

PSAC Okanagan Human Rights Committee

MINUTES November 17, 2018

Present: Kelly Megyesi, Vernon * (CEIU) Linda Woods, Kelowna * (UNE), Jeanne Olineck Kamloops * (CEIU), Jenny Anderson, Kamloops (CEIU) Regrets: Maria Luiza Romano (AGR), Mike Trelenberg Kamloops (CEIU), Darrell-Lee MacKenzie Summerland (AGR), Danyel Haughton, Kamloops (CEIU), Robert Strang, Vancouver (PSAC). * voting

Welcome: Thank you Kamloops for participating. We look forward to increasing our active membership in this committee. Robert (PSAC rep) is teaching a course today so unable to make the meeting and Maria-Luiza is unexpectedly out of country.

Minutes: Reviewed previous minutes September 23, 2018. Minor change In closing balance should have read \$1538.88 not \$1538.68. Moved by Linda, seconded by Kelly – all in favour.

Financial: Kelly reported on the financial. Opening balance as of September 1st, 2018 \$1538.88 Cheques cashed were \$25 for youth initiative, \$273.00 Social Justice Fund(coffee) - for a closing balance of 1240.88 as of October 31, 2018. Still uncashed is the cheque for \$50.39 for coffee grinders. Kelly moved the financial report, Linda seconded, and all were in favour

Motion for Kelly Megyesi to be reimbursed for the Kelowna Shelter Christmas dinner door prize in the amount of \$91.16 (two Christmas gift boxes, 2 coffee grinders, 4 bags of coffee). Linda moved and Jeanne seconded. All in favour.

Migrant Workers: Discussion on the migrant worker situation. The committee talked about issues within their local area. Talked about donating to the organization RAMA but it was felt that we would look at this more next season. Work on this initiative will be carried into 2019.

Projects: Maria-Luiza was lead on the Advent project scheduled for this month (calendars for 3 locations for children). Due to her unavailability we will not be able to complete this project in 2018. Linda suggested that we work on this throughout 2019 so that all is ready for next Christmas. Group was in agreement.

Other ideas were discussed. The committee agreed that we would support Indigenous Suicide prevention within our communities. Linda provided the link for the series

2018 CBC Massey Lectures: All Our Relations: Finding the Path Forward – Tanya Talaga

<https://www.cbc.ca/radio/ideas/the-2018-cbc-massey-lectures-all-our-relations-finding-the-path-forward-1.4763007>.

Linda recommended that everyone listen to at least one of the lectures

We will try and find groups that support this by reaching out to friendship centers and other organizations within our communities. Committee member agreed to try and find this information - Kamloops (Jenny & Jeanne), Kelowna (Linda) and Kelly (Vernon and Penticton). Kelly **motioned** that we donate up to \$300 for this initiative. Jeanne seconded and all were in favour. (Money will be split amongst groups identified)

Membership: As per our last meeting we continue to look at ways of strengthening participation in our committee. One suggestion was getting everyone together in 2019 through a PSAC Human Rights 1 day training. Kelly to follow-up with Robert. It would be good to host centrally – possibly Vernon.

We encourage new members or those looking at joining our committee to read through our minutes and previous projects on the PSAC BC website.

<http://psacbc.com/our-organization/human-rights-committees>

Round Table:

Jeanne is meeting with MLA next week to discuss human rights issues – doctor availability and also making sure seniors are safe. .

Jenny is part of the Indigenous Circle committee for ESDC. She will be at team leader forum in Surrey next week and will have a booth to raise awareness and tackle self-identification issues.

Linda has worked on suicide prevention and support groups for many years. She is very concerned about younger generations and vulnerability within the indigenous community. She will continue to research for our committee.

Kelly talked about some of the past year projects and is excited to start working with PSAC to try and put some human rights training together for the Okanagan.

Next meeting:

AGM will be Saturday January 26, 2019 in Kelowna at 12:15pm – lunch will be provided. Agenda items will include review of minutes, financial update, , 2019 planning and meeting dates, elections, and round table.

