

BC Federation of Labour Convention Report - Vanessa Miller

I had the opportunity to attend the BC Federation of Labour Convention from November 28 - Dec 2 2016. I was fortunate to receive funding from both the PSAC BC Region and my Component regionally to attend. I am grateful for this opportunity as there is always much to learn and discuss at these conventions.

This was the second BC Fed convention that I have had the opportunity to attend. At this convention I had the opportunity to be a part of the balloting committee and the campaign launch of the provincial election campaign. Balloting was less eventful as the only things that went to an election were the Equity caucus'. As a part of the balloting committee I was able to work with other affiliates representatives. I also was able to bring 3 additional people to the balloting committee when we did not have sufficient numbers.

I approached this convention in a different manner than the last. This convention two other young workers came from my local, in addition to many others from my component. It was very important to have the resolutions read, and a position on them as others were looking to me for advice and rationale when I was saying I support or don't support a resolution. It made me think for longer, and create a good argument for anything that I was doing or supporting as I had other watching what I was doing and modelling their own experiences after mine.

It was exciting to see the PSAC resolutions around CPP/OAS reach the floor. It was important for me to allow others from our caucus to be supported to get up to speak, and because of this I did not speak until later in the convention. However, I was able to review speeches that were written, give tips and help people practice in order to attempt to overcome nerves. I was able to get up and speak to the CPP resolution when it came up. It was important to me that I go up and spoke to this as I had worked in the. Program but also because I believe that the speeches given resonate more when the person speaking to it genuinely care about the issue.

I was also very interested in hearing from other delegates on issues such as the pipelines and the dichotomy of arguments between those who are "pro job" and those who are "pro environment". I felt this was especially important given the pending provincial election given the fact that jobs/ economy as an issue is often pitted against the environment. I was pleased with the campaign that was launched for the election. It was great to see the launch and being a part of the launch we got a bit more details. It was clear that we would be supporting a party, progressive candidates and that we would be putting people to work directly on campaigns in each of the ridings.

In addition as a member of the a young worker committee for the BC federation of labour I was able to reconnect with others who I participate in meetings with (over the phone) and make some new connections within the young worker group. I was also able to introduce PSAC young workers to members of the BC fed young workers committee and hope to continue to assist and facilitate the next group of young workers to get involve with the BC Fed.

Overall I felt that this was a very positive convention and it was a great opportunity to participate.

In solidarity,
Vanessa Miller

