

Report of
National Officer Representative
PSAC BC Regional Council
September, 2011
Nic Humphreys

I would like to start off this report thanking all the national officers for allowing me to continue as their representative on the BC PSAC Regional Council. In August the UEW members from BC/Yukon also gave me the honor of acclamation for the RVP position.

This report covers most of my activities since my last report in March 2011. I have only included those that are directly or indirectly related to my position on the BC regional council. I have been elected to the executive of the Victoria Labour Council and in that role I chair the political action committee and act as the liaison between the council and the provincial and federal NDP riding associations. Until our meeting of the regional council in October I am the chair of the regional council *political action* committee, co-chair of the *finance committee*, sit on the BCFed *climate change committee* and sometime on the BCFed *political action committee*.

Harper Attacks on Public Service

It didn't take long for Harper's agenda to be apparent at least in the departments that I represent. Over 700 federal government workers given WFA letters at Environment Canada, programs cut and environmental services cut. At Fisheries and Oceans 86 million in cuts, closing of search and rescue centers and more WFA. The PSAC has started a fight back campaign, which I encourage every component to get involved in.

<http://www.pfac-afpc.com/federal-budget/>

It was the WFA letters that were received by my members that prompted me to send an email out to the national officers more than 3 weeks ago concerning WFA. In the email I encouraged the formation of WFA committees and for locals to educate themselves around the WFA directive. The link below from the PSAC gives some very useful information

WFA

http://www.pfac-afpc.com/documents/WFA_Book_02-16-11-E.pdf

I also asked that the national officers either contact me or the regional office about education requirements for locals on WFA.

We, Bob Jackson REVP, Joanna Schultz regional coordinator PSAC and I have been discussing the need for a conference call with the national officers in September to plan a national officers meeting for the early fall. The focus of the meeting would be:

- 1) *Educating the national officers around WFA.*
- 2) *How best to deliver that education to the membership.*

I will be in touch with the national officers hopefully the first or second week in September about scheduling a conference call.

Bargaining

Bargaining is a never ending process within the PSAC. At Treasury board we have the TC and FB groups at the table. At the separate employer table we have Parks Canada and CFIA is bargaining with the Agency. I had the opportunity on Sept. 1 to meet with the Gail Lem negotiator with the TC group as Gail was out on Vancouver Island meeting with the TC members at their worksites. Gail updated Victoria area activists on TC negotiations at a special meeting at the regional office. Negotiations are moving slowly and of course TB has so far offered little and is asking for concessions. Bargaining will not be easy this round for any of our groups but a dedicated team back by engaged members should be able to achieve an agreement that we find acceptable.

Health and Safety Forum

This is a reminder that the PSAC has issued an invitation to the 2011 PSAC National Health and Safety Forum which will be held in Ottawa November 22-23, 2011. I expect that I will see a number of the national officers from BC at the event.

The deadline for receipt of names of members interested in participating is **October 7, 2011.**

Federal Lab Privatization

At the last PSAC convention a resolution was passed to build a campaign to fight Federal Lab Privatization. National officers have been encouraged to ask their members to come forward with statements from their members that outline the work they do within Federal labs and the overall work that is accomplished within Federal labs. Information that has been sent to me has been forwarded to the PSAC.

Component/PSAC Campaigns

The components and the PSAC have at any given time several campaigns on the go. The lobby efforts continue on behalf of the membership, through the CLC and the Victoria Labour Council, the Victoria Area Council and the PSAC. National officers that have campaigns of campaign idea's that they want to share or need assistance on please let me know and I will bring these forward to the regional council.

Campaigns



Justice for Aboriginal Peoples – It's time

The *Justice for Aboriginal Peoples* initiative is the next step in raising awareness about Aboriginal rights including putting pressure on the federal government to do the right thing.



PSAC federal budget fightback

The spending freeze announced in the 2010 federal budget will result in job and service cuts if we do not mobilize powerful and effective opposition on the ground.

Stamp out privatization at Canada Post



The Public Service Alliance of Canada and its component, the Union of Postal Communications Employees (UPCE), are engaged in an important campaign to protect the valuable public services that Canada Post provides to all Canadians.

[Hands off our pensions](#)



PSAC members are up in arms over media reports and right-wing lobby group campaigns to recoup the federal deficit on the backs of public service employees.

[Pension Grab: Another Government Plunder](#)

PSAC and other federal public service unions took the then-Liberal government to court over 1999 changes to the Public Sector Investment Board Act which allowed it to expropriate \$30 billion from the federal superannuation fund.

[Food safety first](#)

The federal government is failing on food safety. It's time to fix the food inspector shortage.

Stephen Harper is dragging his feet when it comes to making our food safe. [FoodSafetyFirst.ca](#) has given the federal government a failing grade on food inspection and enforcement. You can see the report card here.

[Defending quality public services](#)

From the Atlantic to the Pacific and from the Northern territories down to the US border, common values link the communities that make up our society. Our public services are the tools we have collectively given ourselves to achieve our common ideal – a fair, equitable, safe and prosperous society respectful of the environment where no one is left out. [Read more](#)



[Our fish](#)

From wholesale closure of the cod fishery on the East coast resulting in losses to 27,000 northern cod fishers and the diminished work capacity of up to 100 processing plants to the millions of 'missing' sockeye on the Fraser River leading to fishery restrictions and closure, the continuing collapse of fish stocks puts the culture, livelihoods and ecological heritage of many people across Canada in jeopardy.

If this trend continues, in 50 years there won't be any fish in Canada's oceans and waters. Many more communities will suffer through job loss.

[AS Compensation Advisors](#)

Some 1700 PSAC members in the federal government work as Compensation and Benefits Advisors. These members deliver pay and benefits services to federal public sector workers from coast to coast to coast. The PSAC has been working with this group of members to address their long-standing

classification, training, recruitment, retention and workplace needs. Contact us with comments/questions or feedback at as-comp@psac-afpc.com.

Union Activities – March 13 2011-Sept. 1 2011

- VLC – Victoria Labour Council
- BC FED – British Columbia Federation of Labour
- BCRC – British Columbia Regional Council
- PA – Political Action
- CLC – Canadian Labour Congress

Date	Activity	Location
March 13	VLC Exec. Meeting	Victoria
March 16	VLC Gen. Meeting	Victoria
April 4	PA BCRC	Conf. Call
April 5	PA Area Council	Victoria
April 7-9	BCRC	Vancouver
April 28	Day of Mourning	Langford
May 7-11	CLC Convention	Vancouver
May 11-16	BCRC Convention	Vancouver
May 16	VLC Exec. Meeting	Victoria
May 18	VLC Gen. Meeting	Victoria
May 26	BC FED – HST	Conf. Call
May 27	BC FED Climate Change	Vancouver
June 2	NDP Fund R. VLC	Victoria
June 8	BC FED PA meeting	Vancouver
June 13	VLC	Victoria
June 15	VLC	Victoria
June 20	RC Election Strategy	Conf. Call
June 26	NDP Nomination Meeting	Sidney
June 29	OURFISH	Vancouver
Aug. 15-19	UEW Convention	Victoria
Aug. 22	VLC Municipal Elections	Victoria
Sept. 5	Labour Day Picnic	Victoria