

Report to Public Service Alliance of Canada

Re: BC Federation of Labour 57th Convention

Thank you for agreeing to sponsor me to attend the BC Federation of Labour's 57th Convention. It was my first time attending, and I am happy to provide a report on my activities.

Firstly if I might say, this was my first time at a Union event that included Unions from outside the CEIU or the PSAC. It was very enlightening, and a little intimidating, to see them and hear them speak. A lot of the union speakers were very passionate, and a lot of the topics were far from items I had even considered, as they do not really apply to my workplace, such as things that affect dockworkers. All the same, it was very interesting to see the way they communicate, and the way that their members interacted. It was inspiring.

I was with a large contingent not only from the PSAC, but I was also accompanied by a very large representation from my component, CEIU, specifically from the BC and Yukon region. We took up a large block of seats not far from the front, and CEIU stood out from the crowd in our matching green hoodies.

I was very impressed by the speech given by Mayor Jonathan Cote of New Westminster. He has a very forward-looking, positive outlook and was, to me, surprisingly labour friendly. I had not previously experienced that from a Mayor, which is why I felt I should mention it here. I know that every municipal election the PSAC comes out with a list of Mayors which are deemed union-friendly, however, in my experience, the Mayor for the City of North Vancouver is on that list, and there are many questionable ties between himself and big business/developers.

I attended the new delegate orientation, however, having already attended several different conferences and conventions with CEIU/PSAC, I didn't feel that there was any special added value. I did appreciate that the conference was collecting the soap, shampoo, lotions, and coffee from the hotel rooms if they were not being used by delegates in order to give them to the homeless, a very interesting initiative!

It was very moving when Irene Lanzinger spoke about the recent courtroom win for the BC Teachers!

I did stand to speak in favour of certain resolutions. Incidentally, there were not many "Con" speakers during this entire conference, save for one resolution made, in which one of the larger unions tried to limit the number of delegates that would be eligible based on the number of members of a local. This resolution caused a great uproar and was soundly defeated.

I was very interested in hearing the debate surrounding Resolution HR:10A Composite which covered HR 10 & 11 on ; which basically states that access to basic and essential services should be determined by need and not by migration status. As an Immigration officer, I felt it would be a conflict of interest to speak to this resolution but I did enjoy the debate and the perspectives offered by teachers, nurses and social workers. I abstained from voting on this resolution. The Committee recommended support and the resolution passed.

My special areas of interest at this Convention surrounded the Occupational Health portfolio, because it was there that resolutions in regards to mental health in the workplace & community were addressed, as well as return to work legislation, suicide, PTSD, trauma WCB and more. I am a self-disclosed member with a disability in mental health, and I felt compelled to speak in support of these matters. I also have

close friend who lost his son to the fentanyl crisis, so when a resolution was brought about that, I felt it imperative that I speak.

As for the teamwork aspect of the week, I felt that it was really beneficial for me to be exposed to more people from outside the PSAC/CEIU and to gain their perspective, and to see the similarities as well. I also felt it was a good networking event as I was able to bond with members and representative from other CEIU locals that I had never met and never had a chance to interact with or learn from. The PSAC 50th Anniversary happening during that week was an extra, bonus chance to network.

All in all, I thank you for the support that the PSAC has shown me in helping me to attend this event and learn from this opportunity.

In Solidarity,

Leslye Brown

President, CEIU Local 20938