

Regional Council Conference Call - Sept 13, 2017, 6PM

In attendance: Jamey Mills, Todd Smith, Jennifer Horsley, Terri Lee, Sky Belt, Johann Ackermann, Carolyn McGillivray, Tiffany Hobbins, Jill MacNeill, Colleen Girard, Trish Martin, Bert Farwell, Giselle Henry, Shane Polak, Nia Gillies, Linda Harding, James Brierley, Patrick Bragg

Absent: Antony Paller, Wes Todd, Kelly Sidhu, David Schinbein, Leanne Hughes

Regrets: Jennifer Chieh Ho

1. Adoption of the agenda

2. Updates regarding Regional Council

a. MWD Coordinator – Jamey reported that Josh Miller has resigned from Council. Shane Polak, the first alternate, will step in to take up the MWD Coordinator position.

b. Metro Vancouver Coordinator – As a result of Shane taking the MWD Coordinator position, the Metro Vancouver Coordinator position is now vacant. Terri Lee, first alternate, will step in.

c. NorthEast Coordinator – Sharon Bull, NorthEast Coordinator, has requested a leave of absence from the Council. Her alternate, Tiffany Hobbins, will replace her.

Jamey welcomed the new and returning council members.

3. REVP Report

a. AEC Update – Jamey reported from his first AEC meeting, which dealt mostly with orientation for the new AEC members. On Phoenix nationally, there has been a change in that the government does seem to be more consultative and is listening to what the unions have to say. PSAC will soon be issuing the input call for the Public Service Health Care Plan, this will be done via an online survey accessible to all members. The CLC is looking for a National Representative for Young Workers for a 3 year term – details are available at the CLC website.

Question: was there any discussion about another Phoenix national day of action. No, not at this meeting, but this is something that **Jamey** will enquire about at the next AEC.

b. Negotiations Update – Jamey provided an update on CBSA (FB), CFIA, Parks, Canada Post, SSO and CRA negotiations. The latest updates are available at the national website. Terri Lee reported that the CFIA team is facing significant concessions around scheduling, hours of work, and overtime. The employer is doing this under the guise of modernization – the team is pushing back and support from members is crucial.

4. Political Action

a. Phoenix Pay System

Todd, Sky, Jennifer and Shane reported on the Vancouver Area Council's Phoenix Awareness Subcommittee's work – the subcommittee organized tables at Canada Day, Labour Day, public and

membership outreach at Library Square designed to raise awareness about the Phoenix pay system and gather postcards to be sent to Scott Brison. Another event in conjunction with PIPSC and CAPE is being planned for October. Sky has developed a power point presentation designed for members that explains some of the issues with Phoenix and what PSAC is doing around the issue and provides advice for affected members – she delivered it to members at INAC, where it was well received. **Patrick** will share with the Council.

Jamey reported that Carla Qualtrough, MP for Delta, is the new Minister of Public Services and Procurement. Johann noted that she is his MP and offered to go and meet with her. **Jamey** committed to checking in with HQ on this.

Jamey also reported that he brought up Phoenix at a brief meeting with Patty Hajdu, the federal Minister of Employment, Workforce and Labour, along with the BC Federation of Labour Officers. She spoke at the Surrey Labour Day event and Jamey and other members were disappointed she did not mention the pay system or visit PSAC's table.

Bert reported on the Fix Phoenix transit ads that UCTE Local 20220 placed on buses and transit stops in Victoria. – response has been very good and it is hoped the campaign will be expanded nationally.

Colleen, Trish, and Giselle reported on the booth the Victoria Area Council hosted at the Saanich Fair. Members of the VAC spoke to the public about Phoenix and gathered postcards. Response from the public has been really good, and they are very sympathetic to the pay issues federal government workers are facing.

Trish and James reported on the Fix Phoenix rallies held in Kamloops and Kelowna, in conjunction with the CEIU Regional Executive Council meeting. In Kamloops members from the Service Canada worksite rallied outside Cathy McLeod's office and in Kelowna CEIU and UTE members rallied outside Stephen Fuhr's office. Local media coverage in both cities was excellent. Members also attended the PM's town hall meeting in Kelowna, but were not able to ask the PM a question.

b. Community Outreach

Johann reported that despite being busy with Component work, he would like to do some worksite visits. **Patrick** will send out updated local contact information to the Council.

Carolyn reported that she was able to join the worksite visits that were organized in conjunction with the CEIU Regional Executive Council meeting in the Okanagan and found these really helpful. Doing things in the Okanagan has been difficult lately due to the fires.

Tiffany reported on the booth the NorthEast Area Council hosted at the Labour Day event in Prince George.

Giselle reported that three more Sacred Water Ceremonies are in the planning stages, the first to be held on December 10, International Human Rights Day. She will be coming to Vancouver for the Walk for Reconciliation, September 24th, and encouraged all members to attend. Jamey noted that the Indigenous events listing that Giselle prepared was very well received.

Jill reported that she would like to get involved in the campaign against the cancellation of Greyhound routes in the north of BC. The lack of bus service puts people – particularly indigenous women – at risk.

Nia reported on the Pride events in Vancouver and Victoria, which were very well attended both by members and the public.

Linda reported on her work with the BC Fed Health & Safety Committee and the United Way. There was a discussion around how Phoenix is impacting the Government of Canada Charitable Workplace Campaign – members are worried that making donations via payroll deduction will result in issues with Phoenix. PSAC HQ and the United Way are aware of this and national and regional communications are being planned to address these fears.

Jamey thanked the council for all their work, reminded Coordinators that they should be using their budgets, and noted that the REVP office can provide assistance with budgeting.

c. Privatization/Contracting Out

Jamey reported on the work that has been done so far, including the letters that will be sent to the Mayor and Councillors in Victoria and Richmond calling on them to speak out against selling off airports, **Jamey** committed to make enquiries at headquarters and report back on further plans. There was a discussion around various types of privatization and contracting out taking place at DFO, the Coast Guard, CRA and CBSA. Jamey reminded the council that examples such as these should be brought forward to the Components for possible inclusion in the national campaign.

d. MP Lobbying

Jamey reported on the lobbying and MP visits that he has engaged in over the past months. Meetings with MPs have been very fruitful and almost all of them have committed to raise our issues in the house or with their caucus. He plans to continue this work and encourages the Council to do so as well. There are many issues – Phoenix, CBSA, privatization, childcare, etc – that MPs need to hear from us on. Jamey noted the REVP Office is always available to assist with providing notes and information and helping planning meetings with MPs.

5. National Convention Updates and Reminders – the PSAC National Triennial Convention will take place in Toronto April 29 to May 4 and the call out will be posted at the national website soon. The deadline for Area Council resolutions has passed. Jamey reminded the Council that Area Councils in good standing need to have their delegates selected by October 28. Observer registration will begin in December.

Question: will there be a pre-convention strategy meeting for delegates from BC? Yes, this has been budgeted and the REVP Office will plan the meeting in due course.

6. Face to Face Meeting – The next face to face Regional Council meeting will take place November 3 – 5, Jamey reminded the Council of some deadlines associated with the meeting.

7. Other business – none.

8. Adjournment – the call adjourned at 7:20PM. The next conference call is scheduled for October 4 2017.