



**B.C. REGIONAL COUNCIL
REVP and COORDINATOR REPORTS
November 2012 through March 2013**

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REPORT OF THE REGIONAL EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT TO THE B.C. REGIONAL COUNCIL November 2012 through March 2013

Political Action

“We Are All Affected” Campaign

It’s been nearly a year since the “We Are All Affected” (WAAA) campaign was launched by the PSAC as a mobilizing tool to show our collective support for those members and their families who have received affected letters. At the same time, this campaign has also enabled us to voice the value of federal public services provided by our members and the negative impact that Harper’s budget cuts have had on all Canadians.

In late 2012, the AEC committed to continuing this campaign until the next federal election; however, the WAAA campaign has taken a new focus in recent months. The new focus of the campaign centres around the latest attempt by the Federal Government to conduct a conservative and corporate assault on unions and the democratic rights of workers and citizens: we have heard that the Harper Government is taking steps to introduce legislation that will outlaw the requirement that all bargaining unit members contribute to the cost of union representation through mandatory dues, formally known as the RAND Formula.

With the experience gained from Bill C-377 (introduced as a private member’s bill in 2012, and currently in the Senate seeking approval), we know that backroom lobbying alone will not stave off this most recent threat to the RAND Formula and Canadian unions. Therefore the PSAC, with its allies, plans to fend off this attack through a strategic national action plan. We plan to work with our affiliates and allies to wage a strong, visible defense of worker and union security.

To begin, we are organizing a rigorous and systematic membership education initiative over the next couple months to explain to every PSAC member this renewed threat to the union and worker security and the risk to the democratic functioning of our union. To do so, each Region has organized meetings for representatives from every Local so that we can speak directly to members about the value of our union and the importance of our right to advance the interests of our members and workers in the workplace, the community and in the public and political arenas.

With the support of all Components, these meetings will equip local and workplace leaders to engage in one-on-one conversations with PSAC members within their areas about the threat to unions and its implications. In BC, we have scheduled three meetings:

- April 19 in Kelowna – encompassing Locals and members from the Southern Interior



- April 22 in Victoria – encompassing Locals and members from Vancouver Island
- April 26 in Surrey – encompassing Locals and members from the Lower Mainland, Fraser Valley and Northern BC

Our expectation is that every Local will be represented at one of the meetings. In addition, we anticipate the full participation of National Officers within the Region and the B.C. Regional Council. Together we will be able to rally and unite to show the Harper Government that we will not tolerate any attempt to legislate away our negotiated and legal rights.

I must emphasize that this assault on the RAND Formula is an unprecedented attack on workers and their unions in Canada. Taking the RAND Formula away is fundamentally undemocratic and undermines Canadian principles and values. For these reasons, it is now more important than ever to continue the work of the WAAA campaign and vocalize our opposition against the Harper Government its latest attempt to weaken not just unions but the rights and working conditions of all Canadians.

Kitsilano Coast Guard Station

Despite our best efforts with the BC Federation of Labour, UCTE, the public and other community groups, the Kitsilano Coast Guard Station officially closed in February on the same day that the BC Provincial budget was delivered. This timing of the closure was a cowardly attempt by the Federal Government to close the doors of the station while the media was otherwise occupied.

In advance of the closure, there was fantastic support for our bid to keep the Kits Coast Guard open from the opposition, provincial and municipal levels of government, as well as many concerned citizens. This support culminated in a large rally at the Jericho Sailing Centre on January 19, which even included participation by the likes of John Cummings of the BC Conservative Party.

While our fight is far from over, I would like to acknowledge the unwavering hard ward of UCTE, and in particular Dave Clark, the National Officer responsible for the Region as well as the dedicated efforts of Jim Sinclair of the BC Federation of Labour. Together we will continue to put pressure on the Harper Government regarding this reckless decision to close the station and put countless lives at risk.

CLC Political Action Conference

At the end of March, Patrick Bragg and I will be attending the CLC Political Action Conference in Toronto along with our counter-parts from the other regions. The aim of this conference



is to “serve as a launching pad for a focused motivational campaign to elevate and advance labour’s issues as vote determining issues, as well as building the next generation of successful union campaigns.” The conference will include hands-on workshops and will expose activists to the latest modern tools, tactics, and strategies for effective campaigning.

Also attending are two full-funded members from BC as well as a fully-funded Young Worker from our Region. The AEC decided to fund these three attendees in an effort to encourage participation by a wide number of PSAC members at this important conference.

Once the conference is concluded, I’m confident that all the conference attendees will have skills and tools necessary to continue the fight against the Harper Government and the allies available to help them in their efforts.

Visibility in the workplace and community

While much of the past few months has been spent traveling back and forth between the Vancouver REVP Office and meetings at the PSAC Headquarters, I was able to include a brief trip to Prince George in early March for some worksite visits. Also included in that trip’s itinerary was the North Central Labour Council’s IWD breakfast. The breakfast was widely attended by many within the Labour Community and including several PSAC members. I was pleased to attend this IWD event and reflect on the progress that has been made for women.

Following the IWD event, I had the opportunity to attend the Prince George RWC’s AGM. I’d like to thank the Committee for extending the invitation to me to attend. I am always eager to hear from Regional Committees on their priorities and plans for further member engagements. I also value these meetings in that they allow me to better understand regional issues and/or matters pertaining to specific member groups within the PSAC.

I also used the opportunity to visit CIU and UCTE members at the Prince George Airport, UTE, USGE, Agriculture, and UEW members in their workplaces. These visits provide me with valuable information on what members are experiencing in the field and the impacts of the Government’s assault on services our members provide.

My hope is that visits such as this March trip provide members with an opportunity to talk about workplace issues as well as regional and national PSAC concerns with me. With this information, I can voice their comments with the National Office on their behalf.

BC Provincial Election

With only a couple months left until BC voters head to the polls, candidates are gearing up and busy organizing their campaigns. In the case of BC NDP candidates, their campaigns are



proceeding with the support of many in the labour community affiliates, which also includes PSAC members.

Initially, the Region presented an ambitious action plan around the provincial election, but subsequently had to scale it back in light of the threat of the attack on the Rand Formula by the Federal Government and the renewed WAAA campaign. Nevertheless, in the Region we are still proceeding with a plan to provide support to the BC NDP through Regional mail-outs from the REVP Office. The mail-outs, which will go to every PSAC member in the province, will identify the importance for voting for a progressive party that defends the rights of working people. In addition, we have asked the Region's Area Councils to play an active role in the campaign, supporting candidates within the constituencies either financially or in terms of volunteer hours.

To that end, I would encourage every member to support the BC NDP campaign in any way that they can, including the most important activity: casting a ballot on May 14th.

Health and Safety

With my AEC portfolio of Health & Safety, I have been busy planning the National Health & Safety conference, taking place this April in Montreal. Before the holidays, the NBoD National Health & Safety Conference Organizing committee met and established the Conference Steering Committee and Resolutions Committee. These committees have worked hard to create an exciting agenda and schedule for the conference, which will continue under the banner of *We Are All Affected* messaging with an emphasis on workplace mental health issues. Through the committees' efforts, the conference objectives were also set:

- To examine the current state of enforcement of health and safety legislation which deals with the protection of mental health in the workplace, in order to develop union-based strategies that will better protect workers;
- To strengthen the ability, knowledge and effectiveness of all PSAC activists on union and joint health and safety committees to better mobilize members around mental health issues in the workplace;
- To increase the involvement of health and safety activists in the *We Are All Affected* campaign and to join with coalitions working to defend and advance our rights; and
- To better identify harassment and bullying and discuss what makes harassment and bullying both health and safety and human rights issues and propose specific preventive measures and responses that unions can take to prevent and deal with harassment and bullying in the workplace.



Conference applications closed in January and there were an overwhelming number of received from PSAC members wishing to attend this National conference. With over 1,000 applications received for the 300 seats available and the relatively short timeframe for Components and Regions to make their delegate choices, I must acknowledge the efforts of all in meeting the selection deadline. At this point, all conference delegates and observers have been notified of their acceptance.

I, like all delegates and observers attending, am looking forward to this conference. It will provide members attending with an opportunity to continue the important work of furthering our stance in the struggle to improve the health and safety and working conditions for all PSAC members.

Education

Throughout the fall and winter, 17 courses were offered. In addition to the Region's education offerings, Leadership Training took place nationally in late November. Already the PSAC staff are looking at ways to incorporate the training delivered in Ottawa in other areas of our education program.

In addition, applications are already being accepted for the Advanced Union School, which is scheduled to take place this June in Richmond. The Union School, under the theme of "*We Are All Affected and We Are All Fight Back,*" will offer five days of the intensive, in-residence learning for activists and leaders in the Region. I'm confident that the courses being offered will better equip our members to stand up and advocate for the rights of workers while providing an opportunity to network and converse with other PSAC activists.

Regional

BC Federation of Labour Convention

In late November the BC Federation of Labour hosted its 55th Convention in Vancouver. This Convention proved to be highly political, both with a leadership challenge and a number of resolutions addressing government attacks on provincial and federal public services that affect our members. Our Regional Political Action Committee put forward three of these resolutions including one on the Kitsilano Coast Guard Station, one on the DFO Habitat Protection Plan, and one on the Canada Grain Act.

For these reasons and more, the PSAC BC and the REVP Office strongly encouraged our members to register as delegates and attend the BC Fed Convention. As a result, the PSAC had its largest delegation ever attend. Together our delegates were able to speak on the impact of the Harper Government's cuts to an audience of over 2000 labour members.



The Convention encouraged our delegates to communicate our concerns and further secure strong allies within the greater labour movement with respect to the cuts to public services. These interactions with community partners will be integral to the next phase of the WAAA campaign our success in defeating the Harper Government in the next federal election.

Regional Office Open House

To cap off the office renovations, in December we held an open house at the Vancouver RO. This provided an opportunity for members to view the improved office spaces while sharing in some seasonal cheer with staff. We were fortunate enough to have ROB Director Mark Pecek join us at the open house as his travels to the Region aligned with the date.

Regional Youth Committees

On February 28th I had the privilege of attending the first ever constitutionally recognized PSAC Regional Young Workers Committee meeting in Victoria. The Vancouver Island Young Workers Committee meeting held its inaugural meeting, electing an executive and adopting terms of reference. In my address to the committee, I was pleased to acknowledge the hard work of the Committee and the fact that BC continues to lead the way on Young Workers' issues.

One week later, I attended the first official meeting of the BC Mainland Young Workers Committee in Vancouver, again witnessing our history take place as an executive was elected and priorities were set for the busy year ahead of the Committee.

As an officer of the AEC, I emphasize that it is our Union's hope that the youth within the PSAC continue to increase their involvement in union activities and take on the work before us in the years to come as we continue to fight and defeat Governments like the one currently reaking havoc in Ottawa.

Regional Women's Conference "PSAC BC Women Hold More Than Half the Sky"

For the last several weeks, Regional staff and a small group of the Region's women activists have been hard at work organizing the upcoming PSAC BC Regional Women's conference. The conference, scheduled to take place in Richmond May 3rd-5th, aims to be a conference of empowerment for our sister activists in BC. With that in mind, look forward to the hearing about the Resolutions that will be discussed at our Region's conference, which will subsequently be forwarded on to the National Women's conference taking place later this year in November.

The Organizing Committee has selected the theme, "*PSAC BC Women Hold More Than Half the Sky.*" Under this theme, they plan to introduce a focused look at issues affecting aboriginal women and foster a greater discussion on how to turn oppression into opportunity for



women across all sects of society and of different ethnicities. This ambitious conference has involved a lot of energy and dedication from both staff and the Organizing Committee. That said, I believe that their collective efforts will produce a very beneficial and thought-provoking session for all who attend.

We have been fortunate enough to have PSAC National President Robyn Benson arrange her schedule such that she will be able to attend a portion of this conference. I know that Robyn is anxious to come to the Region and address the PSAC BC women and acknowledge all their work on women's issues in the Region. I'm also looking forward to attending part of the conference as an Officer of the AEC and extending my support to the women of the Region and of the PSAC more generally. I am equally interested in the issues that will be discussed and the outcomes of the resolutions to be dealt with during the conference. As always, I will offer any support that I can to the Region as the REVP and to all equity groups contained within it.

National **TC Bargaining**

As part of my AEC responsibilities, I have been assigned the responsibility for TC bargaining. As some of you will be aware, last month we communicated to the Treasury Board that the PSAC is ready to return to the bargaining table using the recommendations of the Public Interest Commission (PIC) as the basis for negotiation a tentative agreement, which were released in January by the Public Service Labour Relations Board.

After studying the report, the TC Bargaining Team confirmed that it is prepared to use the recommendations as a road map to negotiate a settlement. However, the Treasury Board sidesperson appointed to the PIC declined to sign the PIC report. Instead, that individual wrote a dissent, which disagrees with most of the recommendations of the impartial chairperson.

The legislation governing the establishment of Public Interest Commissions provides that if a PIC cannot reach a consensus on recommendations, the recommendations of the impartial chairperson shall be considered to be the report of the PIC. In response to the PSAC's proposition to return to the bargaining table, Treasury Board said that it is consulting with departments.

As we wait for Treasury Board to prepare to return to the bargaining table, the TC Bargaining Team is updating and consulting with TC members at membership and town hall meetings across the country.



AEC & NBoD

As we've now entered the first year of the new national cycle, it should come as no surprise that the AEC and NBoD are busy working on many of the goals and priorities set on the convention floor almost a year ago at the National Triennial Convention. Much of this work aligns with the ongoing WAAA campaign and the foreseeable finish line of the 2015 federal election.

As discussed earlier in this report, much of the focus of the AEC and NBoD has been on this campaign and our preparations for our National Action Plan to defend the RAND Formula, which will also inherently defend the rights of all working people and their unions in Canada. However, also tied to the WAAA work is the PSAC's Ten Point Action Plan that was generated in November 2012 at the AEC strategy session.

The Ten Point Plan aims to reinstate our members' sense of pride in their union, a belief in the principles of trade unionism and a confidence in their elected leaders. I would like to echo our President's sentiments with regard to the Ten Point Plan: "We need to put a face to our Union, connect with our members, and find opportunities to talk to those we don't see at meetings or demos. We have to go to them, not just invite them to come to us. We need to tell them what their union has done and is doing for them." These are not easy tasks ahead of us, especially in the current political climate. Nonetheless, this is the work we have committed to and the work that we will carry out.

Much of this work can, and will, be orchestrated and initiated through the WAAA National Action Plan and with our Regional Meetings beginning this April. But make no mistake, the work to re-engage members will be ongoing for the AEC and NBoD even after the RAND Formula is once again consecrated in Canadian law.

As we move ahead, I'm confident that the leadership of the PSAC is poised and ready to take on this responsibility, and I look forward to contributing to this revitalization and renewal the PSAC and its membership in the Canadian labour movement.

In Solidarity,

Bob Jackson
Regional Executive Vice President, BC



ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS - November 2012 – March 2013

Date(s)	Event	Location
NOVEMBER 2012		
November 1	BC Fed Executive Council meeting	Vancouver
November 1	Vancouver Human Rights Committee Meeting	Vancouver
November 2	Worksite Tours	Kelowna
November 3	Young Workers Conference	Richmond
November 5-9	AEC Meeting & Retreat	Ottawa
November 13-15	TC Bargaining Table PIC	Ottawa
November 23-25	BC Regional Council meeting	Vancouver
November 26-29	BC Federation of Labour Convention	Vancouver
November 30	Leadership Summit	Ottawa
DECEMBER 2012		
December 1-2	Leadership Summit	Ottawa
December 11	Vancouver RO Open House	Vancouver
December 14	TC Bargaining Meeting	Ottawa
December 15	National H&S Conference Steering Committee meeting	Ottawa
December 17-18	AEC Meeting & Special NBoD Meeting	Ottawa
December 19	AEC Media Training	Ottawa
JANUARY 2013		
January 8	TC and CFIA Bargaining Meeting	Via Teleconference
January 9-10	Health & Safety Conf. Steering Committee	Via Teleconference
January 10	BC Federation of Labour Ranking Officers Meeting	Vancouver
January 14-15	AEC Meeting	Ottawa
January 17	BC Regional Council Conference Call	Vancouver
January 19	Kitsilano Coast Guard Station Rally	Vancouver
January 21	YVR Living Wage Meeting	Richmond
January 27-30	BC Federation of Labour Ranking Officers Seminar	Harrison



FEBRUARY 2013

February 4-7	AEC & NBoD Meetings	Ottawa
February 6	Health & Safety Conference Steering Committee	Ottawa
February 18-19	AEC Meeting	Ottawa
February 23	BC NDP Fundraiser for Candidate Janet Routledge	Burnaby
February 28	BC Regional Council Conference Call	Victoria
February 28	Vancouver Island Young Workers Committee Meeting	Victoria

MARCH 2013

March 6	BC NDP Leader's Network Reception	Vancouver
March 7	BC Federation of Labour Executive Council Meeting	Vancouver
March 7	YVR Living Wage Meeting	Vancouver
March 7	BC Mainland Young Workers Committee Meeting	Vancouver
March 8	Prince George Worksite Visits	Prince George
March 9	IWD Breakfast	Prince George
March 13	CCPA Annual Fundraising Dinner	Vancouver
March 14	Metro Vancouver Alliance Leadership Summit	Vancouver
March 14	UNE 20140 AGM	Vancouver
March 18-20	AEC Meeting	Ottawa
March 22-24	CLC Political Action Conference	Toronto



PSAC Alternate REVP - Jayne Johns
Report to the B.C. Regional Council

This report was not received in time to be included in this compilation of Coordinator Reports.



British Columbia

Geographic Coordinator Reports



PSAC Geographic Coordinator for Metro Vancouver - Terri Lee

Report to the B.C. Regional Council

Activities Since the Last B.C. Regional Council Meeting	
Activity	How it fulfilled my role on the Council
BC Fed Convention Nov 2012	Support BC Fed activities, education, networking
PSAC leadership summit Nov 2012	Education, networking, public engagement
CFIA regional & Area umc Dec 2012	Member representation, management education
Labour Appreciation night, Dec 2012	Support VDLC events, network, education
Local 44, 60 and 64 AGMs Jan 2013	Member education & assistance
CFIA mediation Jan 2013	Member representation, bargaining
Regional Council conf call Jan 2013	Education, reporting, networking
First Call 20th Anniversary dinner – January 2013	Education, support community events, networking
BRUSH meeting – Feb 2013	Education, networking, support of BC committees
Vancouver Area Council Feb 2013	Plan, network, engage members, support BC committees
CFIA PIC Feb 2013	Representation as bargaining team member
CFIA mobilization meeting Feb 2013	Report & strategize
Regional council conf call Feb 2013	Report, education, network
CFIA UMC/ OSH March 2013	Member representation, education of managers
Member representation	Ongoing support of members grievances and staffing complaint



Challenges you had to cope with since the last meeting:

- Travel
- Work/family/union balance

What would you like to work on next?

- We Are All Affected campaign
- Continued Area Council participation
- BC Provincial election



PSAC Geographic Coordinator for Metro Vancouver - Jamey Mills

Report to the B.C. Regional Council

Area Council - AGM was held in October where I retained my status as President. Our Council continues to grow and we have made it a priority to have actions each month recognizing the struggles or success of affiliated locals/branches/DCLs. As we head into the Provincial election we intend to organize other groups such as Youth in order to host an All Candidates Meeting. We further intend to solidify our position with other groups such as the Vancouver and District Labour Council.

PSAC Leadership Conference - I attended this event in Ottawa as a delegate. Never before have I been amongst the leadership of our Union in such numbers. This event allowed me to network with activists I knew in addition to meeting many new people. The workshops on topics ranged from recognizing and strengthening the activist you are to public speaking in the media. Overall it was a great event and I have utilized what I have learned in my local and through my Area Council.

UTE OHS Conference - I attended this event as a delegate in Ottawa also. My local has 7 OHS committees, of which mine is the largest at roughly 600 members. This well attended event was highlighted by the involvement of the employer in order to discuss strategies around mental health in the workplace and violence including bullying.

Kitsilano Coast Guard Station - Although we were not successful in keeping the current station open I feel that this action created awareness of the DRAP cuts in addition to strengthening the bonds of our PSAC Brothers and Sisters. I attended numerous rallies and encouraged support through petitioning. This fight is not yet over.

UTE Local 20027 - I was acclaimed again as 2nd Secretary on the local executive. One of my goals for the upcoming year is ensuring members realize what impact the cuts have had and how we can affect change in the future...namely the 2015 federal election.

Provincial Election - Apart from an All Candidates Meeting I intend to assist both the NDP and PSAC in whatever capacity is required to ensure NDP success in May.

Youth - Congrats to both the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island Youth Committees!! As a geographic co-ordinator I will continue to recognize young worker activists and encourage them to participate in organizations such as these. We need to recognize tomorrow's leaders today!!



NDP Leader's Network Reception - I attended this event along with the REVP, Area Council Presidents from the East and West Fraser Valley along with the RVP for UNE. It was a very business crowd where labour was greatly outnumbered...a good thing in my eyes. Adrian gave a brief but entertaining speech, which was well received by all.

CLC Leadership Summit - I, along with Broth Tom Hopkins, have been selected to represent the B.C. Region at this event March 22-24, 2013. A report will follow.



PSAC Geographic Coordinator for Metro Vancouver - Shawna Bundac
 Report to the B.C. Regional Council

Activities Since the Last B.C. Regional Council Meeting	
Activity	How it fulfilled my role on the Council
December 4-5, 2012 BC Federation of Labour Political Action Skills Training course	As discussed on RC calls and at the last in-person meeting, I took this training to ensure I can campaign/organize effectively in the upcoming provincial election.
February 7, 2013 Vancouver Area Council meeting	Networking with Metro Vancouver members and planning monthly actions in support of affiliated locals
February 28, 2013 RC Conference Call	Regional Business Update
March 7, 2013 BC Mainland Young Workers Committee AGM	<p>First ever meeting of our constitutionally recognized committee! Networking with young workers in the province and developing ideas for committee activities.</p> <p>We would like to build up our active committee membership. To that end: our next meeting is April 24 at 6pm at the PSAC BC RO – If you’re on the Mainland, please tell everyone 30 years and under in your workplace.</p>

Challenges you had to cope with since the last meeting:

- Balancing personal and union priorities

What would you like to work on next?

I would like to focus on building up an active and strong BC Mainland Young Workers Committee and participating in Vancouver Area Council actions and events.

Please note: I will be abroad at the time of the next in-person meeting in April attending my cousin’s wedding. See you all next time!



PSAC Geographic Coordinator for the East Fraser Valley - Antony Paller
Report to the B.C. Regional Council

Following last Regional Council meeting, I attended the BC Federation of Labour convention. The Convention was well attended by PSAC members, which was complimented on many other union groups in attendance.

Immediately following the BC Federation of Labour Convention, I attended the Leadership Summit in Ottawa. One of the courses I took was on communications and on how to expand and grow a network to bring together and share issues and concerns with other groups in the community. The course also explained how that interaction can help when putting forward our issues and concerns so that we have extra hands coming together and helping to get our message across.

I took part in PSAC BC educational courses and met members in the Fraser Valley. Those courses included mental illness, economics, and updated grievance handling.

On January 4th, I was re-elected as my local president.

On January 16th, I was voted into an Executive position on the Fraser Valley Labour Council (FVLC) representing small locals.

On February 9th, the Fraser Valley Area Council (FVAC) met to discuss concerns and discuss upcoming events for the year including the provincial elections, Labour Day events, and political actions I was designated as Communications person have an updated list of Fraser Valley East Presidents in which I send upcoming FVAC meetings, FVLC meetings, other events that pertain to members in the Fraser Valley East area.

On February 20th and every 3rd Wednesday of the month, I will attend FVLC executive meeting, which is followed by FVLC general meeting of members. At those meetings, I give an update of what is happening in the Federal Government public services regarding the different cuts in services to British Columbians and all Canadians. Members of the FVLC want to hear and know more about this matter, and want to be able to take part in up coming campaigns.

On March 12th I attended the FVAC meeting. Bob Jackson was also in attendance and gave an update on Bill C-377 and educational courses to come up this year.



On March 20th I will attend the FVLC executive and general meeting of members.

On March 21st, the PSAC negotiator for CFIA bargaining is scheduled to meet with members and give an update. This will also be an opportunity for members to express what they are concerned about and see where members stand at this point in negotiations.

Upcoming:

- Keep updating FVLC of issues and concerns of PSAC member's and share links and campaigns of PSAC events.
- Provincial elections campaign
- Labour Day picnic event
- Update and expand FraserValleyAreaCouncil@shaw.ca e-mail contact list.



PSAC Geographic Coordinator for the West Fraser Valley - Jennifer Chieh Ho
Report to the B.C. Regional Council

- 2012 Oct West Fraser Valley Area Council AGM
 PSAC BC Mainland Human Rights Committee AGM

- 2012 Dec PSAC Vancouver Regional Women's Committee Meeting

- 2012 Nov PSAC B.C. Regional Council meeting
 BC Federation of Labour Convention 2012
 PSAC Leadership Summit Training in Ottawa
 PSAC Human Rights for Aboriginal Women Panel in Ottawa
 Leaflet at Peace Arch Border Crossing, Surrey with several Regional
 Council members
 Leaflet at Tunney Pasture Action in Ottawa while at PSAC Leadership
 Summit

- 2013 Jan PSAC B.C. Regional Education Committee Teleconference
 PSAC B.C. Regional Council Teleconference call
 PSAC B.C. Regional Council Ad-Hoc Subcommittee teleconference
 Passport Canada Surrey BC – New Members' Orientation to Union

- 2013 Feb PSAC BRUSH meeting in Vancouver
 West Fraser Valley Area Council Meeting
 PSAC Vancouver Regional Women's Committee Meeting
 CBC News Interview both by Phone and In person re BC Family Day



2013 Feb 14 BC Federation of Labour Community and Social Action Committee Meeting (Discussion on two year plan and union community campaigns)
22nd PSAC Annual Women's Memorial March for Missing & Murdered Women – Downtown Eastside Vancouver
PSAC BC Mainland Human Rights Committee meeting

2013 Feb PSAC WFA course
BC Federation of Labour Community and Action Committee Teleconference (Discussion about the Temporary Foreign Workers Program in Canada and how to get involved in different communities)
Living Wage Campaign Course at Langara College by Michael Flynn McCarthy
PSAC Regional Women's Committee meeting

2013 Feb 28 Met with Sharon Gregson from Coalition of ChildCare Advocacy
PSAC B.C. Regional Council teleconference: discussed PSAC BC endorsement with the \$10/Day Child Care Plan (visit www.cccabc.bc.ca for details). During the meeting, I put forward a motion for PSAC BC to endorse the plan and become member

2013 Mar International Women's Day Event in Surrey
MLA Sue Hammell's IWD fundraising and network luncheon, Surrey
West Fraser Valley Area Council meeting
Living Wage campaign courses at Langara College
NDP Leader's Network Reception in Vancouver
IWD Dinner, networking opportunity at VDLC in Vancouver
"Strollers for Child Care" rally from Jericho Beach to Premier Christy Clark's office to push for the \$10/day Child Care Plan
CCPA Annual Fundraising Dinner



In addition to the above activities, as the Co-Ordinator of West Fraser Valley Area Council, I have also attended other National Officer activities within my component (Union of National Employees), which are not directly pertinent to my role on the B.C. Regional Council.

Some challenges are:

I have been travelling due to my National position with my Component and, due to shortage of staff in PSAC Regional office, no worksite visits have been successful in the West Fraser Valley. However, the West Fraser Valley Area Council President and I have committed to visit worksites with a PSAC Regional Staff on March 20.

Things I would like to work on:

- To set up a schedule to visit worksites
- Make connections with affiliates pertaining to International Solidarity, such as BC Federation of Labour, CoDevelopment Canada and the Social Justice Fund
- Be more creative in mobilizing and getting members involved, in many different ways by making suggestions, creating and participating on committees or events



PSAC Geographic Coordinator for the South Interior - Susan Yaciw
 Report to the B.C. Regional Council

Activities Since the Last B.C. Regional Council Meeting	
Activity	How it fulfilled my role on the Council
Regional Council Meeting	Meet and plan with other members of the Council. Conduct committee work and planning.
Area Council meetings and Okanagan Regional Women's Committee meetings	Communicate with other locals in the region. Set goals and training for the Southern Interior and encourage participation and engage members.
UTE monthly executive meetings	Involvement in my component local. Share with my local; regional and local activities
BRUSH Conference Calls	Discuss issues around Health & Safety
BC Regional Council Conference calls	Conduct business of the Region and helps keep the lines of communication open between Council representatives
Education Conference Calls	To discuss the education needs of members. Discuss the development of a Coordinator Handbook
Bylaws Conference Call	To follow up on bylaw changes and amendments.
Regional Women's Host Committee Conference calls	Planning sessions for the upcoming BC Regional Women's Conference
Leadership Summit	This event brought together leaders from other regions and components. We attended workshops and strategized.
We Are All Affected/Stop Bullying Workshop	Members from different Unions came together for a day to participate in a workshop on the <i>We Are All Affected</i> campaign, Building Communities and Workplace Bullying. This event was sponsored by the Okanagan Human Rights Committee, the Okanagan Area Council and the Okanagan Women's Committee.



Activities Since the Last B.C. Regional Council Meeting	
Activity	How it fulfilled my role on the Council
International Women’s Day Event called “This is what a feminist looks like”	This event was a celebration of women and diversity. A celebration of feminists of all ages, cultures, genders and occupations. The Gert Beadle Award was presented to an individual and an organization that have shown commitment to women’s equality and social justice. The event was sponsored by the Okanagan College Women’s Resource Centre and the Okanagan College Faculty Association. The Okanagan Women’s Committee contributed \$200 towards the event. My nieces aged 11 and 9 both participated in the Wee feminist’s choir.

Challenges you had to cope with since the last meeting:

- Balancing work, home and union activities. I am still under a severe amount of stress due to a change in job.
- Connecting with all members in the region due to the wide-spread territory
- Member apathy and getting others involved

What would you like to work on next?

I’d like to try to encourage greater participation and to increase the member attendance of our Area Council. I’d also like to encourage the Area Council participants to take on a more active role in our community, becoming more political in our community and to create a more cohesive Area Council. Lastly, I’d like to connect with all local presidents.



PSAC Geographic Coordinator for Southern Interior - Roberta Gourlie

Report to the B.C. Regional Council

Activities Since the Last B.C. Regional Council Meeting	
Activity	How it fulfilled my role on the Council
Attempting to obtain email list for Kootenays as previous list was not transferred to new computer	Need to re-establish communication with members in the Kootenays
November 5 - Okanagan Area Council and RWC meetings	Attended meeting previous to being sworn in as Regional Council member
December 6 - National Day of Remembrance Against Violence Against Women	Participated in activities in local workplace Sent list of events in Penticton, Kelowna and Vernon to Okanagan affiliates of Regional Women's Committee to distribute to their members and encourage attending events in their cities
January 2 and ongoing - Planning calls for 2013 BC Regional Women's Conference - Half the Sky	Participated in initial calls followed by obtaining two other women to become reps for Okanagan on the Organizing Committee I am now a back-up on this Committee.
January 14 - Okanagan Area Council and RWC meetings	Attended and re-elected to Chair of the Okanagan Regional Women's Committee
January 17 - B.C. Regional Council conference call	Participated and subsequently submitted information to Jayne Johns pertaining to EI entitlement for WFA affected and/or alternating employees
February 21 - Conference Subsidy Request received	To be reviewed by Committee
February 28 - B.C. Regional Council conference call	Participated As a member of the Subsidies Committee, reviewed and supported request from member for a subsidy to attend a BCFED regional conference



Activities Since the Last B.C. Regional Council Meeting	
Activity	How it fulfilled my role on the Council
March 2 - <i>We Are All Affected</i> workshop in Vernon	Promoted and participated in the one-day event organized by the Okanagan HRC Speakers were Dr. Naime (workplace bullying) and Deborah Littman (building communities)
March 8 - International Women's Day	Participated in activities in local workplaces and spoke at Vernon Service Canada event, promoting the Okanagan Area Council and RWC Distributed Okanagan RWC leaflets to Service Canada, Veterans' Affairs and Health Canada staff members in Kelowna
March 9 - International Women's Day event in Vernon	Accompanied and assisted Okanagan Human Rights Committee member at a table set up at this event with PSAC material and swag Provided a short account of PSAC and Regional Women's Committee as a sponsor of this event to attendees A National Film Board film was shown titled, "Status Quo: the Unfinished."

Challenges you had to cope with since the last meeting:

- Re-establishing contact with members in the Kootenays
- Inability to travel to Kootenays over the winter months due to weather and geography

What would you like to work on next?

I'd like to plan a road trip with Regina Brennan to the Kootenays this summer to re-establish contact and rapport with members in that area.



PSAC Geographic Coordinator for Northeast BC - Patt Holmes
Report to the B.C. Regional Council

North East Regional Council Report from Dec 2012 to April 7th, 2013

Standing up for the North

I would like to introduce to the Regional Council my alternate, Ana Evasin at our April Regional Council meeting. Sometime this summer I will be leaving my job with the Federal Government and PSAC. Ana is an activist who works at CRA and is a member of UTE. I know you will all welcome her to the BC Regional Council as our North Eastern delegate.

Below is an accounting of my meetings and events since our last meeting in November 2012.

Date	Description of Event or Meeting
Nov 26-30th/12	BC Federation of Labour Convention (written report that was sent to both Kristin and Regina for distribution follows)
Dec 6th/12	Christmas Meeting of RWC-North. We had two NDP candidates (Bobby Deepak and Sherry Ogasawara) who spoke at our meeting. Commemorative minute of silence for women victims of violence and workers killed on the job. Women attended various community events for Dec 6th such as the "Chilly Day" for the homeless. PSAC RWC donated blankets for the Chilly Day. A cross component sharing of WFA progression in the NE.
Jan 17/13	Regional Council Conference Call.
Jan 21/13	Organizing Committee Meeting for the BC PSAC Regional Women's Conference in May 13
Feb 4/13	Conference call for the Organizing Committee for the Regional PSAC Women's May Conference
Feb 28/13	BC Regional Council Conference Call
Mar 4/13	Conference Call for the Organizing Committee for the Regional PSAC Women's Conference in Vancouver, BC



- Mar 9/13 2013 IWD Labour Council Breakfast with a turnout of 20 PSAC representatives
RWC-North AGM with special Guests Kelly Megyesi & Bob Jackson
Tour of UNBC University of the North and the "Idle No More" art displays.
IWD at our University was a week long "teach-in" session on "Idle no More," using unconventional methods of communication with local activists and the public.
- Mar 18/13 Conference call of the BC PSAC Women's Regional Conference
- Apr 4-7/13 Vancouver in-person Regional Council meeting. Introduction of Ana Evasin, UTE my alternate to the Council
- May 3-5/13 BC PSAC Vancouver Regional Women's Conference!!

My last day on the job will be around mid July. This date has yet to be negotiated with Management. When I leave the Federal Government I will leave as a "Northern worker." I will have the dignity of choosing to stand for my members rights and entitlements until I walk off the job. There is much to be done to defend the retention of jobs and public services and programs. Have you read the 2013 budget? My words to my members will be, "Stand Up! Don't give up the fight!"

I have enjoyed my Union journey from member to local elected union officer, to elected Regional officer to National Officer for Women for Western Canada. Thank you to the BC Regional Council, PSAC staff and Members at large who have made my union history a very memorable one. I wish Ana all the best in her role as the NE Regional Council rep when she assumes the position. A special "thanks" to Kristin for just being so nice!

Our REVP and Regional Council Rep for Women seem to be touring all parts of BC. Thanks to Bob and Kelly for your recent visit and support for Northern Women.

In Solidarity We Stand

PSAC Patt of the North

BC Federation of Labour 55th Convention

by: Patt Holmes, Regional Council
and Human Rights Committee Member

I want to thank both the Vancouver Human Rights Committee and the BC PSAC Regional Council for providing me with a subsidy to attend the 55th BC Federation of Labour Convention in Vancouver from Nov. 26th to 30th, 2012. This event is memorable because I had an opportunity to network with other union participants, hear excellent, special guest speakers, gain useful and relevant information to share out and have an opportunity to speak and promote PSAC issues with a BC wide audience. If the readers of this report want details on the Convention committee reports or the Human Rights resolutions these can be found on line at the BC Federation of Labour web site.

A day prior to the Convention I attended a half day session of the "Embrace Diversity" forum along with Paul Croes and Kelly Megyesi. I got to listen to Janelle-Ho-Shing (PSAC BC) and Tamara Marshall (TWU) address "How are Unions working to press employers to ensure greater diversity in BC workplaces". I also listened to open dialogue on: (1) How do unions do a better job at reflecting the diversity of our membership? and (2) How do we achieve more equality for our members from equity seeking groups?. Unions still have a lot of work to do to on equity issues of concern.

The BC Federation of Labour Convention was energy charged with mobile teams campaigning for the Fed executive positions of President and Secretary-Treasurer. Jim Sinclair and Irene Lanzinger were re-elected in these leadership positions over Michelle Laurie and Trevor Davies. The challenge to these roles brought out some healthy debate and information on issues to the floor and at coffee and lunch.

Jim Sinclair outlined the BC Federation's vision for the province. The vision "included affordable and accessible child care and post-secondary education, the end of privatization and contracting out, restored health care funding, green jobs and safe workplaces for all." There is a lot of work to be done by unions in BC to make this vision a reality per the debate on convention floor.

I have been boasting to all that will listen that PSAC had one of their best turn outs of delegates at this convention. There were over 50 PSAC activists on the floor which were complimented by PSAC staff working at our information booths and supplying requested supports as needed to our PSAC members.

Sargy Chima, Jennifer Ho and Patt Holmes all received one of the 3 Vancouver Human Rights subsidies to be in attendance. I had done my

homework by reading all of the 11 resolutions from the Human Rights Committee to Convention and also the report of the Human Rights Committee which passed on Tuesday afternoon on the floor. Sam Wiese, a seasoned BC Federation of Labour activist advised the PSAC group of the priority of resolutions as they would come to the floor. If we wanted to speak on Human Rights it might be wise to get up and talk to our issues if they were in the human rights report. From Monday to Thursday there were no human rights issues from the committee that made it to convention floor.

Resolutions:

I was very disappointed at the low number of resolutions that were dealt with by Convention. I did get up and speak on the BC Fed Regional Conference in the North and also on the proposed Enbridge pipeline in violation of aboriginal human rights. I lined up at the microphones to address the temporary foreign workers and the Human Rights report but the questions were called and I did not get to speak. All of the resolutions had excellent, informative and good debate. Considering it ranged from 1339 to 1972 people on the floor at any one time the fast momentum of convention was stimulating and exhausting at times. In a moment of lulls I got to speak with old friends such as Kay Sinclair, Patty Ducharme, Bob Kingston, Sharon Brine, Steve Houston and other trade unionists that I don't often get to hug and share information with.

If you are wondering what some of the resolutions were on that made it to the floor they were on: bargaining in BC; fair tax system; health care; Enbridge; forestry; temporary foreign workers and childcare to name a few. The BC Federation of Labour puts out a full report of convention on their website so keep checking their website for full disclosure of resolutions debated.

Special Guests:

I enjoyed special guest speakers such as: Linda McQuaig; Tracey Phan; Adrian Dix; Thomas Mulcair and Ken Georgetti to name a few. Off the Convention floor both Kelly Megyesi, Regional Council Rep for Women spoke on a panel at the Monday night Women's Forum and Janelle Ho-Shing spoke on a Diversity panel for PSAC. Our PSAC speakers were clear, concise, informative and did a fabulous job of their presentations. They made me proud to be from PSAC.

PSAC Visibility at Convention:

We did a great job. Our REVP, Bob Jackson spoke on the convention floor as did a number of other PSAC delegates. Paul Croes got his photo in colour in one of the daily convention news bulletins. Lee Provost and Sharon Brine, UNDE members were interviewed by the newspaper and mentioned in an article on downsizing of the Federal Government. We had a team of volunteers who took time to leaflet on "We Are All Affected", and the \$143 million in cuts being implemented at the Border Services and other PSAC issues. We had a PSAC information table in a special room where PSAC staff and volunteers

promoted the PSAC and our current issues. Thanks to the BC Regional Council we also had an all paid lunch where the candidates running for the BC Federation of Labour offices could come and speak to PSAC members and answer any questions we may have on issues. There was a real feeling of PSAC solidarity at the BC Federation of Labour Convention and off the floor at the rally of over 1400 delegates who marched with BC's public sector workers from the convention hall to the Vancouver Art Gallery for a "fair deal".

I got to practice at the BC Federation of Labour Convention:
"We are stronger when we stand and fight together" and "What we desire for ourselves we also desire for others". I left convention feeling that as union activists we would all do our part in the upcoming May 2013 Provincial election to elect a Government that will truly work on behalf of all working people in BC for a Better BC!

In closing, "thank you" again to both the Vancouver Human Rights Committee and Regional Council for financially assisting a union sister from rural BC to be able to attend the 2012 Vancouver, BC Federation of Labour Convention. I learnt a lot to share with brothers and sisters of the North and other parts of BC. I was charged \$18.00 extra baggage fees by Air Canada to bring Convention materials home! These documents will be shared March 9th/13 at our International Women's Day AGM meeting and May 2013 Regional Women's Conference.

Patt Holmes
RWC Chair North & Human Rights Activist
BC Regional Council Rep North East



PSAC Geographic Coordinator for Northwest BC - Benilde Gomes

Report to the B.C. Regional Council

Activities Since the Last B.C. Regional Council Meeting	
Activity	How it fulfilled my role on the Council
November 2012	
Labour Management Meeting	Attended Prince Rupert re: Work Force Adjustment issues and re-organizing issues at Coast Guard base and RCMP
Kitimat-Terrace and District Labour Council meeting	Struggling with attendances
Idle No More	Continued requests for labour support to provide additional attendees
Foreign Workers vs. Unfair Labour Representation	Jim Sinclair attends Kitimat locations to inquire and discuss the unfair labour practices vs. the hiring of foreign workers. Why are we not hiring locals especially those in the unionized trades jobs?
BCGEU strike action re: social services	Attended and supported the action issued by BCGEU regarding the workers in providing social assistance services
Workers Memorial Plaque in Kitimat	Unveiled the Workers Memorial Plaque in Kitimat. This was 3 years in the making to establish a beautiful and respectful site. Some family members of victims who have been lost or permanently injured on the job attended.
Regional Council in person meeting	Attended in person meeting at the Vancouver Regional Office
NDP	Working on the provincial campaign



Activities Since the Last B.C. Regional Council Meeting	
Activity	How it fulfilled my role on the Council
January 2012	
Regional Representative	I have been requested to represent multiple persons in multiple jurisdictions for grievances, hearings and interviews.
Regional Council conference call	Conference call. Minutes distributed by Kristin.
Northwest BC Area Council	Re-networking and creating new contacts. Meeting scheduled for 2013 March 23 in Prince Rupert
Terrace Legion	Helped to organize the 58th annual bonspiel in 3 weeks. Labour supported activists registered teams. Our team was called the Federalies. Fun had by all and raised \$5000 for the Legion.
NDP	Working on the provincial campaign
February 2012	
RCMP Federal Re-Engineering Town Hall Meeting	Just a fancy name for Workforce Adjustments in the foreseeable future
Strategic Action Plan - Restoring Our Forests and Energizing Forest Sector	Previously sent out the draft Strategic Action Plan
CLC Winter School	I attended the Labour Council Leadership workshop. Many of the labour council leaders were there and some new faces. Plenty of networking and plenary for future conference calls. NDP training was included.
City of Terrace Council Meeting	Attended City Council meeting to present the water initiative but unfortunately there was an issue with the plumbing (I am not kidding) and had to cancel the meeting. Scheduled for an April agenda item.



Activities Since the Last B.C. Regional Council Meeting	
Activity	How it fulfilled my role on the Council
Renewal Northwest - MP Nathan Cullen	Invitations went to labour activists, city councils, first nation treaty reps, local business reps, labour training reps, educators. Seeking initiatives and what the community wants and desires and priorities of investments for sustainable income. Nathan Cullen is touring the Northwest to host the same questions with different followers to each of the sessions to share in this initiative.
Regional Representation	I have been requested to represent multiple persons in multiple jurisdictions for grievances, hearings and interviews.
NDP	Working on the provincial campaign
March 2012	
Northwest BC Area Council	Next meeting scheduled for 2013 March 23 in Prince Rupert
NDP	Working on Provincial Campaign

Challenges you had to cope with since the last meeting:

- Not enough hours in the day
- Lack of interest and support by other members within my own local
- Burn out

What would you like to work on next?

- More touring in the region and planning events for the We Are All Affected campaign
- Finding a representative who may engage members in this region

Community Event

FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2013



New Projects, New Challenges, New Opportunities

Renewal Northwest tour seeks to balance resource jobs and community values

Tens of billions of dollars in resource project investment is expected in Northwest BC by 2020. This presents extraordinary opportunities and some big challenges, too.

Communities must be a key part of the discussion if resource projects are to gain social license to proceed.

How do we:

- define and evaluate the key factors that make a project good for the Northwest?
- influence which projects go ahead?
- create sustainable rather than boom/bust economies?
- ensure area residents benefit from responsible development?

Please join us to discuss these important issues. Everyone is welcome. Evenings co-hosted by MP Nathan Cullen and community partners, and include Prince Rupert, Kitimat, Terrace, Prince George, Fort St. James, Burns Lake and Smithers.

Renewal Northwest is a communities-based initiative to develop a sustainable economy in the Northwest that is supported by residents; it was launched by Cullen in May 2009.

Please call 1-888-622-0212 [or visit our website \(Renewal Northwest tab\) for updates.](#)

Events (all 7-9pm)

Prince Rupert: Sunday, Feb. 17, NWCC

Kitimat: Monday, Feb. 18, Royal Canadian Legion

Terrace: Tuesday, Feb. 19, Elks Hall

Prince George: Monday, March 11, UNBC WinterGarden

Fort St. James: Tuesday, March 12, CNC

Burns Lake: Wednesday, March 13, CNC

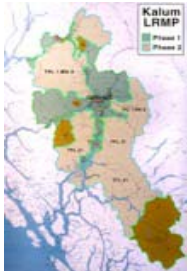
Smithers: Thursday, March 14, NWCC Gathering Place

*Nathan Cullen, Member of Parliament, Skeena–Bulkley Valley
House Leader of the Official Opposition*

Media: 250-877-4140 (riding) • 613-993-6654 (Ottawa) • media@nathancullen.ca



Terrace Community Workshop



Kalum Land and Resource Plan Implementation Committee

Wednesday February 6th, 2013, 6:00PM to 9:00PM
Skeena room, Best Western Terrace Inn

Purpose of workshop: provide specific feedback on the attached strategic action plan; will the recommendations in the plan address the issue and needs, or has something been missed?

Homework before the meeting is required – you must read the attached and be able to provide constructive feedback at the meeting.

Time	Topic	Who and/or format
5:30	Doors open, light dinner available	-
6:00	Welcome, acknowledge territory, introductions, review agenda	Robert Hart
6:10	Overview of HFHC initiative, and draft Strategic Action Plan	Bill Bourgeois
6:30	Focus of input for the evening – where do people want to focus their efforts? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Vision, long term goals ▪ Phase 1 (0-5 year) strategic actions and 3 goals ▪ Appendix 1 specific recommendations 	Robert Hart
7:00	Phase 1 strategic actions and 3 goals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Will it address the issue/your concerns? Has something been missed?</i> 	Plenary
7:45	Coffee break	
8:00	Appendix 1 specific recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Will it address the issue/your concerns? Has something been missed?</i> 	
8:45	Summary, next steps, closing comments	Bill Bourgeois
9:00	Adjourn	

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Robin Austin
MLA for Skeena



PSAC Geographic Coordinator for South Vancouver Island - Cindy Little

Report to the B.C. Regional Council

Activities Since the Last B.C. Regional Council Meeting	
Activity	How it fulfilled my role on the Council
October 29, 2012	PSAC NEVP Chris Aylward visited the Vancouver Island Tax Services Office to meet members and hand out 2013 PSAC calendars.
November 12, 2012	Attended fund-raising event for NDP candidate Murray Rankin. Murray ran successfully in the Victoria by-election, replacing MP Denise Savoie. NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair spoke to an energized crowd of NDP supporters. Others in attendance, NDP MLAs Carole James, Rob Fleming and Maureen Karigianis and MP Randall Garrison.
November 13, 2012	By-laws committee conference call – discussed resolutions from PSAC Convention and impact on BC Regional Bylaws. Possible changes to Regulation 3.
November 20, 2012	Attended Victoria RWC meeting. Preparing for December 6th event.
November 23 – 25, 2012	B.C. Regional Council Meeting in Vancouver
November 26 - 29, 2012	Attended BC Federation of Labour Convention
November 30 – December 2, 2012	Attended PSAC Leadership Summit in Ottawa Networking with other PSAC activists and leaders
December 6, 2012	Participated in Victoria Regional Women's Committee Candlelight Vigil to mark the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women
December 17, 2012	Attended Victoria Festive Meet & Greet Networking with membership



Activities Since the Last B.C. Regional Council Meeting	
Activity	How it fulfilled my role on the Council
January 10, 2013	Participated in Victoria RWC meeting via conference call Discussed Dec 6th event, budget, donations and planning for International Women’s Day
January 17	Participated in Regional Council Conference Call
January 21	Forwarded information regarding the CLC Political Action Conference to locals
January 24	Participated in conference call for Ad hoc sub committee on succession planning Report to be provided at next face-to-face Regional Council meeting
February 4	Contacted PSAC member regarding financial review of 2011 and 2012 for BC Regional Council
February 12	Victoria Area Council Meeting – discussed upcoming Provincial election and donations to NDP candidates in South Vancouver Island area Guest Mike Strangeway provided information about the PSAC Slowpitch Softball Tournament to take place in June
February 15	Sent email to all locals regarding PSAC Softball Tournament planned for June 2013
February 21, 2013	Attended UTE Local 20028 AGM. Guest speakers were UTE RVP Pamela Abbott and PSAC NEVP Chris Aylward.
February 28, 2013	Participated in Regional Council Ccnference Call



Activities Since the Last B.C. Regional Council Meeting	
Activity	How it fulfilled my role on the Council
March 5, 2013	Participated in DND worksite visit with UNDE National President John McLennan, PSAC NEVP Chris Aylward, UNDE Regional Vice President Mark Miller and UNDE Local 21016 Vice President Lance Jesson. Also had a short tour of the Esquimalt Graving Dock with GSU Vice President Jack Gale
March 8, 2013	Victoria Regional Women's committee celebration of International Women's Day Potluck dinner followed by video presentation of "Misrepresentation"
March 14, 2013	Attended United Way Spirit Awards on behalf of PSAC members

Challenges you had to cope with since the last meeting:

- Membership apathy
- Frustration with communications

What would you like to work on next?

- Same as in previous report: mentor someone to take over for the Victoria Area Council and the geographic coordinator position on the Regional Council
- Planning for retirement!



PSAC Geographic Coordinator for South Vancouver Island - Virginia Vaillancourt
 Report to the B.C. Regional Council

Activities Since the Last B.C. Regional Council Meeting	
Activity	How it fulfilled my role on the Council
October 23, 2012	Chaired Victoria Regional Women's Committee; worked on Dec 6th planning of Candle Light Vigil
November 1, 2012	Attended Mainland Human Rights Committee meeting via teleconference to assist me with working as VP of the VIHRC.
November 13, 2012	Chaired VIHRC meeting.
November 20, 2012	Chaired Victoria Regional Women's Committee. Finalized Dec 6 event, organized all handouts, prepped flameless candles with PSAC Victoria RWC Stickers
November 22 – 25, 2012	Regional Council Meeting Vancouver budget, discussed BC Fed Convention,
November 26 – 29, 2012	Attended BC Fed Convention
November 29 – December 2, 2012	Attended PSAC Leadership Summit in Ottawa
December 6, 2012	Emceed 4th Annual Candle Light Vigil. Committee was able to raise/collect donations to support 4 Women's Organizations in Victoria and Duncan.
December 7 – 9, 2012	Attended Advanced Duty to Accommodate Course in Richmond.
December 17, 2012	Attended PSAC Victoria RO Festive Meet & Greet. Met with members
January 10, 2013	Chaired Victoria RWC via teleconference Debriefed from Dec 6th event, discussed March 8th event and started planning
January 17, 2013	Attended Regional Council Conference Call
February 4, 2013	Attended RWC Conference Organizing Committee Call



Activities Since the Last B.C. Regional Council Meeting	
Activity	How it fulfilled my role on the Council
February 6, 2013	Attended BRUSH Committee Teleconference; discussed National OSH Conference, mental health
February 7, 2013	Chaired Victoria RWC Meeting; finalized plans for March 8th event
February 19, 2013	Chaired VIHRC meeting, discussed accessibility of new office, discussed PRIDE in July and organization of a multi committee participation
February 28, 2013	Attended Regional Council Conference Call
March 4, 2013	Attended RWC Conference Organizing Committee Call

Some of the challenges that I have had to cope with since the last meeting was a continued struggle with mobility while awaiting surgery, inability to drive to get to events on my own or see members. I still got out to events; however, not to the number of events or locals that I would have liked to have been to.

I would like to work on recovering from recent surgery and then getting out physically members and attending more events, help to mobilize members and get them ready for the upcoming election(s). I am able to do a lot of work via social media and emails, but it never has the same impact that I find as the personal contacts.

I promote PSAC campaigns and education courses via the methods above including work of mouth.

In solidarity,

Virginia



PSAC Geographic Coordinator for North Vancouver Island - Christine Walker
 Report to the B.C. Regional Council

Activities Since the Last B.C. Regional Council Meeting	
Activity	How it fulfilled my role on the Council
December 2012 to March 2013	Labour Council attendee and delegate; bringing awareness to Federal campaigns for other like-minded union members to assist with
November 23 to 25th, 2012	Regional Council meeting in Vancouver BC – lead up to BC Federation of Labour Convention
November 26th to 29th, 2012	Delegate to BC Fed Convention in Vancouver BC. The incumbents, Jim Sinclair and Irene Lanzinger, were re-elected even though there was some very polished campaigns run by IBEW & CUPE sponsored individuals. Cost shared with another Regional Council member in order to make efficient use of the subsidy. This was an important convention to attend because of the upcoming provincial election in May of 2013.
November 30th to December 2, 2012	PSAC Leadership training in Ottawa – being given time with other regional leaders to network and learn about common issues and challenges faced by our counterparts in their regions.
December 6, 2012	I volunteer on a regional society Board of Directors who have attained accreditation status under COA. This society supports programs and education to children and families in North Vancouver Island communities.
January 7, 2013	Observer at CFIA AGM in Parksville – my attendence brought awareness to members about my role on Regional Council
January 17, 2013	Regional Council conference call – discussion of upcoming regional priorities both provincially and federally



Activities Since the Last B.C. Regional Council Meeting	
Activity	How it fulfilled my role on the Council
January 19 to 27th, 2013	Personal vacation time
February 7, 2013	Work related Training course on “Resilience”
February 13, 2013	Human Rights representation – conference call with the Investigator – Section 41 review of case
February 13, 2013	Attended CEIU local CPP/OAS’s annual general meeting in Victoria in my capacity as a regional district director. Assisted by running the elections with PSAC regional rep, Dave Jackson
February 16, 2013	North Island Area Council Meeting held in Nanaimo at ABC Restaurant on Mary Ellen Drive. Elections were held and my alternate was re-elected to the position of Area Council President. The new Vice President is Darlene Stevens; Cheryl Hayes and Sharon Vanderdonck were also re-elected. We had a record turnout of 16 members and guests. Next meeting is scheduled for May 4th. The REVP will be in attendance and hopefully the National President.
February 23, 2013	One day course in Courtenay offered by the PSAC – Representing Members with Mental Illnesses. This course is new in the schedule and was very interesting as it solidified for me the types of accommodations required depending on the various conditions. Good review of applicable case studies will assist me in my future representation and upcoming Human Rights case.
March 4 to 6th, 2013	BC Fed Regional Conference held in Nanaimo. My alternate was provided a subsidy to attend.
March 8, 2013	International Women’s Day – A local initiative was undertaken by the local women’s reps to commemorate this day. A history quiz was passed out for all to participate and bring awareness to statistical and historic data relating to this date.



Activities Since the Last B.C. Regional Council Meeting	
Activity	How it fulfilled my role on the Council
Various email campaign participation which is ongoing	Responded to various online petitions and read political updates sent out by the PSAC. By doing so, I was able to bring awareness to members by initiating discussions around these issues.
Union rep at Monthly Occupational Safety & Health meetings	On-going advocacy for union member's health related issues. New software is creating repetitive strain. Able to influence policy and guidelines on workplace safety issues of concern to members.
Upcoming activities	Provincial election – I hope to elect labour friendly candidates who can relate to issues faced by working people

Challenges you had to cope with since the last meeting:

Ongoing Work Force Adjustment issues for members; some were resolved with the latest announcement that TBS has recognized their deficit plan reduction strategy is a workforce adjustment for employment insurance claims (March 12, 2013 news release on PSAC website).

Constant changes to work software, legislation and move of desk location have also been challenges.

What would you like to work on next?

- Getting invitations to relevant meetings for my position
- Getting delegate status to the Regional Women's conference
- Attending my Component council meeting and sharing some of the ideas on how to weather the next two years under a majority Conservative government

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 250-754-4035 or c.walker@telus.net

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'C Walker'.

Christine

North Vancouver Island Geographic Coordinator for the PSAC B.C.



British Columbia

Equity Coordinator Reports



PSAC Aboriginal Equity Coordinator - Heather DuDoward

Report to the B.C. Regional Council

November/December 2012

- Participated in PSAC Leadership Summit and National Human Rights Committee Meetings, Ottawa
- Posted union material on Local's bulletin board
- Unable to attend BC Regional Council meeting due to weather constraints

January 2013

- Participated in PSAC BC Regional Education Committee teleconference
- Participated in PSAC BC Regional Council teleconference
- Networked/visited with PSAC local union members @ The Banff Centre
- Participated in meeting at Local for ratification vote of Collective Agreement. Two members of PSAC Negotiating Team and BC Regional Representative in attendance
- Joined Negotiating Team and Regional Representative for dinner at local restaurant
- Joined Negotiating Team for morning coffee and lunch at local coffee house
- Joined organizing committee for BC Women's Conference; provide guidance on Aboriginal theme
- Researched Aboriginal guest speakers and themes for BC Women's Conference

February 2013

- Drafted report for BC self-identified Aboriginal members about meetings held in Ottawa
- Submitted application for education opportunity/training: Grievance Handling weekend course



- Submitted feedback/ideas for courses, plenaries for Spring 2013 PSAC BC 'Advanced Union School' as member of PSAC BC Regional Education Committee
- Participated in One Billion Rising walk. Marched through community to RCMP Detachment in Village of Queen Charlotte. The group of women danced, participated in a traditional ceremony and listened to several speakers talk about ways to end violence against women.
- Participated in PSAC BC Women's Conference Committee planning meetings (bi-monthly meetings)
- Participated in planning meeting (Sunday) for BC Women's Conference, scheduled for May 3-5, 2013, Richmond, BC
- Conducted research and contacted potential Aboriginal guest speakers, performers and artists for BC Women's Conference



PSAC Racially Visible Equity Coordinator - Sargy Chima
Report to the B.C. Regional Council

This report was not received in time to be included in this compilation of Coordinator Reports.



PSAC Members With Disabilities Equity Coordinator - Tracy Shudo
Report to the B.C. Regional Council

Things That Have Taken Place Since the Last Meeting: Actions & Activities That I Have Been Involved With

After our last Regional Council meeting, I attended the Leadership Summit in Ottawa from November 30 to December 2 along with many others from the Regional Council. I then stayed on in Ottawa for the National Human Right meeting that took place from December 3 to 5, 2012.

The human rights meeting was a very interesting because it addressed the fact that, for the first time, the PSAC is going to combine five national conferences for all of the equity groups into one national conference that will take place in November 2013. The five equity groups are made up of all the regional reps and nationally elected persons. Those individuals are on the steering committee for the conference and will decide what issues are going to be covered at the conference, guest speakers and such.

The Access group, "persons with disabilities," have met 2 to 3 times since December 2012 via teleconference. Calls have lasted over one hour each time, and more calls are being booked so that the Access conference will be set up and run with information from reps in each of the regions.

Because of this, I have been asked to see if anyone that knows of any members with accommodation issues that are not being treated fairly because of WFAs or anyone with a disability that feels or has experienced issues with our employers. All regions are going to share information on what is, or what has, happened in their area or with any of their members. If you know of any situations like this, please share this information with me or contact someone with the PSAC so that this information can be documented. Thanks.

The Donations Committee is in frequent contact addressing email requests we receive from the REVP Office. We all try and are working very hard to review all requests and send in our recommendations to each other by email. I must say this has working extremely well so far.

I attended a dinner for the 20th Anniversary dinner for the Vancouver Community Network. They had a great speaker; Cindy Blackstock's speech was so well done. I felt that everyone there left the room feeling that they want to do more.



For more information on Cindy's work and ongoing Human Rights cases please visit:

- The First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada's website
- The FNCFCSC I am a Witness Campaign (including a short video about the Human Rights case)
- The Star: "Tribunal will rule whether Ottawa retaliated against native rights' advocate Cindy Blackstock"
- CBC's The Current: Government surveillance of native youth advocate
- CBC Trailbreakers: Crusader of Aboriginal child services Cindy Blackstock won't back down
- CBC Doc Zone 8th Fire: Q & A with Cindy Blackstock

In December I was able to attend the Meet and Greet that the Vancouver Regional Office. The event provided good food and good company. My thanks goes out to the REVP and the RO staff for organizing the evening.

In January I joined others at the Jericho Sailing Centre and watched a round of people speak about why the Kitsilano Coast Guard Station should not be closed. It was very informative and there was representation from all political parties except one. "Gees with One" Despite being asked to attend, no one from that party came. We now we know that the Federal Government shut down the station with no notice to its employees, general public or even the city of Vancouver. All I ask is, 'How much is a life worth, Mr. Harper?'

In February I attended a BRUSH meeting at the Vancouver Regional Office. As with all BRUSH meetings, I found the meeting informative.

On February 14, I was involved and joined by seven other members from the BC Mainland Human Right Committee for the annual march honouring the missing and murdered women of BC. This again is a very moving event to participate in.

In March, I attended the CCPA Annual Fundraising dinner with other PSAC members. This event was overwhelmingly attended by many in the labour community and other supporters of the CCPA. The dinner also included guest speaker Joel Bakan. At issue was the fact that the CCPA is advocating for information to be published and reviewed. If changed, this will be a good thing.



Challenges I'm Facing:

I've been trying really hard to get things moving with the BCMainland Human Rights Committee, but it has been difficult as I have been away often over the last few months. However, I am going to try and reach out to the active Committee members via e-mail more frequently now. I have found this communications method successful with the Donations Committee.

What I Plan to Work On This Year:

I am looking forward to a certain provincial political party "CRUSHING" the other political parties in the next couple months. I am also looking forward to working with all the other access reps from all over the country in the next year and beyond.

In Solidarity my friends,

Tracy Shudo



PSAC PRIDE Equity Coordinator - Paul Croes

Report to the B.C. Regional Council

Activities Since the Last B.C. Regional Council Meeting	
Activity	How it fulfilled my role on the Council
I attended the first National Human Rights Committee conference in Ottawa	It was a very exciting and informative meeting with some members of the committee having misgivings on the structure.
Co-Chair of the Multi Union Pride group for Vancouver and New West PRIDE's with Henry Patrie and George Tomlinson	In discussions on the entry for PRIDE 2013
I was able to secure items for festivals to be given to members.	To facilitate communication with our members and get more buy-in.
I attended the Leadership Summit in Ottawa	To facilitate better communication between the leaders in PSAC.
Sat in the House of Commons visitor gallery when the TRANS bill C-279 was passed	A very emotional, exciting and historic event.

Challenges you had to cope with since the last meeting:

Funding was a challenge and making sure all items are at the parade and festival and not locked up in the office.

What would you like to work on next?

- I am working on next year's listing of Pride Parade and festival listings.
- To be able to better organize participation in as many events as possible with the least impact to our budget

A short report as the winter months are traditionally very quiet for PRIDE events.

Paul Croes

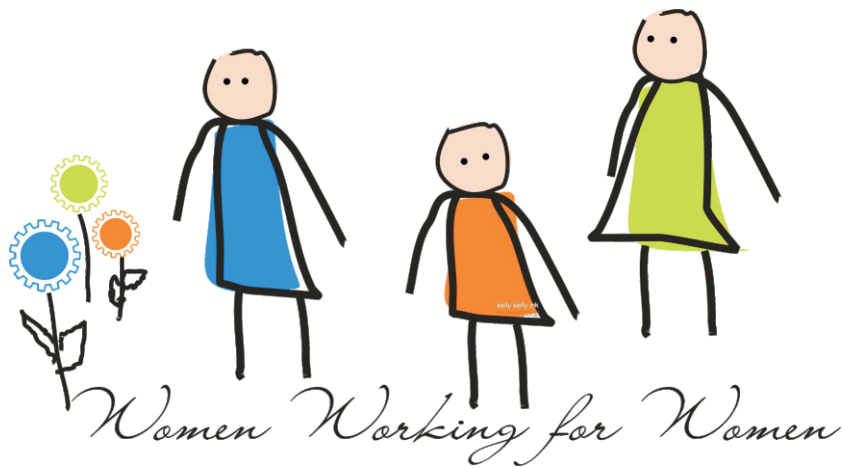
paul.croes@gmail.com

604-329-0600

Kelly Megyesi

BC Women's Coordinator Report

November 2012 to
March 2013



Special Moments

- Nelson AGM/ able to persuade local from folding March 2013
- WFA strategy to show "We Care" developed at district meeting March 2013
- Being thanked for my contribution National Women's meetings Dec. 2012

Challenges

- Problems with support on BC Regional Women's Conference
- WFA issues
- Suspension of BC Regional Member activist

Activism

ASPAR St John's Dignity for All Toxic Oil, Idle no More, Azza Hilal Ahmad Suleiman still-waiting-for-justice, etc

Training/Education

- Webinar – Amnesty Have a Heart www.fncaresociety.com/have-a-heart
- Web training – Aboriginal Awareness (Career College)
- Restorative Justice – Community AGM and Circle
- Aboriginal Panel – Ottawa – Human Rights Meetings

Events

Leadership Summit – December 2012. Asked to speak in one of the workshops. It was a well organized event and a great opportunity to learn and network.

National Human Rights Meetings – Hard work but again very important for identifying issues and solutions for the equity groups. The women's committee developed the National Conference theme – "Telling our Story". We are looking forward to being a part of the November 2013 National Human Rights Conference.

BC Fed Convention – Assisted with registration. Spoke on a Women's evening panel on Work Force Adjustment and the effects on women.

Projects

Organized a "We Are All Affected Session" – over 75 participants for a 1 day workshop on Workplace Bullying, Building Community, & We Are All Affected. Hosted by PSAC Okanagan. <http://psacbc.com/area-councils/photos-we-are-all-affected-event-vernon>

BC Women's Regional Conference – "PSAC Women Hold More than Half the Sky" May 3-5, 2013. Committee is hard at work. Special thank you to Heather Dudoward for agreeing to join our committee and help us develop our aboriginal theme. We encourage you to spread the word as we are looking for a strong application base to develop new activist and further develop our current activists. Bringing in members through the women's program is very important for our future and we are looking to regional council to play a key role in promoting the conference. <http://psacbc.com/psac-bc-regional-womens-conference-may-3-5-2013>

International Women's Day – attended events in Vancouver and Prince George as well as organizing sponsorship for events in Penticton, Kelowna, & Vernon. Enjoyed meeting the North Women's Committee and after listening to amazing speakers spent the day participating in their AGM, working with them on the upcoming Women's conference and later touring the University of Prince George (including the women's centre and aboriginal centre). Thank you to Cheryl Oenema for the Vancouver invitation and Patt Holmes for the Prince George invitation. <http://www.psac.com/news/2013/what/20130307-e.shtml>

Community

- As part of our WAAA workshop planning a number of meetings between local unions were set-up. With Maria-Luiza Romano (PSAC Okanagan Human Rights) & myself we met with many different unions - CUPW, CEIU, BCGEU, HEU, COPE, AGRU, UTE, UNE.
- Amnesty – Annual letter writing campaign
- Alternative Gift Fair

Interesting

At a family friend's 100th birthday in March – she became one of 5823 Canadians in the 100 & over club. It was interesting to note 83% are women !!

Upcoming in the Spring

- Regional Committee Best Practices Discussion & Workshop
- Component President's Conference
- Atlantic Women's Conference



Respectfully submitted



PSAC Coordinator for Youth - Erica Yang
 Report to the B.C. Regional Council

Activities Since the Last B.C. Regional Council Meeting	
Activity	How it fulfilled my role on the Council
BCFED Young Worker Standing Committee Meeting - January 9, 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BC Federation of Labour YWC executive election • Representing PSAC
VAC Meeting - February 7, 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representing young workers • I am the secretary of the VAC • Get an update on what's going on which may affect young workers in BC
PSAC BC Vancouver Island Young Worker Committee meeting - Feb. 28, 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Election of Officers • Terms of Reference adopted • Formally recognized with an official charter and \$500 startup funds • Update on AEC proposal and approved budget for 2013 • 2013 planning
BC Mainland Young Worker Committee Meeting - March 7, 2013	(See previous)
BCFED Young Worker Standing Committee monthly meeting - March 13, 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camp Jubilee planning • Child and labour minimum wage recommendation • Representing PSAC



Activities Since the Last B.C. Regional Council Meeting	
Activity Scheduled in the Near Future	How it will fulfilled my role on the Council (More details and final results to be provided once event has taken place)
Young Worker On-line Survey - TBA, Summer 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Figure out what young workers in the federal public service really care about • Use the survey results for future events and training planning
Vancouver Island Young Worker Committee meeting & dinner - TBA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Routine quarterly meeting • Outreach to the young workers in the north part of Vancouver Island • 2013 event planning
BC Mainland Young Worker Committee meeting - April 24, 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Routine quarterly meeting • Review survey questions • Determine what to cover on our resident course and what events to have in the summer
PSAC BC Advanced Union School - June 4-7, 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young workers are encouraged to apply and attend
BCFED 2013 Camp Jubilee - June 14-16, 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no specific money allocated to this event, but since PSAC is affiliated with the BCFED, we encourage all members who are under 30 to attend • Awesome networking and learning experience • Advanced political action courses may be offered
Resident YW Course, 1.5-2 days, which targets existing YWC executives and out of area YW contacts - TBA, Fall 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of the 2013 proposal to the AEC • Demand from the 2012 YW conference • An important part of young worker outreach



Challenges you had to cope with since the last meeting:

- General lack of interest and participation from the members
- Workers losing their jobs, especially the younger members

What would you like to work on next?

- Through the result from the upcoming young worker survey, YWC shall hold workshops and events that young workers care about and are important to them
- YWC's logo design
- Hold events at different locations, i.e. Vancouver Island, Fraser Valley and the Interior. Outreach to young workers who are not in the Lower Mainland
- Cosponsor events with other constituencies
- Piggy-back and take on existing causes that are important to young workers, i.e. \$10 a day child care, alive after 5, and minimum wage campaign, etc.
- Go out to the community - cosponsor events with different community organizations, i.e. BBQ fundraiser events for the Covenant House or wine & cheese night for living donors
- Continue relationship building with different major young worker/worker networks (Governexx, Avant Garde, Ymagine, etc.) in the public service
- Myth buster flyer and revise and reprint of YW engagement material



PSAC Coordinator for DCL/Small Separate Employers - Jason Salchert
Report to the B.C. Regional Council

This report was not received in time to be included in this compilation of Coordinator Reports.



PSAC National Officers Coordinator - Nic Humphreys
Report to the BC Regional Council

A National Officers meeting was tentatively scheduled in conjunction with the spring Regional Council meeting. However, with the addition of the Area Council meetings it was felt that it would be difficult to also add a National Officers meeting so the meeting was cancelled. It is hoped that there will be an opportunity to hold a National Officers meeting in conjunction with the fall meeting of the Regional Council.

Provincial Election

At the last National Officers meeting, Brother Jim Sinclair **BC Federation of Labour President** addressed the National Officers on the upcoming by-elections in Port Moody and Hope-Chilliwack, suggesting that we need to send a message to the BC Liberals through these votes, and to more specifically communicate what this vote is about. As everyone knows, we were successful in sending that message to the BC Liberals. The upcoming general provincial election is even more important to the citizens of British Columbia, and there will be communications coming forward from myself and the PSAC Regional Office detailing how the National Officers can get involved in the election to ensure the BC Liberals really get the message.

RAND Formula

While there seems to be an almost endless number of issues that are important to our union and our membership the latest attacked by the Harper government on the RAND formula has to be one of our most urgent. All National Officers have been encouraged to attend as many of the upcoming Regional Meetings to Launch Plan Against Government Attacks.

The PSAC National Board of Directors is putting in motion a new, unprecedented plan to push back these attacks and build our union member by member. PSAC Local leaders are requested to attend a day-long meeting to discuss the plan and to receive special training on how to organize our members to respond to the latest Conservative threats facing PSAC members.

We have scheduled three meetings in BC. To RSVP for the meeting(s), please go to <http://bit.ly/bcfightback>



The three meetings have been scheduled as follows:

- April 19 in Kelowna - encompassing Locals and members from the Southern Interior
- April 22 in Victoria - encompassing Locals and members from Vancouver Island
- April 26 in Surrey - encompassing Locals and members from the Lower Mainland, Fraser Valley, and Northern BC

All three meetings are scheduled from 10AM to 3PM. We will have an agenda and full details soon.

Nic Humphreys

National Officer Coordinator – BC PSAC Regional Council



Committee Reports



PSAC BC Regional Council Environment Committee
Report to the B.C. Regional Council - March 2013

The Environment Committee has decided that “WATER” will be the priority for the committee, as it encompasses most of the environmental issues of the day and gives the committee a bit more focus. Committee discussions will ensue at the next Regional Council meeting as to whether or not include “WATER” in the terms of reference of the committee or not. The Terms of Reference have always been considered a fluid document from the inception of the committee, so any future committee could remove “WATER” if they felt it to be inappropriate or too contributing.

At the last meeting the committee put forward a document titled “Water Secretariat” (*revised copy attached Appendix 1*), which talks about getting a “Secretariat” formed within the provincial government that promoted the sustainable use of water in British Columbia and also how important it is to keep water public to ensure its quality and that having a sustainable water supply was advantageous to us economically. The document was also brought forward to the AEC by Bob Jackson for endorsement which was obtained (*Appendix 2*). The committee will continue to promote the idea of water sustainability.

Rainwater Management

As part of making water a priority the committee would like to introduce and promote the initiative of **urban water management**. A very good publication that addresses most aspects of managing urban water and on the committee would like to recommend is:



[Peeling Back the Pavement: A Blueprint for Reinventing Rainwater Management in Canada's Communities](#)



Disconnecting Downspouts

An initiative that is being promoted in various cities in North America is to have urban building and households disconnect their rainwater downspouts, to divert this water into rain gardens, household gardens, and yards or into rain barrels to collect the water.

This is a simple but effective way for everyone across the province to get involved in doing something to protect British Columbia's water. Two of cities where this water diversion is being promoted and encouraged Seattle, Portland and Toronto. In Portland they actually pay you to disconnect your downspout, the water then flows out into yard and permeates down into the water table, instead of into storm drains causing flooding and beach erosion. In Toronto they have made the disconnection of downspouts mandatory:

Mandatory Downspout Disconnection

Everyone benefits from downspout disconnection

Rainwater runs off a roof, flows through the eaves troughs and discharges either onto the property (if the downspout is already disconnected) or into a downspout that carries it directly into the sewer system. During heavy rainfall, if the downspout is connected, the sewers become overloaded, increasing the risk of basement flooding and releasing polluted rainwater into our local waterways.

To help deal with the problem, the City has made downspout disconnection mandatory, city-wide. It is being introduced in three phases, beginning with the central area of the city, where storm water and sanitary drainage are combined into a single pipe.

- [Combined sewer](#)
- [Separated sewer](#)

Disconnecting your downspouts will help reduce the amount of storm water sent through the sewer system. Less storm water can help prevent wastewater from backing up and thus reduce your risk of basement flooding.



Using less water, keeping rainwater on your property and managing what and how much goes into our storm sewer system means you are protecting your home and the



environment at the same time. One way to do this is to plant a water-efficient, natural garden. For tips to get started, consult the City's [water-efficient landscaping](#) information.

There is a real appetite among municipalities in British Columbia to look at new ways of managing rainwater and runoff. When the disconnection of downspouts was recommended as an option to the Victoria municipal council as something that should be promoted by the city the proposal was welcomed. The city was planning to charge residents an extra tax for wastewater management, now the proposal is tax reductions if you disconnect your downspouts.

Sister Be Gomes has installed rain barrels at her house in Terrace and has the municipal council coming out to view her system as a possible initiative to promote within the city. The use of rain gardens to control, filter and clean run off water is another concept that is starting to be recognized as a solution.

Practical information on disconnecting downspouts can be found at:

<http://marc.org/environment/Water/downspout.htm>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BNJ0mH4_M9M

We would like to encourage all Regional Council members to promote this “Disconnect Downspouts” initiative within their own homes, communities and with their constituents.

Environment Committee
B.C. PSAC Regional Council

Terri Lee
Be Gomes
Jason Salchert
Roberta Gourlie
Nic Humphreys



Appendix 1

Fresh Water Secretariat

Summary

That a Secretariat be formed consisting of a branch of the Premier's office; responsible for fresh water and having the ability to connect with every ministry when policy or projects touch on fresh water issues in British Columbia.

Be it drinking water, fish, agriculture or industry, fresh water will be at the heart of the Secretariat's planning and thinking. Any such initiative would of course take into account the aboriginal and treaty rights of First Nations.

The Secretariat will be a concrete manifestation of the NDP government's commitment to a sustainable BC.

The Fresh Water Secretariat will be much more than an advocacy office. It will be integral to the economy of BC and will also engage the public around the issue of a sustainable future and water management.

Proposal

- That a Fresh Water Secretariat be created as part of the NDP government structure
- That an MLA or credible senior civil servant who is willing to speak truth to power to become an expert in fresh water policy and take responsibility for the government's long term planning for BC's fresh water resources
- That the Secretariat not be cost-prohibitive & be kept small and nimble
- That the Secretariat be structured and empowered under new legislation

There are many policy-related reasons to create the Secretariat

1. In the future, water will become as important as oil is today. Ten years from now decisions around access to and control of water will move the public agenda and economic policy.
2. The loss of the Inland Navigable Waters Act, removal of the Habitat Protection from the Fisheries Act and the gutting of the Environmental Assessment Act in service to run of river dams, pipelines etc. has much broader ramifications than just the destruction of fish habitat.



3. When it comes to fresh water issues, the provincial government liaises with and balances multiple interests from many different ministries – the Ministries of the Environment, Agriculture, Industry, and Municipal & Community Services to name a few. The Secretariat will coordinate and connect with multiple sectors within government to ensure that policy is formed with sustainability first and foremost in mind.
4. The government must ensure that the use of BC's fresh water resources as an economic attractant for business take place in a sustainable and well-regulated manner. The government must also ensure that the proper regulatory frameworks and environmental assessment procedures are set up now, prior to BC's water resources becoming a highly sought after commodity.
5. There is a need to ensure that water remains a public resource, and to block the potential for sales of bulk water outside BC. British Columbians' access to fresh water must be protected under any future trade agreements that may be negotiated by the federal government.
6. Until now, water has not been defined as a commodity in Canadian or BC law. With Harper in power, there is a need to write progressive legislation regarding fresh water now. The provincial government should not wait until law or policy is dictated at a federal level but should establish precedents so that a stewardship agenda will dominate future discussions about fresh water.



Appendix 2

Letter of Support for Water Secretariat from the AEC

