituency office manager why we were rally

The Lethbridge Area Council, for the past two years has sponsor coffee for the local YMCA International Women's Day activities and has sponsor Womanspace Lethbridge (a community-based women's organization which aims to respect and reflect the diversity of women and carry out research and initiate policy changes at both the local and provincial level in order to improve the status and further the political, social and economic equality of women in the community) clients to attend the International Women's Day activities. Womanspace Lethbridge in 2009 lost it fund due to the Federal Government cuts to the Status of Women and the Area Council believes it's an organization that needs to be around as it part of its program, female professionals teaches basic financial literacy skills. Womanspace Lethbridge helped in 2010: 295 woman filed taxes for the first time, including Child Tax Credit, 118 received assistance obtaining identification, 46 women opened bank accounts for the first time, 271 women needed advocacy to increase employability and independence, and 95 women participated in the financial literacy seminars. We need to advocacy for return the lost funding of the Status of Women so these great organizations are not lost.

In the spring of 2010, the Lethbridge Area Council organized a pension town hall in March; we had Brother Infantino (PSAC Pension and Benefits Officer) and Sister J Deuw (a senior from the Lethbridge Seniors Organization) as speakers. Sister Deuw spoke the importance of pensions expressly for single pensioners, single parent families and most importantly women. She spoke of the poverty of seniors and the audience was moved. Brother Infantino spoke of the Public Service Pension, the attacks on our pensions, PSAC pension campaign, and the Canadian Labour Congress pension plan.

In the fall of 2010, this is the first year after many years of hiatuses, the Lethbridge and District Labour Council with sponsorship from other union local and the Lethbridge Area Council sponsor a Labour Day event. The Event was a presentation by Maria Dunn called GWG: Piece by Piece. For those who would to know more, Piece by Piece is a musical multimedia piece that features original songs by Maria Dunn, and guests. The songs are interwoven with audiovisual material depicting the experiences of immigrant women who worked in the Edmonton's GWG

From the success of the Food Bank Garden, the local Agriculture Union initiative, the Lethbridge Area Council for 2011 has an anti-poverty initiative with the Lethbridge Interfaith Food Bank.

During this Federal election, the Lethbridge Area Council followed the lead of Calgary Area Council in their Our Vote Counts campaign. Most members received the Our Vote Counts button the information on history of one vote matters. We did a lunch and learn Our Vote Counts and it was well received by the members who attended.

The Area Council is growing potted tomatoes for the food bank. These tomatoes are then given out to their clients with children, thus showing them that where food comes from and how easy it is to grow your own food in a small space. This also ties in with the Food Bank's young chief program. Other Area Councils has a tool for schools program, the Lethbridge Area Council also has a similar program, but instead of choosing a school, the members and locals will donate schools supplies to the Food Bank's Annual First Day at School Program and later in the summer the PSAC volunteers will help pack backpacks.

Respectfully Submitted

Brother Dave Pearson

Alisha Bigelow Aboriginal Representative

PSAC Prairie Region Convention Report June 2011

Tansi (Hello in Cree),

As the Aboriginal Representative for the Prairies I have been lucky enough to also be on the National Aboriginal Peoples Circle (NAPC) as the Female Representative. In doing so I had many opportunities to participate in events and take action as a PSAC representative for Aboriginal Peoples. I have been working hard to make connections throughout the Prairie Region and have successfully hosted an Aboriginal Circle in Winnipeg with plans to create more Circles throughout Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

I have participated in many training activities within PSAC. One such training was on a pilot course for being an Alliance Facilitator. Alex George and I facilitated two PSAC National Aboriginal Courses one in Edmonton and one in Regina with one more being held in Winnipeg at the end of June.

In the past three years I have participated in many events for Aboriginal Peoples such as June 21 Celebrations, the Aboriginal Music Awards, Brothers in Spirit Event, Sister in Spirit events, Missing and Murders Aboriginal Women events, attending the National Chief Gatherings in Winnipeg (met Mike Holmes and Ovid Mercredi), sat with my Member of Parliament (MP) Joy Smith and discussed important Aboriginal issues such as Water, Poverty, health, the Sharon McIvor case and the UN declaration, attended Vigils and many more events that are in and around Winnipeg.

There are also campaigns I have supported as well like the Water Campaign for Aboriginal Communities in Canada in which 90% of Aboriginal Communities are either under water boiling advisory or have access to NO water at all. There was also a Red Dress Campaign where members were asked to send Red dress in the PSAC office as part of a campaign that a local visual artist developed to address and honor Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women. I also have been promoting Shannen's Dream which is a campaign to make reserve schooling more suitable for learning and to have proper buildings, libraries, learning tools and playgrounds.

During the past three years I have created networks such as the NAPC Facebook page for the NAPC Circle, spoke with MP's regarding Aboriginal Issues, attending traditional ceremonies, represented members in grievances, passing on job notices for Aboriginal Members, having petitions and posts cards signed, sending members information regarding Aboriginal Courses and conferences, assisting the Regional Office with Elder Contacts, assisting with Elder honorariums/tobacco, making introductions for Elders at various conventions and events and doing speeches on behalf of PSAC Prairie Region as the Aboriginal Representative.

I want to thank the regional members in the Prairies for the opportunity to sit on the PRC and I have enjoying working with the committee. It has been wonderful connecting with the members at the grass roots level!

Meegwetch (thank you),

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alisha Bigelow". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Alisha" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Bigelow".

Sister Alisha Bigelow
PRC Aboriginal Representative

Fran Mohr Directly Chartered Local Representative
PSAC Prairie Region Convention Report June 2011

- September 2008 - PRC meeting in Regina.
- November 2008 – Edmonton.
- March 2009 - PRC meeting in Winnipeg.
- April 2009 - Leadership I training in Calgary.
- October 2009 - PRC meeting in Saskatoon.
- Nov. 6 & 7th 2009 - President's Conference in Regina.
- Dec. 7th & 8th 2009 - Women's Forum in Winnipeg.
- January 22 & 23rd 2010 - Strategy meeting in Winnipeg.
- April 14th & 15th 2010 - Leadership II training in Regina.
- April 16th & 17th - PRC Meeting in Regina.
- June 3rd, 2010 - Strike at casino Regina begins.
- July 8th - Rally at the legislative buildings in Regina for casino Regina Striking workers.
- Sept 23 & 24th - PRC Meeting in Edmonton dealt with resolutions that the PRC were sending to convention.
- Jan 27th & 29th 2011 - PRC meeting in Winnipeg.
- March - PRC Meeting in Calgary to continue on with resolutions and other business and to set up committees for convention.
- April 1st & 2nd - Finance committee resolution meetings in Saskatoon.
- April - conference call regarding wording in a resolution.

There are other conference calls that the dates have not been included in this report.

I would also like to thank everyone for their support during the strike at Casino Regina.

Submitted by

Fran Mohr
DCL Rep for the PRC


Timothy Hunt GLBT Representative

PSAC Prairie Region Convention Report June 2011

Welcome to the convention!

In the past three years I have approached all the Human Rights Committees in the Prairies, attended meetings/conferences/workshops dealing with GLBT issues and tried to sponsor as much attention as I could to bring the PRIDE concerns forward. In most cases I have succeeded to reach out to my Brothers and Sisters to provide guidance, support and information regarding our struggles. Many events across the Prairies are listed here in my report and many more were celebrated in other cities, to all of my Brothers and Sisters for those other events I say “thank you” and praise you for coming forward in the name of our union. Please find below a select amount of achievements I enjoyed while being your representative on the Prairie Region Council.

2008-2009

Aug 15		National PSAC / GLBT Logo is released by PSAC Head Quarters
Apr 17-18	Attended the Level One Leadership course in Calgary. The class was made up of half Prairies and half Pacific Regions new council members. This was very interesting learning experience for all of us because of the two distinct different views between regions. It was great to see how another region works deals with their day-2-day business.	
May 27-30	PSAC School – (Edmonton) MacEwan College Residence “Labour History and the PSAC” was one of the exciting workshops; I also attended the Human Rights workshop for the duration.	
June 15	Resurrected the Calgary Human Rights Committee, with ten new members and now sit as the chair of the committee. We were able to establish terms of reference, set up bank accounts; make future dates for the meetings will end of fiscal. Committee Mandate: RECRUIT! REJUVENATE! RETAIN! Our first big project will be based around the Social Justice Fund – Make Poverty History, our submission will be on the Alberta based “Mustard Seed” charity as they focus on family & children.	
Aug 20	Attended a Global Fest, Human Rights Forum Lunch an Learn at Calgary’s Glenbow Museum – the target of this day’s presentation was “The aboriginal experience”, the key note speaker was “Chief Clarence Louie Chief Executive Officer at the Osoyoos Indian Band Development, British Columbia” – this event was attended by several PSAC members who were very impressed as I was, maybe we could address that maybe the Prairie Region may sponsor this event next year and get more of our members out to attend these type of worth while events.	
Sept 06	Marched in the Calgary Pride Parade. I had a banner “donated” by a business to include our new National logo, this was the largest ever parade for Pride in Calgary’s recent history, over 10,000 residents enjoyed the festivities. I made	

	alliances with the AFL and other unions (IBEW, CAW, etc.) and challenged them to make the union part of next year's parade even more successful. I am eager to have a RCMP, CBSA and any other uniformed PSAC member to walk with us, GLBT or supporters of GLBT!
Sept 18	Represented the PSAC-PRC in Red Deer for a speaking presentation of "Pay-Equity in the PSAC" for the AUPE. Our newest Prairie Regional Office member Paul Graham was very helpful putting together a great presentation, I used some of my own experiences and the notes Paul gave me to make the presentation more meaningful, my efforts were well received by their members and gave their members an idea of how they can compare their situation with the Alberta provincial government to our on-going struggle with the Federal government. I also took part in their demonstration on Gaetz Avenue on "Saving Alberta Hospitals" campaign.
Sept 25	Participated in a seminar titled "Same-Sex Domestic Violence Workshop", it was sponsored by the Peer Support Services for Abused Women. The course was paid by the PRC (\$35.00) and I was offered time off with pay to attend by my employer. Some of our own members may be using these services and I am now better prepared to discuss anything like this with any member who would like more information on why this is unacceptable even in the GLBT community, it's not a thing to be ashamed of...
Dec 10-11	Attended the Leadership Seminar for Calgary, gave my Human Rights Committee speech and how it ties into the PRC and general knowledge of how the Area Council, Regional Women's and Human Rights Committees worked with respect to the Calgary office

2010

Jan/Feb	Organized all volunteers from all components in the Calgary and area to work at the Mustard Seed Shelter for three evenings, it was a great way to get to know my own PSAC brothers and sisters in my area and for a worthwhile cause in the community!
Mar 26-28	Attended the 3 rd Pride Conference held in Toronto, I ran for Male EOC. There were nineteen (19) delegates/observes attending from the Prairies!!
Apr 13-15	PSAC Leadership - Level II (Regina)
May 15-16	Attended the Severely Queer event in Edmonton. This event is a precursor to what is happening in Edmonton with regards to the evolution of the "inner city" gentrification of certain neighbourhoods, it's also the fertile ground from which future "Queer" politics and possible politicians will be coming from. The age variance went from 18-70 with most of the attendees leaning to their early 20's. Gender parity was also evident.
Sept 05	Pride Parade (Calgary) Joined forces with the AFL to open a table of information during the parade festivities (note: it was 7 degrees – wet – cold that day!!)
Dec 08-11	Attended the CLC "Rise Up – For your Human Rights" Conference held at the Westin in Ottawa. I was one of over 175 PSAC members attending from across Canada. Many different topics were presented. Networking was rampant, and old friendships were strengthened!
April 27 To	Attended the AFL (Alberta Federation of Labour) Convention in Calgary. I was voted on 1 st alternate for the Pride & Solidarity Committee to the AFL Executive. I

May 01	also sit on the this committee promoting GLBT Human Rights for all union members in the province based on my twenty years of experience in our union.
May 26 to June 03	PSAC Volunteers will be gathering to present the movies that are currently being produced around the world at the 13 th Annual Fairy Tales Film Festival. Our committee was able to get local and regional funding to reach out to GLBT community to show that unions are viable sources of information, representation and inclusive. We were able to get a PSA (public service announcement) before each of the screenings, logo placement in the “50” page program and became a community supporter to the festival.

Frank Lloyd Persons with Disabilities Representative

PSAC Prairie Region Convention Report June 2011

Sisters and Brothers, it has been an interesting 3 years as the Representative for Persons with Disabilities.

For me there have been three constants which haven't changed during this period, the first one is a heavy work load which is constantly changing as the issues affecting our members change.

The second is that these issues are taken on by the same small group of activists who constantly scramble to get the general membership involved in the issues and how reluctant the general membership seems to even want to get involved even though the outcome will have a profound effect on their working environment.

Lastly the apathy of the general member who shout very loudly about how their union is not doing anything to help the membership but are unwilling to get involved, however they have great expectations of those of us who are, wanting us to wave our magic wand and fix everything with as little disruption possible to their daily routines.

I will be retiring after 30 years of being an active member in my union, I have been part of many firsts and have had the privilege to represent many members from many components from a simple grievance to very complex human right complaints, however the one thing that I have found to be the greatest asset is an engaged membership.

I don't know what it is going to take to re-engage the membership but until we do, the government will continue to chip away and be successful at taking away the rights of the member.

It is time for myself to take a different path and I want to thank the membership for there support,

In Solidarity,

Frank Llloyd

Satinder Bains Racially Visible Representative
PSAC Prairie Region Convention Report June 2011
SUMMARY

June 18, 2008- I attended the Aboriginal Day event at the Shelter-belt in Indian Head, Saskatchewan along with Dinesh Kashyap on behalf of the Human Rights committee. The event was well attended by 250 people and we handed out PSAC sticker and balloons and showed our support.

June 19, 2008- Joined our brothers and sisters at Public Service barbeque at the Depot Division in Regina and we let our members know how disappointed we are with the Treasury Board Proposal.

June 21, 2008- As part of the RCMP Diversity team, we held our annual Diversity Day event. We celebrated the diversity of Canada through culture, food, music and dance. The event allows us to educate our members and the RCMP cadets about various cultures in our community.

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July 2009 - December 2010 As the Visible Rep. for the Prairies and a Union Activist, I have been kept busy by attending the Area Council, Regina Human Rights meetings and RCMP Diversity committee meetings which are held every third Thursday of each month which allows me to network with the visible minorities in the RCMP along with performing my elected PRC duties.

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

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

- Discussed pension's issues with co-worker's friends and families and had them sign our petitions.
- Attended town hall meetings which discussed the pension's issues.
- Met with our MP Ralph Goodale to discuss the impact on Canadians regarding the attack on Public Service and defined-benefit pension plans.

June 2010 - Regina Area Council conducted its AGM. There is presently no Chair person in place as Tanya has stepped down.

July 2010 - Visited and participated on the picket lines of Casino Regina. John Edmunds, National President of USGE was in Regina to deal with matters with RCMP commander on Depot which was affecting our members. The issue was resolved.

August 2010 - Teleconference with PRC to choose alternate site for Prairie Region Convention which was Winnipeg.

April 1-3 2011 - Attended the National Racially visible conference in Vancouver and served on the Resolution committee. The conference was well attended with very informative and interesting workshops. We also selected our new national Men and Women Racially Visible Reps.

September 2010 - June 2011 As the Visible Rep. for the Prairies and a Union Activist, I have been kept busy by attending the Area Council, Regina Human Rights meetings and being a member of the PRC Financial committee. It was pleasure serving our members as Racially Visible Rep in which we brought our issues and concerns to our REVP Sister Robyn Benson and continued building our network in the Prairies.

In Solidarity,

Satinder Bains

Satinder Bains Racially Visible Representative
PSAC Prairie Region Convention Report June 2011
OVERVIEW

My responsibility as a Racially Visible rep has been to energize our membership, to call forth the abundance of skills, talents and knowledge that they possess. My success as a PRC RV rep has been I truly believe that our members are our power. It has been a very busy three years for my union activities which included representing members with PSST complaints, handling grievances and representing in the capacity as a PRC RV Rep in the Prairies which included the civic elections in Regina and lobbying the MP for same sex marriages, National Child Care program, anti-scab legislation and other important issues. I have been attending the Area Council and Human Rights committee meeting in which I am the treasure on regular bases. Along the busy schedule I also attended union course and conference to excel and expand my horizon and experience in the union.

In Solidarity,

Satinder Bains
Racially Visible Rep.

Tanya Galenzoski Regional Women's Council Representative

PSAC Prairie Region Convention Report June 2011

Due to family medical issues and other priorities this is going to encompass the last 3 reports as well.

In order to reduce redundancy I will let you know that I have attended all the same training and meetings that Robyn has set up with, and for, the Prairie Region Council. Due to Union activities, health issues and work duties, I missed the last meeting and the Human Rights Conference in Ottawa that was put on by the Canadian Labour Congress. I also missed the last PRC meeting in Regina.

I was on the Prairie Region Women's committee for the Prairie Region Women's conference along with numerous other sisters, we had the best conference ever and I would like to thank all of the Sister's for their hard work and all of the Sister's that attended the conference. We all worked hard, came away with excellent information and are working hard to use that education to better our communities and our workplaces.

I was on the Resolution committee for the National Women's Conference; we debated a large number of resolutions, and had a few from the Prairies as well. I believe that the work done at the National Conference will be applied at the next PSAC convention and be of benefit to all of our women in the union. It was a terrific learning experience and since it coincided with our collective bargaining process we also had a Q & A regarding the last bargaining process, and I was able to learn quite a bit from our sister's across the country. It was by far the best National Women's conference I attended and wish that all of our sisters could attend at least once.

I attend as many Women's committee meetings as I am able, due to phone difficulties and scheduling I have missed quite a few of the Regina Women's committee meetings but hope to be able to rectify that in the future. I have either attended or teleconferenced in with all of the Women's Committees at least once in the last 3 years and have reviewed everyone's minutes as soon as they are posted. I would like to thank the Sister's for all of their hard work on Social Justice Projects and political action projects. I believe that if not for our sister's hard work we would not longer have the Canadian Firearms Registry, thank-you all for the incredible work that you all did for this very important program for our country. As well thank-you for everything that you continue to do.

I set up a budget watch here in Regina last year with the help of the Canadian Labour Congress, Robyn Benson and our Regional office, unfortunately my mother was very ill and I was not able to attend but from what I have heard it was a success. Thank-you Robyn and Lisa for your support with this endeavour. I have done numerous other things as well but this is the highlights. I have enjoyed my term as the Regional Women's Representative and am very proud of the women in our Region for all of the work that they do and the camaraderie that they project.

Be Strong, Be Proud, Be WOMAN!

Clint Wirth Separate Employer Representative

PSAC Prairie Region Convention Report June 2011

Greetings to you all,

This document will constitute a report on some of my significant actions as the Separate Employer Locals Representative on the Prairie Region Council the previous 3 years.

When this new seat on the Prairie Region Council was created 3 years ago, it gave me a great opportunity to take on a greater role within the broad scope of the PSAC. As a separate employer member for the last 14 years, I often found it difficult to get too excited about the goings on of the PSAC, because many of the courses, conferences, and literature are dominated by what felt like Federal issues. The new position within the council gave me insight into how things come about, and also gave me the opportunity to speak up at council meetings when the council seemed to forget we are not all federal employees, regulated by federal policies. The other Council members never left me with the impression that separate employer issues were irrelevant, or not important enough to be heard. I think simply having the new seat on the council made me feel that our concerns were important to the PSAC, yet different than, for example, the Directly Chartered Local Representative.

Separate Employer Conference

One of my first acts as the new Separate Employer representative was participating in this conference, October 31- November 2nd 2008. This was the first conference to specifically bring together and address issues involving separate employer locals. Though not all locals were represented, it was still a great opportunity to meet with other members, network, and get an idea for the different types of locals I would represent. One of the standout memories for me included the fun and energetic people we had at that conference. Maybe it was because many of us had interesting jobs, like firefighters at an airport, or working at a hospital for example, jobs not just sitting behind a computer, which made many peoples' experiences and concerns interesting. One other standout was the fact that many people that work for the PSAC did not have a firm grasp on what made us unique, and what some of our needs would be. This gave me a clear vision that when an employee of a regional office is leading a course or facilitating a conference, that they must also be conscious of separate employer locals and our needs as well.

My one real regret regarding this conference had to do with the timing. It occurred at a time when I was new to the new position, and the position itself was new. It also occurred before any PRC meetings, so I did not have a clear understanding of what some of my roles and responsibilities were. If this conference occurred tomorrow, I would be a lot more knowledgeable and experienced to contribute to the conference. I am happy to know that there will be another conference in the near future.

Prairie Region Health and Safety Conference

Part of my roles and responsibilities on the PRC was to sit on the Health and Safety Committee. Along with sending out messages acknowledging the "Day of Mourning" was the planning of a conference that was held in September 2009. I was involved in this conference from the first step, from choosing a location, to selecting members that would come, to the creation of the agenda,

through to the facilitation of the conference itself. Along with Rahil, and Heike, who was later replaced on the PRC by Bill Osborne, we worked on putting together a memorable conference. Part of our decision making was to select experienced health and safety advocates, who already had a good knowledge of some of the issues surrounding health and safety. With that, and the fact we had a wide variety of experiences, jobs, and regulations governing our body of work, we decided to gear ourselves to the wider issue of problem solving. Most members in the room knew what the health and safety concerns were, and what the regulations stated, but often found it hard to enact a solution, whether it was due to a lack of funds, apathy from management, or other reasons. Because there wasn't a real agenda that you might see in other instances, it opened up the ability to have great discussion about others experiences, and after the conference was over, I felt a real sense of reinvigoration, knowing many others were encountering the same issues, and I left with some useful tools from many other knowledgeable members on possible solutions. In the comments after, people left the conference feeling the same way I did.

Prairie Region Convention 2011

In preparation for this convention, I was part of the Bylaws committee, which went through all of the proposed bylaw changes. Along with the other committee members, we spent much time reviewing, discussing, and making recommendations on each and every bylaw proposal that came forward. This was another first for me, and was a great experience learning what goes into each proposal that comes forward. It also gave me a greater appreciation for all the behind the scenes stuff, so for the delegates it becomes a hopefully much smoother and understandable process.

Other Related Activities

Described above are some of the biggest events of the past 3 years, and also what I have personally been most closely involved in. Like other PRC members, quite a lot is accomplished when we meet as a group. During events such as our PRC meetings, or planning sessions, the group has a large agenda of items to be addressed, and we often leave with many tasks to be accomplished after the meetings. A large part of the PRC's roles is that of political action. This has to do with creating awareness around campaigns, getting people informed, and getting them active to the causes that affect them and their coworkers. The PRC has done a lot of work around elections, pensions, budgets, and other campaigns. I have also met with my MP on several different occasions, to ensure our voice is heard. I have volunteered my time to regional activities, such as school supply drives, and walking the picket line during the Canada Post work stoppage.

I see my role as a leader, one that initiates. I'm not the rah-rah type of person, but I lead by example. If you have any questions about some of my other activities within the PRC, please do not hesitate to ask.

In Solidarity,

Clint Wirth

Separate Employers Locals Representative, Prairie Region Council

Chad Kemery Youth Representative

PSAC Prairie Region Convention Report June 2011

Over the past three years and having completed the first full term as Youth Representative we have achieved some excellent results. We have grown from a hand full of self declared youth (30 and under) to being able to contact youth in almost every workplace amongst the prairies. We have effectively established a youth network that expands beyond our prairie borders.

Future youth representatives will have a solid base in which to improve and expand upon. Communication now reaches young workers a lot easier than it did in the years previous. With help from the union players we can expand and make this group of workers an even more effective group.

In three years time I have been extremely lucky to attend several PSAC run courses such as Leadership 1 & 2 and activist conference, along with other great programs.

Youth within the region has demonstrated excellent initiative and have demonstrated this by making our activates a success.

- The Prairie region school had several youth attend.
- A few youth became Alliance Facilitators.
- Had a great group youth attend the first ever “Youth Worker in Action” course held in Edmonton – November 12-15, 2011.
- Held the first “Prairies Youth Conference” with 40+ youth in Edmonton – May 27-29, 2011
- We have some programs set aside for the incoming youth representative to run with that will be announced shortly after they have been elected.

The future of our union depends not just on youth self declaring as under 30, but as every union member sharing information gathered or received. We need the union leadership to transfer its great knowledge to up and coming leaders of tomorrow.

Remember it can all start with you, look around and get involved.

Chad Kemery
Youth Rep.