

**DRAFT RECORD OF MEETING  
B.C. REGIONAL COUNCIL CONFERENCE CALL  
HELD THURSDAY, JULY 7, 2016 AT 6 PM**

In Attendance:

Bob Jackson, REVP-B.C. (Chair)	Terri Lee, Metro Vancouver (late arrival)
Johann Ackermann, West Fraser Valley	Carolyn McGillivray, Southern Interior (late arrival)
Jennifer Chieh Ho, Racially Visible	Vanessa Miller, Youth (late arrival)
Paul Croes, Pride	Jamey Mills, Alternate REVP-B.C.
Parveen Deepak, Northeast B.C.	Jim Sidel, DCL and SSE
Bert Farwell, North Vancouver Island (late arrival)	Virginia Vaillancourt, Women's
Linda Harding, Health & Safety	Susan Yaciw, Southern Interior
Ruby Langan, Aboriginal	

Regrets:

Colleen Girard, South Vancouver Island	Antony Paller, East Fraser Valley
Benilde Gomes, Northwest B.C.	Joyce Slett, MWD
Jennifer Horsley, Metro Vancouver	Barry Tchir, Metro Vancouver
Trish Martin, South Vancouver Island	

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 6:06 PM.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Bob Jackson called for any additions to the agenda, which had been circulated in advance via email. No items were added.

**REVP REPORT**

**a. AEC AND NBOD UPDATE**

Bob advised that he attended a one-day meeting of the AEC just prior to the June NBoD meeting. At that meeting, the AEC finalized many details pertaining to the PSAC National Health & Safety Conference as well as a number of other administrative decisions.

The NBoD meeting that follow had a full agenda, which included a session with Ed Broadbent who spoke about electoral reform and proportional representation (PR). Bob advised that over the summer members are being asked to attend MPs' town hall meetings regarding electoral reform so the union's position is well represented. Further information on electoral reform and PR is available on the Broadbent Institute website.

The Social Justice Fund (SJF) also made a presentation to the NBoD at the June meeting. Their presentation included a report on the recent trip to Bangladesh and previous work done regarding labour standards in the textiles industry.

At the June meeting, the Board also received a presentation from the Pension Committee on the PSAC Pension Plan's solvency and the dues levy that was passed at the 2015 PSAC National Triennial Convention. The plan was reviewed, and the Committee recommended that the levy stay in place at this time. It was further recommended that the Committee continue monitoring the plan and reassess

the levy on an ongoing basis. Bob noted that the plan had taken a hit with the volatility of the global markets over the last year.

For the first time, the Board agenda included Component reports, detailing Component activities. This reporting now complements the existing regional reports as provided by AEC Officers.

The NBoD also discussed CEIU and its trusteeship. Bob reported that the situation is progressing positively and the Component is working on its constitutional issues. Once resolved, this work will lead into a convention late this year or early next year. Paul Croes commented that the Trustee and Deputy Trustees have had several fruitful meetings, and a committee has been struck to review the Component's By-Laws. He added that the Component appears to be moving forward fairly quickly.

The NBoD's Environment Committee met during the June meeting and presented the PSAC's video on the water situation on First Nations' lands. Since then, the video has been shared widely on social media and through PSAC online outlets. Bob added that he hoped to include the video on the agenda for the fall Regional Council meeting. The Committee also presented its first report to the NBoD since being reconstituted. In that report, the Committee identified its priorities, including clean water initiatives. Bob added that the discussion on clean water stemmed from discussions at the PSAC National Triennial Convention. Staff resource Howie West has been assigned to the Committee and will work with Committee members on their initiatives.

The NBoD's Constitutional Review Committee met for first time in June. Since then, each committee member has been tasked with reviewing at different sections of Constitution, looking for changes that are needed. The Committee will now be meeting monthly until 2017 (before Regional and Component convention work begins). The Committee aims to have resolutions for Constitutional amendments drafted by early 2017 that will be forwarded to the 2018 PSAC National Triennial Convention.

The Board also discussed the ongoing issues with the Phoenix Pay System. NEVP Chris Aylward and GSU National President Donna Lackie continue to lead the discussions with the Employer, applying further pressure daily to fix the system's problems. While some remedies have been found for individual instances of missed pay or pay errors, there are still huge systemic flaws in the system that need resolution.

Bob advised that the NBoD also had a video presentation on the RAND formula that Bob would like to share with the Regional Council during the fall meeting. The video answers a lot of questions on RANDs that have been raised by members over the years. A copy of the video will also be acquired for the Regional Offices for member use.

#### **b. NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE**

##### *Treasury Board and National Units*

Bob reported that while Treasury Board teams were at the table in June, there was not a lot of progress. The teams were led to believe that there would be a change in Employer's attitude during this round and a willingness to proceed; however, this was not the case. Teams were understandably frustrated by this situation. A similar sentiment is being felt at both the Parks and CFIA tables.

CRA was successful with their ratification vote where the membership voted to reject the offer from the Employer. Therefore, the team will now move into another round of discussions with the Employer in early August. Hopefully, the result of the vote got the attention of the Employer and they will come back to the table with something more meaningful for UTE members. There is no word on any particular UTE job action(s) at this time.

Bob reported that the June 8 National Day of Action was viewed as a success by the organization, especially in terms of showing the Employer the membership’s readiness to mobilize and work in solidarity with the bargaining teams. At the June NBoD meeting, the Board acknowledged the hard work of members and staff in carrying out the nation-wide activity.

*Regional Negotiations*

Luc Guevremont advised that the Victoria International Airport Authority was successful in their negotiations, achieving a four-year agreement.

Unfortunately, there has been a set back with Prince George Airport’s negotiations. They hope to resolve this matter at their September meeting with the Employer. The outstanding issue centres on wages.

The unit at IMP Comox met with the Employer last month. However, at that meeting the Employer refused to respond to the monetary proposals. As a result, the Union advised the Employer that they would be proceeding to arbitration.

**CUPW AND CANADA POST LABOUR DISPUTE**

Bob reported that Canada Post has extended their lockout notice to CUPW until Monday, July 11.

A meeting was held this morning with CUPW and BCFED affiliates and the situation was discussed. At that meeting, CUPW asked affiliates to provide support by drafting letters to Prime Minister Trudeau, t calling on the government to fire Canada Post CEO Deepak Chopra as he is one of the main barriers to a fairly negotiated settlement.

The PSAC sent such a letter to the Prime Minister earlier today, and we have already received a response from a CUPW Director (who was copied on the letter), thanking the PSAC for our support. Patrick encouraged other PSAC bodies (Locals, Area Councils, regional committees) to write similar letters to the Prime Minister to offer their support to CUPW. Patrick added that he’d be willing to assist in drafting these letters as required.

**COMMITTEE UPDATES**

**a. DASH COMMITTEE DONATION RECOMMENDATIONS**

Virginia Vaillancourt advised that the DASH Committee had reviewed a number of donation requests since the last meeting. After deliberating, the Committee was putting forward the following recommendations:

- 1. Union Gospel Mission – \$200 donation
- 2. Mood Disorders Association of BC - \$100 donation

Both recommendations were approved by the Regional Council.

<b>ACTION ITEM</b>	Kristin to issue donations as approved by the Regional Council: \$200 to Union Gospel Mission, \$100 to Mood Disorders Association of BC
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**CLC YOUNG WORKERS’ SUMMIT – AEC DECISION ON REGIONAL SUBSIDIES**

Bob advised that he spoke with Youth Coordinator Vanessa Miller yesterday about funding for the CLC Young Workers’ Summit. The REVP also sent a letter to all members who had applied for funding through the Region’s Young Workers Committees and the Region’s Young Workers’ Initiative fund. In that letter Bob advised them of the AEC’s decision not to allow funding for the CLC conference through these sources.

Bob then provided a brief background for the decision, explaining that when the AEC met in May they had discussed the conference and funding options to ensure PSAC representation. During that initial discussion, the AEC agreed that they would nationally fully fund one young workers from each Region to attend the conference. This decision was largely based on that fact that, regionally, there aren't any specific funds to draw upon for this type of national young workers' event. Moreover, it was agreed that Regions would not use any regional Young Workers' Committee funds and/or Young Workers' Initiatives funds to finance participants.

Bob further explained that no consideration was given to BC's Regulation 7 subsidy process during the AEC's discussions. He noted that BC is the only Region to have this type of funding mechanism, funded through the Region's priority proposal. Bob added that he regrets not raising the Regulation with his fellow AEC officers as some unnecessary confusion has resulted.

Consequently, the AEC conducted a conference call on this issue yesterday to clear any confusion on funding for young workers attending the CLC conference. During the call Bob explained the process for Regulation 7 subsidies, the criteria applied, and the history of subsidies applied to national events. While not all AEC Officers were able to attend the call, it then was agreed that BC is well within its rights to fund conference attendees through our Regulation 7 process. This decision weighed heavily on the facts that it is a long-standing process in the Region, and the subsidy funding was put in place by delegates at the PSAC BC Regional Triennial Convention.

Bob added that as the Regulation indicates, the Regional Council should not fund more than three subsidies for the CLC Young Workers' Summit; all other Regulation 7 criteria will also apply when the DASH Committee considers each application.

## **COMMITTEE UPDATES**

### **b. DASH COMMITTEE SUBSIDY RECOMMENDATIONS**

Virginia Vaillancourt advised that the DASH Committee had reviewed three conference subsidy requests under Regulation 7. Two were for the CLC Young Workers' Summit in Ottawa this October and the third was for the CLC Rise Up! Human Rights Conference also in Ottawa this October. The committee had reviewed the applications and was recommending the following:

1. Josh Miller, CLC Young Workers' Summit – \$500 subsidy
2. Maggie Humen, CLC Young Workers' Summit - \$500 subsidy
3. Richard Barry, CLC Rise Up! Human Rights Conference - \$500 subsidy

All three recommendations were approved by the Regional Council.

<b>ACTION ITEM</b> Kristin to advise the applicants that their subsidy applications have been approved
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## **UPDATE ON PSAC NATIONAL & REGIONAL CONFERENCES**

### **a. NATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY CONFERENCE**

Bob began by reporting that the conference application process is complete and Components have received the lists with all applicant names. Components will have until July 15 to rank all applicants. Each Component will receive seven delegate seats initially. The applicant lists will then go to the REVPs for further ranking, paying special attention to any DCL applicants. Any remaining seats will then go back to the Components on a pro rata basis. The total number of delegate seats available is 300. Bob added that the entire delegate selection process is to be completed by August. Once delegates are confirmed, they will be advised by the PSAC's Programs sections.

**b. NATIONAL EQUITY CONFERENCES**

Bob advised that the official call out for the PSAC National Equity Conference had gone out earlier that day and the conference application process is now open on the PSAC national website.

**c. BCFED CONVENTION**

Bob advised that Locals affiliated to the BC Federation of Labour will be receiving their delegate credentials by post in the next two to three weeks. He added that Regional Council members should check-in with their Locals to ensure that (a) they're affiliated, and (b) their credentials have been received.

The process for credentials will follow the same process as 2014: unused credentials are to be sent into the REVP Office so they can be reallocated to other PSAC members. Bob commented that he's hoping for another large PSAC caucus at the BCFED Convention, which takes place November 28-December 2.

At this point, it doesn't appear that there will be an election at this year's convention: both President Irene Lanzinger and Secretary Treasurer Aaron Eckman will be reoffering for their positions and no other contenders have been declared for either role at this time. If that changes, Bob will advise the Regional Council.

Bob then asked Regional Council members to remind their constituents of the convention and encourage them to attend.

**d. PSAC BC REGIONAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE**

Virginia Vaillancourt advised that the PSAC BC Regional Women's Conference is taking place September 23-25 in Richmond. The application process is currently underway. She then called on Regional Council members to advertise the conference with their constituents and direct them to the information available on the PSAC BC regional website.

Carolyn McGillivray commented that the Southern Interior has already submitted more applications than their area has conference seats. Therefore, the request for further recruiting for their geographic area is frustrating. Carolyn asked that this sentiment be conveyed to the organizing committee. Virginia responded that for conference participation to be increased the Region needs more funding. As such, Locals and RWCs should consider submitting resolutions to the PSAC Convention calling for an increase to the regional women's conference budget line in the PSAC national budget.

Susan Yaciw asked when the resolutions deadline was for the conference. Virginia answered that the deadline is at the end of the August. Information on resolutions will be going out to all Locals and RWCs next week. Virginia then encouraged all RWCs to start talking about potential resolutions.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**a. VANCOUVER PRIDE PARADE AND FESTIVAL**

Paul Croes reminded the Regional Council that the Vancouver Pride Parade and Festival are taking place on Sunday, July 31. He then encouraged members to come and participate in the parade or at the PSAC booth that will be at the festival. Further details on the event can be found on the PSAC BC regional website.

**b. REPORT ON NATIONAL ABORIGINAL DAY EVENT**

Ruby Langan reported that the BC Mainland Human Rights Committee and she jointly organized an event at the Vancouver RO to celebrate National Aboriginal Day on June 21. With the support of PSAC BC and UNE, the event was a great success with thought provoking speakers. The presentation at the event provided members with the opportunity to learn about aboriginal issues in Canada, including

work being done on genocide in Canada. Bob extended his thanks to Ruby and the Committee for pulling the event together.

**c. REPORT ON ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH EVENT**

Jennifer Chieh Ho extended her thanks to the Regional Council for their financial support of the Asian Heritage Month event held in May. The event was well organized and provided an opportunity to engage with union and community members. The event including the participation of some local high school students who presented their research and work on Asian heritage in BC. Jennifer will provide a full written report on the event fall Regional Council meeting.

Bob commented that he attended the event for the last two years, and agreed that this year's event was even larger than the previous year. He added that the event had great speakers and provided good information on Asian heritage from a BC perspective. He then thanked Jennifer for her work on the event, noting that he expects the event to continue growing next year and beyond.

**d. PRINCE GEORGE LABOUR DAY EVENT**

Parveen Deepak advised that the Northeast BC Area Council will be participating in a large Labour Day event in Prince George on September 5 with the District Labour Council and several other unions. This is the first big Labour Day event for the community, which will begin with a march. The event will include free food and entertainment for event goers, and highlight the history of the labour movement. Parveen added that she will send the event details to the REVP Office so they can be posted on the PSAC BC regional website.

**e. OKANAGAN LABOUR DAY EVENT**

Susan Yaciw reported that the Okanagan Area Council will also be participating in the annual Kelowna Labour Day event. This is the first time the Area Council is participating in the community event, and they hope the REVP or the Alternate REVP can attend with the Area Council.

**f. UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN**

Bob advised that the annual United Way (UW) workplace campaign is gearing for the fall. Both CRA and Transport Canada will be providing campaign associates (members who are placed on leave to work on the campaign). He added that the Linda Harding, Jamey Mills and he are attending the campaign cabinet meetings on the behalf of the PSAC BC Region for the United Way of the Lower Mainland (the Metro Vancouver UW centraide).

If any members or Locals have questions on the UW or the UW's Government of Canada Workplace Charitable Campaign (GCWCC) they can be directed to the Office of the REVP. Bob added that the REVP Office is also able to assist with sourcing speakers for campaign events.

Bob reminded the Regional Council that the UW has a variety of centraides across the country, connecting with all communities. Therefore, you do not need to be in the Lower Mainland or on Vancouver Island to participate in the workplace campaign. Bob then encouraged all Regional Council members to participate in, and support, the GCWCC in their areas.

**REMINDERS REGARDING COORDINATOR REPORTS AND THE FALL MEETING, OCTOBER 14-16**

Bob reminded the Regional Council that at the fall meeting will be held October 14-16 at the Inn at Laurel Point in Victoria, BC. Those who live outside the Greater Victoria area were reminded to advise the REVP Office if they will be staying at the hotel by Thursday, September 1.

Regional Council Coordinator reports and Committee reports are due Friday, September 9. Agenda items are due Monday, September 26.

Kristin reminded the group that PSAC BC national officers have been invited to observe the meeting. As such, a networking lunch for national officers and the Regional Council will be held on Friday, October 14 at the hotel. All members attending the meeting must advise the REVP Office if they have any dietary needs by Thursday, September 1.

Terri Lee asked if any plans had been made to organize a social for members. Bob answered that this is something the Regional Council could look into with the Victoria Area Council.

### **MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

Before adjourning the meeting, Bob reminded the group that no conference calls have been scheduled before the October face-to-face meeting. However, if the need arises one will be arranged.

Bob also asked the Regional Council members try to make some time this summer to meet with their MPs and convey our concerns regarding the Phoenix Pay System, electoral reform, Treasury Board bargaining, etc.

The meeting was then adjourned at 7:04 PM.

Minutes recorded by: Kristin Schnider

Minutes published: July 2016