

**DRAFT RECORD OF MEETING
B.C. REGIONAL COUNCIL CONFERENCE CALL
HELD MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2014 AT 6 PM**

In Attendance:

Bob Jackson, REVP-B.C. (Chair)
Johann Ackermann, West Fraser Valley
Terri Lee, Metro Vancouver
Jennifer Chieh Ho, Racially Visible
Paul Croes, Pride
Parveen Deepak, Northeast B.C.
Bert Farwell, North Vancouver Island
Colleen Girard, South Vancouver Island
Jim Sidel, DCL and SSE
Benilde Gomes, Northwestern BC
Linda Harding, Health & Safety

Jennifer Horsley, Metro Vancouver
Nic Humphreys, National Officers (left early)
Ruby Langan, Aboriginal
Carolyn McGillivray, Southern Interior
Vanessa Miller, Youth
Jamey Mills, Alt REVP-B.C.
Liz Oliphant, South Vancouver Island
Virginia Vaillancourt, Women's
Ken Waldron, MWD
Crystal Warner, Metro Vancouver
Susan Yaciw, Southern Interior

Regrets:

Antony Paller, East Fraser Valley

Staff:

Patrick Bragg, Political Communications Officer Kristin Schnider, EA to the REVP-B.C.
Luc Guevremont, Regional Coordinator

Bob Jackson called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Bob Jackson called for any additions to the agenda, which had been circulated in advance via email. Three additions were made under Other Business: (1) Update on December 6th Events, (2) Updated on Municipal Election Mail-out, and (3) Stop Harper Signs.

PREVIOUS MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 19-21, 2014

Bob advised that the draft minutes from the September in-person B.C. Regional Council meeting had been circulated in advance. He then called for any edits or additions to the minutes. Virginia asked that the individual titles for Coordinator reports be bolded to easier reading.

Bob then reminded the Council that these minutes will be formally approved at the next in-person meeting of the Regional Council.

REVP REPORT

a. AEC and NBoD Update

Bob advised that the AEC and NBoD met in late October and they discussed a number of things including the upcoming PSAC National Triennial Convention (NTC) and Treasury Board bargaining.

With regard to the NTC, Bob advised that the process of drafting the proposed national budget for convention was already underway: there has been a fair amount of consultation with NBoD's Finance Committee and PSAC Finance Director Pierre Chartrand. The Committee will continue this work up to a special meeting of the NBoD scheduled for December 17-18. At that December meeting, the Board

will discuss the proposed budget. From there the draft budget will be forwarded to the Finance Committee of the NTC.

Bob went on to summarize some of the other discussions at the recent NBoD meeting, including a presentation on targeted benefit plans from James Infantino, a discussion on full-time national officers being on bargaining teams, a discussion on elected officers' pension plans, Union Development Program (UDP), etc.

The NBoD also received a report the Collective Bargaining Committee, wherein they discussed the role of the National Strategy Coordinating Committee (NSCC) for Treasury Board bargaining. The role of the NSCC is to provide direction to the Regions regarding mobilization activities. The NSCC directs messaging, the different types of activities that are organized, etc.

On the matter of the UDP, the NBoD was advised that candidates have now been selected and those names have been forwarded to the Component presidents for their approval. Once that step is completed, the successful candidates will be notified. UDP will commence this January.

The NBoD's Honours & Awards Committee also reported that they have dealt with a number of national long-service awards and have made progress on the national awards wall that will be housed at PSAC Headquarters. The wall will recognize PSAC founders Cal Best and Claude Edwards as well as recipients of the PSAC Award of Merit. Bob reminded the Regional Council that Sister Patt Holmes received that award at the last PSAC B.C. Regional Convention.

Bob went on to advise that the AEC's standing Committee on Occupational Health & Safety is in the process of looking at the National Health & Safety conference, which will in Montreal in the fall of 2016. The Committee is also addressing the implementation of the Bill C-4 and the resulting changes to the Canada Labour Code.

Bob also provided an update on the work conducted by the AEC's ad hoc Representation Committee. Bob advised that was names as the Committee's Chair. The purpose of the Committee is to address with the grievances backlog and determine recommendations for alleviating some of the pressure and streamlining the grievance process. Thus far, the Committee has met twice. Bob added that the Committee aims to meet every two to three months. The next meeting will take place in November at the AEC meeting.

Bob then called for questions on his report.

Nic Humphreys commented that he was concerned that the PSAC hasn't been sharing information on targeted benefit plans with the members. Nic added that he was worried a potential attack on the members' pension plans is being ignored. Nic then asked what the NBoD plans to do in this regard. Bob answered that the information presented to the NBoD was purely for information purposes; nothing has come forward from the Treasury Board regarding any changes to the existing pension plan. Bob added that he suspects the Federal Government is likely to attack our pension plan at some point; however, it's not expected in the short term.

Bob then answered Nic's latter question: Bob acknowledged that pensions will be another difficult challenge facing the PSAC. We'll need to ensure that members are aware of the implications of losing any of the existing provisions of the pension plan for current and future PSAC members.

Nic responded that he was surprised to hear that the PSAC is discussing a supplemental pension plan for elected officers when the members' pension plans are at risk of being attacked. Bob explained that only one Component has a supplementary pension plan, adding that the NBoD's discussion of supplemental pension plan could not be fully addressed at the recent NBoD meeting because Agriculture Union President Bob Kingston was unable to attend the meeting. Bob was unsure what Brother Kingston had intended to share with the NBoD on supplemental pension plans. Further discussion ensued.

Benilde Gomes then asked about what the National Political Action Committee (PAC) had reported at the NBoD meeting. Bob answered that the PAC discussed the national plans for mobilization activities that will lead up to the federal election currently slated for October 19, 2015. Included in these activities are the monthly actions that have been taking place on the 19th of each month. The PAC also reported on the current messaging Treasury Board bargaining messaging, which includes the new *Yes Way* (healthy workplaces) and *No Way* (sick leave concessions) messaging. Another concern of the PAC is increasing member engagement in mobilization activities. Bob further commented that the PAC's latter concern is one shared by the Regional Council's PAC. However, there have been successful mobilization events in the Region that are building momentum toward the federal election.

Bob then went on to advise that in the Regional Offices, staff are working on mobilization and member engagement as well. Regional Rep Robert Strang has been tasked with coordinating these efforts and the mobilization teams across the Region. The regional mobilization teams that have been identified in every geographic area will also serve as strike coordinating teams as well should the need arise.

Patrick then added that essentially what the Region is trying to organize is a strike tree. However, it's not being called that. For the present it's regarded as the Region's mobilization structure with Robert Strang at the top. From a PR perspective we don't want to be seen publically as readying for strike action; instead we're 'mobilizing against the federal government attacks.' Patrick then assured the Regional Council that just because we're not calling it a strike tree does not mean we're not thinking about it.

Crystal Warner raised a concern in response to Patrick comments, noting that members are asking what they can do to prepare for a strike. Perhaps we're doing a disservice to members by not calling the structure what it is. Bob answered that he agreed we need to be preparing members for a fight and strike structures should be in place within all Locals. Nonetheless, regardless of what we call the regional teams, member to member communication is integral to ensure that members are engaged and informed on the progress of bargaining.

Colleen Girard commented that in her geographic area the staff regional rep had been attempting to engage the Regional Council members with the Locals for mobilization efforts. Colleen then asked to what extent these efforts were being supported regionally. She then added that a recent funding proposal that had been brought forward by that staff rep for work in this area was turned down. Luc Guevremont answered that the proposal submitted aimed at providing Regional Council coordinators with opportunities to meet with mobilization team members on Vancouver Island. He added that the proposal was submitted rather late in the process: weeks ago the Region's staff had been tasked with identifying members across the Region that would be able to participate on the regional mobilization

teams. This work still needs to be completed. So that reason that the proposal was denied was not because the Region does not support its aim. At this point, time is of the essence; the priority now is to simply name members to the mobilization teams. Luc added that the proposal, as submitted, would take weeks to achieve, and that time is not available. Further discussion ensued.

Bob then reiterated earlier comments, clarifying that Robert Strang is the regional rep that has been identified to coordinate activities for entire Region. The Region is looking to the staff reps to put the mobilization/strike structure together. However, as Regional Council members we do not need to wait for a staff rep to tell us what to do engage with members. If Coordinators want make contact with Locals and ensure that they're plugged into the process they can do that. After further discussion, Colleen suggested that she and the REVP discuss the matter outside of the conference call.

Bob then provided a bargaining update for the non-Treasury Board units: Nav Canada was able to reach a successful agreement that was ratified last week. In terms of regional units, the members at Granville Island will be starting the negotiations shortly. Dates have been set with the Employer in early December. Bargaining is still ongoing for the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA), which is expected to take some time.

A couple of the Region's airports are currently in bargaining. Luc added that the members at the North Peace Airport rejected tentative agreement and are in the process of organizing strike training. The members at the Prince Rupert Airport are expected to ratify their recent tentative agreement soon.

b. Negotiations Update

i) Treasury Board

An update on the Treasury Board (TB) negotiations was discussed earlier in these minutes in the previous section. Bob added that the TB groups will be meeting the week of November 17-21.

c. WAAA Action Plan – Fall 2014 to October 2015

Bob reminded the Regional Council that the WAAA campaign is still ongoing. We need to continue the work with members in terms of the member to member conversations and the card signing campaign. However, the WAAA campaign has evolved somewhat as it now involves more political action. Bob added that whenever the federal election is called, we need to be prepared to mobilize membership very quickly. That is why the contact information we collect on the cards is so important.

Patrick then explained that the rationale behind the Region's latest action plan the addresses the work to be carried out between the fall of 2014 and October 2015 or the federal election (whichever comes first). The philosophy is that we should stay the course on what we've already been doing in the Region. Patrick went on to say that we've been doing a good job in terms of political action and mobilizing members in the Region. The new plan builds on what we've done and what's been successful. The plan costs are estimated at around \$200,000 and are in line with the plans drafted by the other Regions. Patrick reiterated that the plan is still a draft and needs to be approved by the AEC.

The draft plan is broken into five categories: (1) engagement and mobilization, (2) visibility or swag, (3) union solidarity with the BCFED, the CLC and other affiliates, (4) public outreach/events, and (5) communications and media, which includes targeted advertising.

Bob commented that the Region's plan is fairly comprehensive. The work outlined within the plan is ambitious and encompasses activities that the Region is familiar with. This will assist us in putting these plans into action.

UPDATE ON MEMBER OUTREACH EVENTS – OCT. 19 EVENT IN VICTORIA, HALLOWEEN EVENT AT HARBOUR CENTRE, FUTURE EVENTS

Bob advised that there had been a successful event in Victoria on November 19 with several members attending. In addition, several members turned out for the Halloween 'trick-or-treat' event organized by the Metro Vancouver Coordinators. Bob went on to say that those two events are the types of mobilizing activities that are taking place across the country with PSAC members. Bob reiterated that it's vitally important to continue these types of events and to get as many members out as possible and continue the communication between members. Bob added that future events are being planned for November 19 in Nanaimo and Victoria. The REVP Office will be sending some supplies to the members coordinating this event.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

a. DASH – Donation Request for the BCFED Labour Community Christmas Dinner

On behalf of the DASH committee, Virginia Vaillancourt advised that the committee was recommending a \$400 donation to the BCFED Labour Community Christmas Dinner, the same amount as in previous years. Recommendation was carried.

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| ACTION ITEM | Kristin to issue a donation of \$400 to the BCFED Labour Community Christmas Dinner as agreed by the Regional Council |
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Virginia further advised that the Committee had also recommended a donation of \$100 to the *Light the Night Walk*, benefitting the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Canada, which had been processed by the REVP Office.

The PSAC B.C Region's annual membership to Everywoman's Health Centre in Vancouver had also be renewed at a cost of \$50. The previous Regional Council had determined that this would be a sustaining membership funded by the Donations and Membership line within the Regional Council's budget.

BC FEDERATION OF LABOUR CONVENTION

Bob Jackson opened the discussion on the BCFED Convention by canvassing the Regional Council on who would be attending the convention. It was found that several Council members would be attending, but not all.

Bob then acknowledged that there will be an election at the BCFED convention. Moreover, he advised that current President Jim Sinclair has decided not to run for re-election. This was not a snap decision; Jim has been considering this decision since the spring. Since he announced that he will not be running, two individuals have announced their candidacy for the position: Amber Hocking (CLC Pacific Director), Irene Lanzinger (current BCFED Secretary Treasurer).

Bob went on to say that there has been a lot of discussion amongst the affiliates with regard to endorsements and more specifically who the PSAC will be supporting. Bob added that, personally, he will be supporting as are a number of Regional Council members. Bob then opened discussion on

whether or not the PSAC B.C. Region should be publically endorsing a candidate, and, if so, who that candidate should be.

Jamey Mills commented that this matter has been discussed by the Vancouver & District Area Council. Already there is a clear majority in support of endorsing Irene Lanzinger. A formal motion will be proceeding in the coming days.

A motion was then made for the PSAC B.C. Region to formally endorse Irene Lanzinger for President of the BC Federation of Labour.

Moved: Crystal Warner; seconded: Jamey Mills

Jennifer Chieh = opened the discussion on the motion by advising that while she personally supports Irene for president, she is opposed to the endorsement. Bert Farwell then agreed with Jennifer's comments, noting that he didn't feel we should be locking ourselves into anything. He, too, supports Irene for president, but feels that PSAC should remain open to other candidates and their campaign platforms. Some Regional Council members also expressed that they weren't comfortable speaking on behalf of the entire membership in the B.C. Region. Further discussion ensued.

Some Regional Council voiced the opinion that the PSAC should not 'sit on the fence' when it comes endorsing a candidate for the election: if there is a candidate running who will support to the PSAC and assist us with our fight against the Conservative Government we should take this opportunity to publically endorse them. Jamey Mills added that the PSAC needs to endorse a strong leader who has credibility with the public sector unions. Bob agreed, stating the Irene has been a stalwart supporter of the PSAC. She fought with us for the Kitsilano Coast Guard Station. Bob went on to say that he is concerned the Amber Hockin has been on the record as stating that she doesn't see the president of the BCFED as a spokesperson for labour in BC.

After further discussion, the Regional Council members then called for a recorded vote on the motion. The Regional Council then voted in favour of the motion to endorse Irene Lanzinger for president of the BC Federation of Labour. The detailed results of the vote are attached to these minutes.

Following the vote, Bob Jackson advised that the REVP Office will draft a response regarding the PSAC's decision to endorse Irene Lanzinger. The draft will be forwarded to the Regional Council for their review before it is sent to the Irene Lanzinger's campaign team.

Bob Jackson then advised that National Officers who reside in the B.C. Region will be meeting in advance of the BCFED convention on Monday, Nov. 24 at 7:30 AM. Bob added that Jamey Mills will serve as the PSAC's caucus whip. The PSAC will also have a caucus meeting at the BCFED Convention. Bob noted that room scheduling for caucus meetings is still being determined by the BCFED. Once further details are available, Bob will communicate them to delegates.

Bob further advised that we haven't been able to determine the total number registered PSAC delegates yet. However, the REVP Office will receive the current registration numbers from the BCFED later this week. Bob added that the PSAC will also be called upon for volunteers for the convention committees. If Regional Council are interested in participating on any of these committees, Bob asked that they contact the REVP Office.

Finally, Bob advised that he will be Co-Chairing the General Resolutions Committee with Cindy Oliver, President of the Federation of Post-Secondary Educators of BC. The Committee will be meeting next week to set the resolution priorities.

Bob then called for questions on the BCFED Convention. Crystal Warner asked if the PSAC will be staffing a table at the convention's vendor fair. Bob answered that there would be a table staffed by Kristin and Patrick along with other RO staff. If Regional Council members have information or materials they'd like available at the table (e.g. Component campaign information, child care campaign information, etc.) please coordinate with the REVP Office.

PSAC NATIONAL TRIENNIAL CONVENTION

Bob reminded the Regional Council that the National Triennial Convention is taking place the last week of April in Quebec City. As Bob provided above, the work has already begun on the proposed budget for the 2016-2018 cycle. Bob added that the delegate selection process is also underway and is nearing completion. Delegate names need to be submitted to the PSAC by November 21.

The deadline for resolutions has already passed and a number of resolutions are going forward from the B.C. Region. Bob advised that he will be chairing the General Resolutions Committee at Convention. The Committee will be meeting in mid-February to discuss the resolutions and determine resolution priorities.

OTHER BUSINESS

December 6 PSAC Events

Jennifer Chieh Ho advised that the West Fraser Valley Area Council – on behalf of the PSAC – will be hosting the December 6th candlelight vigil at Holland Park in Surrey again this year. Initially, Jennifer was not going to organize the Surrey event this year so that she could attend the vigil in Victoria. However, the BCFED approached her and asked if they could jointly organize the event in Surrey with Jennifer and the PSAC.

Virginia then provided an update on the Victoria Regional Women's Committee plans for the December 6th event in Victoria. As the Regional Council was already advised, the City of Victoria has approved the monument that the Committee will be installing to mark the 25th anniversary of the Montreal Massacre and the National Day of Action on Violence Against Women. Currently, the Committee is in the final stages with City for the installment of the monument. Virginia went on to report that there are still some outstanding donation requests for which the Committee is hoping to receive responses. The Committee is also still looking for volunteers to help at the event. Virginia then advised that REVP Bob Jackson and National President Robyn Benson will be speaking at the event along with Laurent Haviernik, who is the brother of one of the Montreal Massacre victims. Virginia then extended her thanks to all who are providing support to the event.

Paul Croes asked for some clarification on the support the Regional Council was providing to the December 6th Vigil being organized by the Victoria Regional Women's Committee. Bob advised that the Regional Council contributed \$1,000 in funds to the Victoria Regional Women's Committee, which covered the flight costs for Laurent Haviernik who is travelling from Montreal to attend the event.

Municipal Election Mail-out

Bob then reminded the Council that the PSAC will be sending out the CLC *Municipalities Matter* poll cards with the labour endorsed candidates for the upcoming municipal elections later this month.

Stop Harper Signs

Colleen Girard advised she has been working with a supplier in Quebec to produce “Stop Harper” signs. The pricing she’s received is \$3 per sign with a minimum order of 250 signs. Colleen then advised that if other members, Locals or Components are interested in ordering some signs, please let her know.

Robyn Benson in Region This Week

Bob advised that National President Robyn Benson will be in the Region this week visiting worksites and attending AGMs in the Fraser Valley with him. The REVP Office and Vancouver RO are also organizing a social event at the Vancouver Regional Office this Thursday evening between 5 pm and 7 pm. There will be an opportunity for members to come down and speak with Robyn and ask about PSAC initiatives, current Treasury Board bargaining, etc.

Bob added that Robyn will be back in the Region again in December for the December 6th Vigil in Victoria that’s being organized by the Victoria Regional Women’s Committee.

Next Teleconference of the B.C. Regional Council

The Regional Council then discussed the scheduled for the next Regional Council teleconference. It was suggested that as since it is already November, the next teleconference could take place early in the New Year unless a pressing matter comes up. In the next few weeks, Kristin will send out potential dates via email and solicit the availability of the Regional Council.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Before adjourning the meeting, Bob thanked all for their attendance on the call. The meeting was then adjourned at 7:53 PM.

Minutes recorded by: Kristin Schnider

Minutes published: December 2014