

**RECORD OF MEETING
B.C. REGIONAL COUNCIL CONFERENCE CALL
HELD TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2018 AT 6 PM**

In Attendance:

Jamey Mills, REVP-B.C. (Chair)

Sky Belt, Metro Vancouver

James Brierley, Young Workers

Jennifer Chieh Ho, Racially Visible

Bert Farwell, North Vancouver Island

Angela George, Alternate Health & Safety

Nia Gillies, Pride

Colleen Girard, South Vancouver Island

Jennifer Horsley, Metro Vancouver

Jenny MacLeod, Aboriginal

Jill MacNeill, Northwest B.C.

Carolyn McGillivray, Southern Interior

Trish Martin, South Vancouver Island

Antony Paller, East Fraser Valley

Shane Polak, MWD

David Schinbein, DLC and SSE

Kelly Sidhu, Women's

Todd Smith, Alt REVP-B.C.

Absent:

Johann Ackermann, West Fraser Valley

Linda Harding, Health & Safety

Tiffany Hobbins, Northeast B.C.

Leanne Hughes, National Officers

Terri Lee, Metro Vancouver

Jeanne Olineck, Southern Interior

Staff:

Patrick Bragg, Political Communications Officer

Luc Guevremont, Regional Coordinator

Kristin Schnider, EA to the REVP-B.C.

Jamey Mills called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Jamey Mills called for any additions to the agenda, which had been circulated in advance via email.

Shane Polak asked to add a report on his attendance at the Environmental Assessment Reform workshop. All agreed.

REVP REPORT

a. AEC and NBoD Updates

Jamey Mills advised that the AEC met in January. The majority of business was on the PSAC National Triennial Convention and the Treasury Board Bargaining Conference. With respect to the PSAC Convention, the AEC was tasked with selecting the regional Equity, DCL and Area Council delegates for the Convention Committees. For BC, the delegates selected for the Committees were Todd Smith (Area Council representative) and Mike Ballard (Equity representative).

The AEC also discussed the additional 'top up' delegates for the Treasury Board Bargaining Conference. These additional delegates will ensure that equity, gender and young workers are adequately represented at the conference. The AEC's delegate recommendations have since been passed forwarded for final approval. Once finalized, Components will advise delegates accordingly. Jamey noted that the majority of delegates have already been notified by Components.

The next NBoD meeting is scheduled for next week, and Jamey will report on it at the March meeting.

Colleen Girard asked the Jamey could provide some clarification around the situation with UNIFOR and the PSAC's decision to grant Hassan Yousef with honorary membership. Jamey answered that due to unforeseen circumstances, UNIFOR has withdrawn its affiliation to the CLC and all Federations of Labour. Consequently, this has had an impact on a number of CLC elected officials who are members of UNIFOR.

President Hassan Yousef is a member of UNIFOR. However, as the full-time elected president, Brother Yousef is not acting as a member of UNIFOR but as the elected representative for the entire CLC. As such, Robyn Benson put out an executive order to grant CLC President Hassan Youssef honorary membership to PSAC so he may continue on as the CLC President. The AEC discussed that matter and agreed to grant Brother Yousef with honorary membership to the PSAC.

This situation differs for other members of UNIFOR who sit on CLC Committees are representatives for UNIFOR. Without UNIFOR's affiliation to the CLC, these individuals cannot continue in their present capacities with the CLC.

Jamey added that this is likely to be a topic of discussion at the AEC and NBoD meetings next week, and he will report back the Council on this matter as further information is available.

POLITICAL ACTION UPDATE – PHOENIX CAMPAIGN UPDATE

a. Phoenix Pay Advocate Assemblies and Lunch’N Learns

Jamey reported that the NBoD Phoenix Committee has not met since the last Regional Council conference call. They will be meeting next week during the NBoD meeting. Despite that, the Region has been busy working on the initiatives agreed upon by the Committee, specifically the Phoenix Pay Advocate Assemblies as well as the Phoenix Lunch’N Learns sessions.

Jamey explained that originally the Region planned five pay advocate assemblies, which were to take place in Metro Vancouver, the Fraser Valley, Victoria, the Okanagan and the North. However, due to low enrolment, the assemblies in Kelowna and Prince George were cancelled. Those who were registered for the cancelled session were invited to attend the Victoria assembly instead.

Thus far, turnout at the Pay Advocate Assemblies has been decent. There has been a good diversity of participants with varied levels of experience. Jamey added that at least 25% of the members in attendance have never attended union event before. This means that the sessions are engaging new members to become advocates, who may also get more involved in the union.

Jamey went on to report that regional office staff have delivered a significant number of Phoenix Lunch’N Learn sessions. Currently, Robert Strang is in the Southern Interior delivering these sessions, and feedback to date has been good.

Jamey noted that, unfortunately, some Components have decided not to participate in the Lunch’N Learns or the pay advocate training. However, the PSAC will continue to work with these Components and their members to ensure they have the supports they need to address Phoenix pay issues.

b. February 28th Activities

Jamey advised that the PSAC is planning a Phoenix national Day of Action on February 28. The NBoD has asked that a significant event take place in each Region that is to be based a set of criteria: access to media, in a Liberal riding, at a multicomponent worksite, etc. In BC that large event will be held in Vancouver at a downtown worksite.

In concert with the Day of Action, the Region has scheduled a National Officers meeting in the Vancouver Regional Office on February 27 with the expectation that all National Officers will stay on for the 28th at take part in the Day of Action event in Vancouver.

The REVP Office has already put forward a budget for the February 28 Day of Action, which has been approved in full. Included in that budget are some additional funds to support smaller activities that may take place across the Region on the 28th. The intent is to provide all members with the opportunity

to organize an action at their worksite on the Day of Action (as we've done in the past). Such actions may take on a variety of formats, such as lunch time photos, rallies, etc. Locals and/or worksites interested in organizing a workplace action for the 28th are encouraged to submit a proposal to the REVP Office so we can determine what supports are needed and/or available.

On February 7, the Regional Council's Political Action Committee and Area Council president will be meeting via teleconference to flesh out the details for the Day of Action.

James Brierley asked if there would be funding available for Regional Council members to travel to Vancouver of the action on February 28 or if it would be preferable for Regional Council members (outside of Metro Vancouver) to participate in other worksite activities. Jamey advised that the plan was for Regional Council members in Metro Vancouver to participate in the Vancouver event. If activities are organized in other areas, funding could be made available for the Regional Council members in those areas to participate.

Jennifer Horsley asked if Regional Council members not on the Political Action Committee could participate on the February 7 call. Jamey confirmed that they could, noting that the call details would be sent to all Regional Council members.

ACTION ITEM:	Kristin to forward Regional Council members a copy of the Political Action Committee/Area Council conference call details for the February 7 meeting on the Phoenix Day of Action
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c. MP Lobbying

Jamey reported that MP Lobbying is still ongoing, especially with respect to Phoenix. The REVP Office received a request for Terry Beech, MP for Burnaby North—Seymour, who asked to send something out to all PSAC members in his riding to communicate his willingness to provide Phoenix-related support and to advocate on their behalf. The REVP Office agreed to send the letter on behalf of Beech, and feedback to date on the letter has been positive.

Jamey further advised that PSAC members from across the country are currently participating in the CLC's coordinated MP lobby in Ottawa this week. Representatives from BC include Linda Harding, Stephen Klaver and Michele Sibson. The focus of the lobby is largely on the Phoenix Pay System.

MP lobbying efforts are also continuing with CIU members regarding the ongoing FB bargaining and with other members on the matter of privatization.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

Jamey reminded the Council that the municipal elections are taking place this fall on October 20. In the past, we have had PSAC members who have run in municipal elections, and it is very important that we start talking about these elections. District Labour Councils across the province are already beginning to talk about the elections and candidate endorsements.

Jamey further commented that we have a very good chance of electing progressive governments in the municipal elections when they are endorsed by the CLC's District Labour Councils.

Further details on the municipal elections will be sent out as they are available.

PRO-PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION CAMPAIGN ENDORSEMENT AND POTENTIAL INVOLVMENT

Patrick advised that the Region was approached to support the campaign to bring proportional representation (PR) to the province by partnering and working with Make Every Voter Count (MEVC). MEVC is a registered, non-profit society in British Columbia that was jointly founded by Fair Voting BC

and the BC chapter of Fair Vote Canada Coalition with the aim to support efforts to introduce proportional voting to BC. It's expected that a referendum will be put forward by the BC NDP-Green government on electoral reform, specifically addressing whether or not BC should move to a PR electoral system.

Patrick added that PR would be good for BC (and unions) because it increases the likelihood of electing progressive candidates versus the current first-past-the-post electoral system in BC and Canada. The PSAC has already recognized the importance of PR nationally when it became a member of the Fair Vote Canada Coalition some time ago. In light of this, we are looking to get an endorsement from the BC Regional Council to partner with MEVC on the pro-PR campaign.

Jamey then asked if there was any opposition to endorsing and partnering MEVA on the pro-PR campaign, noting there would also be a financial commitment with the partnership that would be funded through the regional political action budget (or possible nationally). No opposition was voiced by the Council. Jamey then confirmed that the REVP Office would convey the Region's support to the MEVA pro-PR campaign on behalf of the BC Regional Council.

DASH COMMITTEE UPDATE – DONATIONS SINCE THE LAST MEETING

Jennifer Horsley reviewed donations requests the DASH Committee reviewed since the last conference call, noting that they had made the following recommendations:

- Michael Wayne McDonell Labour Community Services Fund - \$500
- Camp Jubilee - \$600

The Council agreed with the recommendations. Jennifer advised that the Committee is looking at one further donation request for the Metro Vancouver Alliance regarding their transit campaign. Once all Committee members have weighed in on the request, a recommendation will be brought forward to the Regional Council.

CONFERENCES AND CONVENTION UPDATES

Jamey provided an update on the PSAC National Triennial Convention taking place in Toronto at the end of April. Jamey noted that all delegates have now been selected and should have been informed of their delegate status. As reported above, Convention Committees have also been selected. Pre-Convention Committee meetings will be taking place during the week of February 17-24 in Ottawa.

Observer registration has also begun. Jamey reminded the group that as per the national ruling issued in 2015, PSAC Area Councils and Regional Committees cannot provide funding to observers for the attendance at Convention or other PSAC events.

The next big, PSAC national conference is the Treasury Board Bargaining conferences, which takes place March 26-29 in Ottawa. Jamey confirmed that BC will be well represented at conference.

Sky Belt asked when observers can expect to hear back on whether or not their registrations have been confirmed. Patrick advised that he's been working with headquarters on this, and he anticipates that responses will be sent out shortly. He added that he has seen the registrations submitted and did see PSAC BC members on the list of registrants.

REMINDERS FOR THE MARCH FACE-TO-FACE REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

Jamey reminded the Regional Council that the next in-person Regional Council meeting is taking place March 2-4, 2018 at the Burnaby Firefighters Hall. This venue will be large enough to include the

National Officers at the meeting, and more cost effective than using a hotel. Jamey noted that out-of-town participants will still be using the Hilton Vancouver Metrotown Hotel for accommodations.

Kristin reminded the group that the deadlines for booking travel and hotels have already passed, but there are still some Council members who have not made arrangements (or advised that they won't be attending). Those Regional Council members are asked to contact the REVP Office as soon as possible so arrangements can be made.

Kristin further reminded the Regional Council that Coordinator reports were due on February 1. To date, only half of the reports have been received. Regardless of whether or not Regional Council members are attending the March meeting, Regional Council members are asked to submit their reports to the REVP Office as soon as possible.

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

REQUEST FROM RANDALL GARRISON, MP – MEMBERS AFFECTED BY PHOENIX

Trish Martin advised that Randall Garrison, MP for Esquimalt—Saanich, is looking to speak with members from his riding who have been affected by Phoenix in terms of OT payment issues. Garrison is planning to raise the profile of OT payment problems publically in the riding and nationally.

SHIPS CREW SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS

Bert Farwell reported that he attended a ship's crew sub-committee meeting with management in Ottawa. The purpose of the meeting is to look at the ship's crew base study.

UNION GRASSROOTS AND PHOENIX "PAY" SYSTEM FACEBOOK GROUPS

Jenny Macleod asked if members of the Regional Council follow the Facebook groups "Union Grassroots" and "Federal Public Servants - Phoenix 'Pay' System." She noted that the pages include many member comments and views on what the union is doing (and not doing). The groups also discuss what actions they'd like to see the PSAC undertake. Jamey advised that both pages are monitored and followed.

AREA COUNCILS AND REGIONAL COMMITTEES: MEETING NOTICES, SUBMISSION OF MINUTES AND BANK STATEMENTS TO THE REVP OFFICE

Jamey advised that the REVP Office recently sent an email to Area Council and Regional Committee executives to provide some clarity on some inconsistencies and issues that were being reported on meeting notices, submission of minutes and communication with constituents. Jamey noted that Area Councils and Regional Committees should not be sending out their own meeting notices through their own email distribution lists; we need to ensure that meeting information is sent to all members within the respective constituency using current email addresses. By working with Regional Office staff, meeting notices will be communicated widely and maximum participation can be achieved.

Another issue raised relates to Area Councils and Regional Committees providing proper notice for AGMs. Jamey noted that it is important that Area Council By-Laws and Regional Committee Terms of Reference are followed in terms of the amount of notice required for meetings, especially AGMs. Moreover, the REVP Office must be advised of all meetings in advance to ensure that meeting details are communicated to the membership in the monthly newsletter and on the regional website.

Jamey added that it is important that minutes clearly reflect who was in attendance and list both the Component and Local the attendees is representing. This information will help us confirm that quorum requirements have been met. If quorum is not met, and goes unnoticed, it may pose funding issues for Regional Committees and Area Councils.

Trish Martin asked if the REVP Office could forward the email communication to all members of the Regional Council. Jamey agreed.

ACTION ITEM:	Kristin to forward the Regional Council a copy of the email send to Area Council and Regional Committee executives regarding meeting notices and submission of minutes to the REVP Office
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REPORT BACK ON PROVINCIAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REFORM

Shane Polak reported that he attended a full-day workshop hosted by the West Coast Environmental Law Group, and included a diverse group of attendees. Shane noted that there is an intentional exclusion of government at the workshop as they wanted to have an open discussion on how we should be framing environmental assessments in BC. Shane added that there was a fulsome discussion, including a panel discussion and a presentation on behalf of First Nations Leadership Council.

Shane noted that assessments in BC have been broken for some time, which can largely be attributed to the BC Liberals. To rectify the situation, the working group is drafting ten proposed pillars of environmental assessments that they'll present to BC's Environment Minister George Heyman.

Given the impact that environmental assessments and related projects have on members, their families and their communities, it is important that Labour be involved in these discussions.

Shane added that he will forward further information to the Regional Council as it is available and will also provide a written report on his attendance at the workshop.

Jamey extended his thanks to Shane on behalf of the Council for attending the workshop for the Environment Committee. Jamey added that it would be good to have a more comprehensive report at the next in-person Regional Council meeting.

AREA COUNCIL AND REGIONAL COMMITTEE FINANCIAL REPORTING DEADLINE

Kristin reminded the Regional Council that the 2017 financial reporting deadline for all Area Councils and Regional Committees is February 28. Coordinators involved with Area Councils and Regional Committees are asked to relay this reminder to applicable parties.

REVP AVAILABILITY

Jamey noted that he'll be in Ottawa during for the majority of the next two weeks before the in-person meeting. If Regional Council members need to get a hold of Jamey, it would be best to email him or contact the REVP Office for assistance.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Before adjourning the meeting, Jamey thanked the Regional Council and observers for attending the call.

The meeting was then adjourned at 6:43 PM.

Minutes recorded by: Kristin Schnider

Minutes published: February 2018