

**West Fraser Valley Area Council
Meeting Minutes
October 19, 2020 @ 6:00 PM**

Held Via Zoom Teleconference

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. Nielene Chand, Local President (UTE 20007)
6. Nicole Torng, USJE 20011
7. Lea Serron, UTE 20029
8. Zita Lambert, UTE 20007
9. Celine Ahodekon, UNE 20278

Guests:

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

1. Call To Order

Susie acknowledged unceded territory and called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Motion carried to accept tonight's Agenda – M/S Monique, Lea.

3. Guest Speaker: Jamey Mills, PSAC BC REVP – Updates on Bargaining and Phoenix. He will also be available for member questions.

The ratification of collective agreements have been completed for for EV, SV, TC, PA, and CRA. We hope that the Parks and CFIA will be completed soon. The signing of agreements will take place over the next few weeks and the 180 days will then start for the new rates and allowances. Phoenix damages to date are \$1,000 for 2016 and \$500 for each subsequent year. PSAC is asking for CRA ruling to have it tax free since it is for damages

He encourages members continue to speak to their MP's about the importance of the public service and austerity.

Questions from Members for the REVP:

Monique – She asked whether a new job classification system will be coming out? He said the occupational group structure review has not been signed yet. A MOU is currently in place.

She also asked about discrimination of how code 699 is utilized between managers and employees? Robert said that it is something which members need to discuss with their shop steward, local president, and labour relations as it may differ based on the circumstances for a specific workplace.

Zita – She asked whether there are separate entities dealing with the phoenix damages versus the collective agreement? Yes, they are separate entities and each need to ratification.

Nielene – She asked if the CRA ruling doesn't go in our favor for tax-free phoenix damages, what will happen? He said that there will be further deliberation on the matter and what will be the next steps PSAC will be taking.

Lea – What do you mean that the collective agreement needs to be signed? The CA's need to be signed by the Employer.

Celine – Will the \$500 from delayed implementation of the collective agreement be taxable? Yes, it will be.

Nicole – She asked whether Code 699 has an expiration as her employer is asking that certain teams cannot work together. Her particular job cannot be done from home. Jamie said to contact your RVP, Nicole Gibson as it differs by component and the type of workplace.

4. Adoption of Previous minutes from August 6, 2020

Motion carried to the previous minutes – M/S Nielene, Zita.

Monique asked to use 12-pt font for minutes due to accommodation issues. Robert said that there is no regulation for font besides for resolutions being submitted.

Previous minutes were emailed by Robert to Celine, Zita, and Nielene.

The minutes were not posted on the PSAC Website (<http://psacbc.com/meeting-minutes/west-fraser-valley-area-council-minutes>). We will get Patrick to post soon.

5. Financial Report

Motion to increase disbursement for Drive by Event at CBSA. Initial cost estimate was \$75, however, the costs ended up being 139.28 as there were visits to two border crossings. Motion carried to increase cost for this Drive-by Event M/S Monique, Celine.

Motion was carried to accept the Financial Report as presented – M/S Monique, Zita

6. Political Action

Robert said that PSAC recommends that people go out and vote for political parties that are in the best interests of the working people.

7. Education / Events

- Drive by event at Pacific and Peach Arch Border Crossings to support our CBSA members took place on September 2, 2020. Amend motion for the coffee/donuts for the actual costs paid of \$139.28. The event went well and were able to show their support and speak to members. We did get a good picture of Bolt, the commercial border dog. We could not get pictures of the members as they are not allowed to be in photo's because they are not allowed to display their uniform and ID. Nielene mentioned that she was waiting for confirmation of the border crossing plans as she was hoping to go. Susie mentioned she will ensure these events are better communication in the future such as our WFOVAC distribution list, our Facebook group, etc. Monique suggested we could do more swag to give out for these type of events in the future. Robert will check the PSAC office supplies when people are allowed back in the RGO.
- Orange Shirt Day on September 30, 2020. Shirley and Robert were able to attend a webinar hosted by UBC on September 22, which highlighted the foundations of Orange Shirt Day. The event was presented by Phyllis Webstad, who courageously shared her experience of attending St. Joseph's Mission School and how her story became the foundation for Orange Shirt Day. Monique put forth an idea that PSAC could order orange shirt day stickers to distribute to our members for future event planning.
- Robert said that regular courses are currently cancelled. There will be some online courses coming soon. Robert will keep everyone apprised as more information becomes available. If you are interested in specific courses, please email Robert and he will pass it on to the course coordinator.

8. New Business

BC convention is still a go for May 7-9, 2020. The current plans are to hold it as a virtual event unless things change with Covid-19 restrictions.

Patrick Bragg has successfully set up the generic email address for WFVAC executive. If you wish to reach out to us, please email psacbc-ac-westfraservalley@psac-afpc.com. If you wish to reach Susie directly, her email is blyths@psac-afpc.com.

If you are interested in joining our WFVAC WhatsApp group, please email psacbc-ac-westfraservalley@psac-afpc.com your cellular number so we can add you.

National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women (or White Ribbon Day) commemoration on December 6, 2020. This is day commemorated in Canada each December 6, the anniversary of the 1989 [École Polytechnique massacre](#), in which armed student [Marc Lépine](#) murdered fourteen women and injured ten others in the name of "fighting feminism". Canadians are encouraged to observe a minute of silence on December 6 and to wear a white ribbon (or a purple ribbon) as a commitment to end violence against women. We are looking for volunteers? Monique inquired whether there would be any disbursements such as an opener honorarium, roses, etc. It will likely be a virtual event. There is further discussion happening on whether people would be meeting at a park and done virtually for those that cannot attend. Susie is hoping to have details straightened out by early November. Monique asked to be apprised of the cost estimates as soon as possible so that she may budget it and ensure the cheques are sent out to ensure the funds are spent in this calendar year's budget.

The Asian Canadian Labour Alliance (ACLA) is holding an event on Saturday, November 14, 2020 from 10:00am to 11:30am. The ACLA is a grassroots collective of community and labour activities. The event is to celebrate 20 years of the ACLA in BC as it fights for justice today. There will be several panelists including artwork and performances from Marlene Yuen and Son of James. If you are interested in learning more or signing up for this FREE online event, you can register online using EventBrite @ <https://asiansfighting4justice.eventbrite.ca/>.

9. Roundtable

No comments.

10. Next meeting date for the AGM – Monday, February 8, 2021 @ 6:00pm.

This meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM.