

## West Fraser Valley Area Council

### Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 20, 2020 @ 5:30 pm

Via Teleconference due to COVID-19 Pandemic

#### Present:

1. Susie Blyth, AC President (CEIU 20974)
2. Dina Elias, AC VP (CEIU 20910)
3. Monique Bakker, AC Treasurer (UHEW 20147)
4. Stephen Torng, AC Secretary, PSAC BC Racially Visible Coordinator (GSU 20008)
5. Johann Ackermann (UTE 20029)
6. Lea Serron, UTE National Women's Rep, PSAC BC Human Rights Committee Treasurer, PSAC BC Regional Women's Committee Secretary (UTE 20029)
7. Nielene Chand, Local President (UTE 20007)
8. Jenny MacLeod, Local President, PSAC BC Indigenous Regional Coordinator (UHEW 20031)

#### Guests:

1. Robert Strang, PSAC BC REP for West Fraser Valley and the South Interior
2. Jamie Mills, PSAC BC REVP

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1. **Call To Order** - Susie acknowledged unceded territory and called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM and we did a quick roundtable to introduce the WFAC executive and the members on the call.
  2. **Adoption of Agenda** – Johann and Monique M/S
  3. **Review of Minutes of AGM minutes from February 10, 2020** – Revised Point #6 to further clarify that we are encouraging people to visit their MP. Johann said that the AGM minutes are only to be only reviewed here and are adopted at the next AGM.
  4. **Adoption of Previous minutes from November 4, 2019** – This has been deferred until the next meeting. The November minutes will be sent out via email after this meeting. It was recognized that it was a challenge to discuss the revisions in an orderly fashion via teleconference. Jamie suggested that any suggestions for revisions are sent in writing to Susie so that it can be discussed and approved at the next WFAC meeting on July 20, 2020. Susie agreed to Jamie's recommendation.
  5. **Guest Speaker: Jamie Mills, PSAC REVP for BC** – He acknowledged unceded territory. Recognize the mass shooting in Nova Scotia on April 18-19 and tragic loss of at least 17 people in the public as well as a PSAC retired UCTE member, Brother Tom Bagley. He was an airport firefighter and former local president of Halifax Airport Local 80829. All conventions have been postponed until further notice, they are working on how to conduct union business. Most large bargaining units have moved towards strike vote, but everything (including UTE and Treasury Board tables) has been paused. Recognizes members have been working hard during this pandemic as well as

members that have lost their jobs. Thankful to CRA employees that have stepped forward to work on the processing of *Canadian Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)* applications. PSAC staff are still accessible by phone, email, and Skype. The PSAC Vancouver RO is looking into providing education resources to members via Internet and/or Webinars now that in-person classes are cancelled. Folks that do not have access to VPN access to their work networks can contact the Pay Centre to get their paystubs. Email notice was sent out on April 19, 2020 that recovery of overpayments prior to March 23 will be recovered, but not on most new overpayments going forward during the Covid-10 pandemic. Please refer to the email sent out by PSAC website for further details.

For those people working from home, duty to accommodate and ergonomic issues should be discussed either at the local/component level. Sharon Barbour at PSAC Vancouver RO can be contacted for Health and Safety issues. One member said that some members have the

Jamie said that a campaign for Here in Canada is ongoing for bargaining, Phoenix. Now the campaign is **Still Here For Canada** for members upload a photo of themselves and telling us what they do for work. It can be uploaded on the PSAC website. These photos will be posted on our national and regional social media accounts to let everyone know how your work is helping Canadians.

Lea Serron asked whether all the money is being paid by the feds to support the economy, will this weaken or strengthen our bargaining position. Jamie responded that he does not think that the government would not be able to rationalize not paying for pay increases that should have occurred back in 2016 or when collective agreements had expired.

6. **Financial Report** – Monique was not able to get copies of the financial report out to people. She was able to give an update over the phone based on the recent bank statement. If there are any bills, please send it to Susie and Monique for processing. There is still sufficient funds in the bank.
  - i. **Funding from PSAC** – Susie has a \$700.00 cheque dated March 17, 2020 that still needs to be deposited that was received for WFVAC funding allocation.
7. **Political Action** – Robert said that we could possibly meet MP's virtually rather than in-person. Feel free to contact him if you have any action items that you are thinking to discuss. Jamie said PSAC would be open reviewing/approving to reimbursing members loss of salary to attend these meetings.
8. **Education** – Robert said that all education, strike training is on hold. They are looking at providing Webinars or Internet courses such as Covid-19. Course offerings will be listed on the PSAC website under the Education section. If you have suggestions, please let him know and he will pass it on to the Regional Education Officer. Lea suggested some mental health courses would be useful for members to deal with the new working reality of teleworking.
9. **Events: Surrey Pride Festival, Surrey Fusion Festival, Canada Day, Labour Day** - Lea mentioned that there might be some sort of Vancouver Pride Festival held virtually. There might not be a large financial expenditure. Susie mentioned we do have budget set aside and could provide funds to the organization. Susie will look into Surrey Pride Festival whether they are doing a virtual celebration. **Still Here For Canada** campaign is ongoing so people can take photos and

tell what they are doing. Johann said Labour Day may be a possibility of happening if the Covid situation is over and the large gathering restrictions are lifted. Jenny suggested putting together care packages for truck drivers or front line workers. Please send suggestions to Susie for event ideas. We may look at organizing a doodle poll to see which ones get the most votes to potentially action. We also have a WhatsApp group online if people have this free app on their mobile devices. Please provide Stephen Torng with your phone number and we can add you to the WhatsApp group to engage and discuss issues.

10. **New Business** – Susie mentioned the PSAC Scholarship program. Robert said there are a number of scholarships available for PSAC members that are ranging in amounts. For further information on the types of scholarships and guidelines, please check the PSAC website.
11. **Roundtable** – Stephen suggested we could potentially use Zoom for meetings. Jamie said that because of privacy issues with Zoom, they are instead encouraging people to use Skype for video conferencing. Nielene said they have been using *UnionWare* to update member's contact info and has been reaching out to members via email or phone during this pandemic to see how they are doing. It is recognized that people are struggling through this crisis, so it is important to support each other's mental health.
12. **Next meeting** will be **Monday, July 20, 2020** via Teleconference, Meeting adjourned @ 7:05 PM).