

PSAC OKANAGAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE MEETING

June 27, 2015

Agenda

1. Minutes from last meeting
 2. Action items from last meeting
- New business
3. Attending conferences, meetings and other functions
 4. Info on PSAC Okanagan Human Rights Committee
 5. 2015 Canada's diversity - Canada's Best diversity employers
 6. Participation in campaigns
 7. Investments
 8. Donations
 9. Next Meeting
 10. Adjournment

Participants

Annette Hale
Kelly Megyesi
Maria-Luiza Romano

Regrets

Carolyn
Karen
Linda Woods
Shiv

Minutes

1. Minutes from last meeting

Maria-Luiza read the minutes of last meeting

2. Action items from last meeting

2.1 List of functions from PSAC and CLC for selling tickets for the quilts' raffle:

To have one OHRC member attending events promoted by PSAC BC and CLC to promote the raffle of the two quilts (Our Communities and Our Environment) and sell tickets during the events. One of four placemats will be raffled per event amongst the participants who bought tickets during that event.

Kelly to contact CLC and PSAC to learn about events and dates.

2.2 Building Communities and Poverty reduction:

Discussion during previous meeting on promoting a follow up on the 2013 event **Building Communities**. The event would focus on continuing the work on building communities, linking actions on poverty reduction to that.

The Metro Vancouver Alliance (MVA) developed a very comprehensive and successful approach to building communities. Information on the work of the MVA can be found at <http://www.metvanalliance.org/>

<http://www.vancouver.sun.com/touch/story.html?id=11174533>

Information on efforts for poverty reduction can be found at:

<http://www.who.int/trade/glossary/story075/en/>

<http://bcpovertyreduction.ca>

New Business

3. Attending conferences, meetings and other functions

3.1. Eliminating homelessness

Kelly attended the webinar **The Mayor who ended Homelessness** with Ted Clugston

<http://bcpovertyreduction.ca/tedclugston/>

The information/knowledge will be used on the future event on Building Communities and Poverty Reduction

3.2 RESULTS

Kelly and Maria-Luiza attended a meeting for RESULTS Canada, a non-partisan organization devoted to eliminate extreme poverty by 2020, through lobbying the federal government to:

-prioritize international development and increase aid spending and to 0.7% of the Gross National Income (GNI), currently at 0.24% of the GNI.

-increase support for fighting diseases of poverty, including funding mechanisms to fight AIDS, Malaria, Tuberculosis and Polio.

-improve the lives of women and girls, focusing on water and sanitation, education and nutrition
RESULTS meets the second Wednesday of the month at Vernon Regional Library.

3.3 Amnesty International

Kelly attended two Amnesty meetings:

Violence against women in Canada - in Vernon

Stopping torture - at Turtle Bay Pub

Kelly provided a pamphlet issued by Amnesty International "2014 the year in Human Rights", pictured below:



3.4 Pride events in Kelowna

The OHRC is willing to participate in Pride events in the Okanagan

Kelly to contact Darrell-Lee and ask for more information on Pride events. Information will be distributed to members willing to participate.

3.5 National Aboriginal Day

Kelly attended the National Aboriginal day celebrations (June 21st) in Vancouver.

3.6 Aston Waikiki Beach Hotel Workers protest

Annette participated in a protest in Waikiki (while on holidays) in support of Aston Waikiki Beach Hotel workers asking for the right to form an Union; and to have meaningful consultation with management which is refusing to talk to the workers. She spoke to them about her experience with PSAC and on everybody having the right to be treated respectfully.

4. Info on PSAC Okanagan Human Rights Committee

Kelly to do one paragraph blurb on OK Human Rights committee to provide info on our committee and invite people to participate. The blurb will be sent to Patrick Bragg (PSAC BC) who will create a link on the PSAC BC home page to the OHRC, informing our meetings dates & posting of the minutes from previous meetings.

<http://psacbc.com/our-organization/human-rights-committees>

5. 2015 Canada's diversity - Canada's Best diversity employers

Kelly talked about diversity and Canada's best employers:

"Canada is rich not only in the abundance of our resources and the magnificence of our land, but also the diversity and the character of our people."

6. Participation in campaigns

Kelly wrote a letter on behalf of the OHRC to Chris Alexander - Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, regarding a petition on change.org on Bill C-24. The bill will expand grounds for stripping Canadian citizenship of individuals who have dual citizenship and are allegedly accused of any activity linked to "terrorism".

7. Investments

Annette presented an update on our investment to supports KIVA borrowers:

To date, \$108.00 has been paid back on previous investments, with 2 borrowers still paying back as scheduled.

Motion to re-invest \$100.00 to two new borrowers (\$50.00 each) presented by Annette and seconded by Kelly was approved.

8. Donations

8.1 Current donations

Following a discussion about donations, a motion (presented by Kelly and seconded by Maria-Luiza) was approved for the donation of \$150.00 (one hundred and fifty dollars) divided as follows:

Local reach - the recipient of \$50.00 (fifty dollars) will be Amnesty Vernon

<http://www.amnestyvernon.ca>

Provincial reach - the recipient of \$50.00 (fifty dollars) will be CCPA - BC Chapter

<https://www.policyalternatives.ca>

Canada reach - the recipient of \$50.00 (fifty dollars) will be INDSPiRE

<http://www.indspire.ca>

Kelly will mail the cheques along with a blurb about the PSAC OHRC.

8.2 Future donation(s)

Maria-Luiza proposed a future donation of funds to the UNHCR - The UN Refugee Agency.

8.3

9. Next meeting

OHRC next meeting will happen Sept 12, 2015 from 10:00-12:00 via conf call.

Participants in the areas of Vernon and Penticton are encouraged to get together in one place to join the call.

10. Adjournment

12:00

