

**DRAFT RECORD OF MEETING
B.C. REGIONAL COUNCIL CONFERENCE CALL
HELD THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2015 AT 6 PM**

In Attendance:

Bob Jackson, REVP-B.C. (Chair)
Johann Ackermann, West Fraser Valley
Shawna Bundac, A/Racially Visible
Paul Croes, Pride
Parveen Deepak, Northeast B.C.
Benilde Gomes, Northwest B.C.
Jennifer Horsley, Metro Vancouver
Ruby Langan, Aboriginal

Terri Lee, Metro Vancouver
Carolyn McGillivray, Southern Interior
Vanessa Miller, Youth
Antony Paller, East Fraser Valley
Liz Oliphant, South Vancouver Island
Barry Tchir, A/Metro Vancouver
Susan Yaciw, Southern Interior

Regrets:

Jennifer Chieh Ho, Racially Visible
Bert Farwell, North Vancouver Island
Linda Harding, Health & Safety
Nic Humphreys, National Officers
Jamey Mills, Alt. REVP-B.C.

Jim Sidel, DCL and SSE
Crystal Warner, Metro Vancouver
Virginia Vaillancourt, Women's
Ken Waldron, MWD

Staff:

Patrick Bragg, Political Communications Officer
Colleen Girard, Acting Regional Rep

Luc Guevremont, Regional Coordinator
Kristin Schnider, EA to the REVP-B.C.

Bob Jackson called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Bob Jackson called for any additions to the agenda, which had been circulated in advance via email. Bob noted that under other business he would like to discuss the scheduling of the next Regional Council conference call and the fall meeting.

PREVIOUS MINUTES – APRIL 10-12, 2015

Bob advised that the draft minutes from the April face-to-face meeting had been circulated in advance. He then called for any edits or additions to the minutes, noting that the minutes would be formally adopted at the fall meeting. Susan Yaciw advised that there were a few spelling and grammatical errors that need correcting. Bob asked that these edits be sent in and the minutes will be updated for the fall meeting.

REVP REPORT

a. AEC Update

Bob advised that the AEC met once since the PSAC National Triennial Convention. He added that the AEC will be meeting in Ottawa on Monday prior to the NBoD meeting next week. The AEC has been dealing with some post-convention business, which will continue over the next while.

Bob explained that resolutions not dealt with by Convention will be addressed at the fall NBoD meeting. Resolutions passed at convention with no associated costs came in effect with convention. Those resolutions with a cost are effective January 1, 2016 with the start of the new budget cycle.

Bob then provided a brief staffing update in terms of changes at PSAC headquarters. Bob advised that Robyn Benson's Executive Assistant (EA) Elizabeth Woods was going back to her former position in the

NCR Regional Office and the EA vacancy has been posted. Also, Sarah Belanger, who has been on leave for some time, will be returning to work on June 1. When she returns she will assume a role in human resources and report to HR Director Gabriel Bergeron.

b. Convention Debrief

i) By-Law Changes Required as a Result of the PSAC National Convention

With regard to the resolutions that imposed Constitutional changes, Bob advised that the Regional Council's By-Laws Committee needs to start thinking about amendments for the Regional By-Laws so they are reflective of these changes as well. In particular, the changes that need to be addressed are:

1. the reference to the second alternate REVP for BC;
2. the increase in the young worker age to 35; and
3. the constitutional recognition of regional health and safety committees.

On the latter issued, Bob noted that this constitutional change will require some more work by the AEC and NBoD as the resolution didn't call for anything other than the recognition. However, there may be some implications that stem from the recognition, including the potential for delegate entitlement to convention, etc.

Bob then advised that all Regions need to have their By-Laws reviewed to ensure that they are in compliance with the Constitution. He noted that this process was to have been completed prior to the 2014 Regional Convention; however, there are still some outstanding issues that need to be looked at again and be resolved.

Bob then moved on to talk about the activity surrounding the \$5M emergency resolution passed at convention. A portion of the funds will be used to cover the Leadership Tour this summer. Bob explained that the 'Tour' is an opportunity for Component presidents and the AEC to meet with members as much as possible before the federal election this fall. The leadership will attend meetings, events and seminars and will also visit worksites to talk with members about the election and the steps they can take leading up to October 19.

c. Negotiations Update

i) Treasury Board

Bob reminded the Regional Council what happened during the last round of TB bargaining with the introduction of Bill C-59, the Budget Implementation Act. After the Government tabled the legislation and voiced their intention to ignore the section of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms that protects Canadians' right to organize and engage in free collective bargaining, the teams agreed to withdraw from the table in May and take time to assess how the Union will move forward. The teams also took that opportunity to engage in some mobilization efforts in Ottawa, including a rallies at MP Offices.

Bob commented that the teams will meet with the Employer in June during the week of June 15-19. During that week, the structure of the NSCC meetings will change somewhat: this time the NSCC will meet with all teams on the Friday instead of just team representatives. The reason for the change is to ensure that there are no communication gaps between the teams and the NSCC. Bob noted that there are no bargaining dates planned after June so the Friday meeting will be a good opportunity to discuss mobilization plans going forward.

Bob also advised that there is a new negotiator at the TC table, who's also working with NAV Canada. The negotiator – Claude Danik – comes to the PSAC from CAPE where he was a negotiator and Executive Director. Bob met him at during the last session and by all accounts he will be an excellent addition to the team.

ii) Regional Units and Non-Treasury Board

Bob advised that CRA negotiations are still ongoing. Bob then spoke on the recent communication from the Component expressing their displeasure with the Commissioner of CRA. Basically the Employer (ER) has come out with a final offer and the Component says it's not interested. A similar situation was experienced by the FB group when the Government tried to force a membership vote, which the court ruled against. At this point, it's shaping out to be an interesting period for CRA and we'll have to wait and see what results.

CFIA negotiations have just gotten underway and the team is in Ottawa (which includes Terri Lee). There will be a number of discussion with the ER and they are waiting to see what the ER position is regarding a short term disability plan.

In terms of regionals units, Bob reported that a ratification vote is underway for the First National Health Authority group, and results are expected soon. The Prince Rupert airport is dealing with a dispute over a management position: the ER is proposing that it should be an excluded position. Negotiation will also begin shortly for with IMP in Comox.

REGIONAL WAAA ACTION PLAN, MOBILIZATION EVENTS AND SUMMER OUTREACH

a. Bill C-59 – MP Outreach

Before asking Patrick to speak on the subject, Bob advised that he met with an MP candidate for the new Langley City-Cloverdale riding. The candidate is running for the Liberal Party and asked for the Union's support. However, Bob made it clear that we will not be endorsing parties or individuals. Bob added that the candidate comes from Parks Canada and has a good idea of what public service life is like.

Patrick then provided that while Bill C-59 is terrible for the Union, it has been effective from a mobilization perspective. The Bill is getting members engaged who may not have been involved in the Union before. Patrick added that it's encouraging to see that members understand the link between the bargaining table and changing the federal government this fall. He added that the PSAC is presenting to the House Committee on Finance next week on June 4, where the Union will speak against Division 20 with Bill C-59.

Patrick went on to explain that the Union is also asking members to email or call their MPs to let them know that we want them to vote against Bill C-59. Speaking points and key messaging were sent out to members to assist members with this action. Patrick commented that we need to let MPs know we are angry the Government is interfering with the bargaining process and that we do not want the legislation going forward with Division 20 included. Any emails sent to MPs should be forwarded to Patrick.

Patrick has received a few emails, and is hoping to receive many more. He added that some of the emails have been particularly gratifying as some members indicated that they voted for the Conservatives in the past but will not be doing so again in light of Bill C-59 and the actions of this Government.

Patrick added that he will be sending out a reminder next week, asking members to get in touch with their MPs. He noted that it doesn't matter if your MP is NDP, Conservative, Liberal or Green. Even if the MP is Conservative, it's important that they know we're upset and they do not have our support.

Bob then emphasized that we need members to contact as many MPs as possible. He asked that the Regional Council engage members to do so.

b. NPSW Activities in BC – June 15-19

Bob confirmed that there will be continued emphasis on 19th of each month as we near the federal election. This June, the 19th coincides with National Public Services Week (NPSW) and Treasury Board (TB) bargaining. Bob noted that the timing is both good and bad. It's good in terms that it will draw greater attention to NPSW. However, it also means that TB team members will not be in the Regions for events and activities. Nonetheless, members are organizing a number of events across the Region.

Patrick Bragg explained that headquarters has released the messaging plan for NPSW, which centers on the theme of "respect": respect for public services, respect for bargaining rights, respect for members, etc. Headquarters is also providing 'respect' buttons and stickers for distribution at NPSW events. Patrick added that we have used this message in the past, and the advantage is that it can be pushed in many different areas. Along with the buttons and stickers, headquarters is also producing a paper petition for TB worksites regarding collective bargaining. The petition will be released during NPSW.

In terms of the regional plan, Patrick advised that we planned to host a Region-wide day of action during NPSW. But given that Components and Locals are already planning their own events, it was thought that it would be better to call for a week of action and give members the autonomy to schedule events in a manner that work best for them. Therefore, the Region is asking all Locals to plan at least one action during NPSW so that members can come together and voice their opposition to Bill C-59 and show solidarity for the teams.

Johann Ackermann commented that his Local is organizing a pizza day on the June 18, and that the paper petition would be well suited to this activity.

Colleen provided that in Victoria members have engaged local MPs Rankin and Garrison who are expected to attend the members' annual softball tournament on June 19. A poster is being developed and will be sent out shortly.

Patrick commented that staff reps will be in touch with their Locals to find out what is being organized for NPSW and what resources or materials are needed.

Carolyn McGillivray asked when Locals can expect to receive the 'respect' materials. Patrick answered that he will be coordinating with Robert Strange and anticipates that they will go out in the next week.

c. "I'm Voting For..." plan

Patrick explained that the Region has developed a plan to engage as many PSAC BC members as possible in the upcoming federal election and the public service issues that have been identified:

Workers' Rights	Marine Safety	Food Safety
Childcare	Healthcare	Veterans
Public Services (job cuts)	The Environment	Human Rights
Employment Insurance	Retirement Security	

The "I'm voting for..." plan asks members to take a pledge to vote in the upcoming federal election, and uses the above public service issues as a means to get members engaged in the conversation.

In taking the pledge, members are asked to log into the campaign website and provide their contact information. The website then allows us to gauge the members' level of engagement. Patrick further

explained that when a member takes the pledge, they provide their contact details and advise if they're interested in helping out with activities or getting involved with the campaign, etc. When a member indicates that they're willing to actively participate in the member-to-member campaign, we're then able to plug them into the larger regional political action plan as appropriate.

Placards have also been produced for the above issues, as well as a blank "I'm voting for..." card for members to fill in using their own words. The placards will be sent out to Locals for use at events and actions including NPSW. Photos submitted to the REVP Office will be posted to the PSAC social media pages, etc.

Patrick then commented that the campaign is not just for TB members, but for all members because we all have a stake in the federal election.

Paul Croes asked if there was any update on the 'Stop Harper' signs that had been discussed at the April meeting. Patrick answered that the signs were ordered and have been received by the REVP Office. Patrick sent out an email regarding the signs earlier in the week and we have received some member requests already. Patrick noted that as requests are received, the signs are being sent out along with a voting pledge card (as discussed at the April Regional Council meeting). If Regional Council members would like signs for their areas or constituents, they should email the REVP Office. Patrick cautioned that the signs are in limited supply, so if you need some please let him know.

d. Summer Outreach Events: National Aboriginal Day – June 21, Fusion Festival – July 18-19, PRIDE Celebrations (Surrey, Vancouver, Victoria)

Bob commented that several events have been planned for the summer and we're hoping to get a few more organized. Patrick added that he spoke with some of the Lower Mainland Committees and Area Councils and lots of events planned for the area, including PRIDE celebrations, National Aboriginal Day, the Surrey Fusion Festival and Labour Day activities.

With regard to the Fusion Festival, the PSAC reached out to the BCFED to see if there was interested in sharing a vendor space, and BCGEU, COPE378, CUPW and the BCFED's Minimum Wage campaign have indicated an interest. Therefore the booth size this year will be larger to accommodate the affiliate participation.

In the North, the Northwest BC Area Council will be participating in Prince Rupert's Seafest, Riverboat Days in Terrace, National Aboriginal Day events, and Labour Day in Kitimat.

Before moving on the next agenda item, Luc provided an update on regional staffing, noting that regional rep Dave Jackson had returned to the Victoria RO. In addition, Colleen Girard, who had been back filling the position, would be concluding her term next week. Luc commented that Colleen had done a great job and thanked her for her hard work. Luc also provided that regional rep Janelle Ho-Shing was still off and her position is currently being backfilled by Karoline Klug.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

a. DASH – Vancouver Dyke March, GVJCCA Golf Tournament

As both the Committee Chair and Vice-Chair were not on the call, Kristin Schnider provided that the REVP Office heard back from the Committee regarding a donation request for the Vancouver Dyke March Society. The Committee had agreed on a recommendation for a \$100 donation to the Vancouver Dyke March. The Regional Council then affirmed that DASH Committee's recommendation.

ACTION ITEM	Kristin to submit a \$100 donation to the Vancouver Dyke March as agreed by the Regional Council
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On the second request, the golf tournament sponsorship request from the Great Vancouver Japanese Canadians Citizens' Association (GVJCCA), Kristin advised that the REVP Office had not heard back from the Committee. Bob advised that the request had come from Association President Lorene Oikawa when she attended the Asian Heritage Month event earlier in May. It was then suggestion that the request be left to the Committee to deal with via email and have the recommendation presented on the next teleconference.

b. Multi Union pride AGM at RO June 13

Paul Croes advised that BCFED's Multi Union Pride is holding their AGM on Saturday, June 13 at the PSAC Vancouver Regional Office from 10 AM to 12 PM. He asked that Regional Councils share this information with their constituents.

OTHER BUSINESS

a. Next Teleconference of the B.C. Regional Council and Scheduling of the Fall Meeting

The Regional Council then discussed scheduling for the next Regional Council teleconference. It was agreed that a call be scheduled during the summer months so that the Regional Council could check-in on the campaign progress and the summer outreach activities. After further discussion, it was suggested that the call be held during the week of July 20, following the Surrey Fusion Festival and the Victoria Pride celebrations. Kristin will send out a Doodle poll for Regional Council availability during that week.

ACTION ITEM	Kristin to send out a Doodle poll for Regional Council availability to attend a teleconference during the week of July 20
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Bob then talked about the scheduling of a fall face-to-face meeting. He noted that it will be a busy fall with all the activities taking place. He then asked Regional Council members to submit any dates of Component or regional events that may pose a conflict with a fall meeting so that they can schedule accordingly.

Bob then reminded the Regional Council that the fall meeting is slated to take place in Victoria, and as such dates need to book soon so that a venue can be secured. Bob then committed to sending out some tentative dates for the fall meeting for Council feedback.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Before adjourning the meeting, Bob thanked all for their attendance on the call. The meeting was then adjourned at 7:02 PM.

Minutes recorded by: Kristin Schnider

Minutes published: June 2015