

**Report of the
Regional Executive Vice-President
BC Region
to the
BC Regional Council
October 20 - 22 , 2011**

BC Regional Convention

On behalf of all the members in BC, I would like to thank Kay for her commitment to the Union and the principles we stand for and for her tireless work for the membership. We wish her the very best in her future endeavors.

BC Regional Council

The new council, a diverse mix of experience and new energy, was elected at Convention and I look forward to working with all our 22 council members to build on the work done by those that have come before us.

Political Action

Visibility in the workplace and community

As the new REVP, I have committed to making the Union more visible, both in our members' worksites and communities. Over the summer period I've spent as much time as possible attending Local and Committee meetings, Component Conventions, lunch and learns and bargaining info sessions, and, in conjunction with our Think Public campaign, community events and festivals.

I spent a week visiting worksites on Vancouver Island, meeting with members in Victoria, Nanaimo, Courtenay, and CFB Esquimalt, and also spent several days touring worksites in the Okanagan. I also spent time with Gail Lem, PSAC Negotiator, meeting with members of the TC group on Vancouver Island: this was a valuable experience as we move forward with bargaining for that group. I hope to continue these types of activities as much as my schedule allows.

We have also created what will become a regular series of video messages that touch on various issues, designed to engage, mobilize, and educate the membership in BC. The videos are available on the web at www.vimeo.com/psacbc

Summer Campaign

With the assistance of Area Councils and activists, the BC region mounted the popular “Think Public!” summer campaign for the third year. Staff and activists hosted displays and booths at summer events and festivals in the Lower Mainland, including the Vancouver Pride and Surrey Fusion Festivals, which were extremely well attended.

Members spoke to the public about the value of strong, quality public services and public pensions and gathered signatures on the No Cuts petition. The public were also invited to play “Spot The Public Services” – a game designed to educate and inform around the variety and importance of the work our members perform. Three typical summer scenes are displayed on large posters and people are invited to point out how and where public services play a part in their enjoyment of summertime activities.

The campaign wrapped up on Labour Day as the Victoria and East/West Fraser Valley Area councils celebrated along with other Unions at picnics in Abbotsford and Victoria. PSAC presence was strong.

Cohen Inquiry

UEW and PSAC BC’s participation at the Cohen Inquiry, one of the regional components to the “Our Fish” campaign, continues. The campaign is designed to raise public awareness around under-funding and under-staffing at DFO and to encourage recommendations that will positively impact funding levels.

Much of the discussion and media attention has centered on the aquaculture industry, however Nic Humpreys, UEW RVP for BC, and I placed an OpEd in the Vancouver Sun highlighting some of the testimony the Commission has heard around the lack of funding at DFO and calling increased funding.

The last of many consultations are taking place now and final written submissions will be made in October. We are encouraged by the fact that many of the other participant groups are also taking the position that DFO lacks the funding necessary to properly carry out its mandate.

No Cuts Fightback

Members in BC are actively participating in the national fightback campaign and we have created region-specific magnets and buttons designed for use in raising awareness and visibility in their workplaces. These have been distributed at meetings and events throughout the province. Members have also been actively engaged in signing the petition and a series of large-scale plant gate events is under way in the Lower Mainland and Victoria.

CEIU Local 20961 in Vancouver is bearing the brunt of the cuts at EI and deteriorating conditions at the workplace. With assistance from the Regional Office they have organized two “No Cuts” lunchtime rallies. Members from throughout downtown Vancouver joined them, along with Peter Julian, the MP for Burnaby-New Westminster. Members of the Local are also actively engaged in lobbying and have met with many of the MPs in the Lower Mainland, almost all of whom have taken an interest in this issue as it directly affects the public in their constituencies. NDP MPs have committed to bring the issue up at caucus meetings and in parliament.

In conjunction with Nic Humpreys, I attended a meeting with Environment Canada to discuss the cuts that were announced in early August. We also met with members and ensured them PSAC would enforce their rights under the WFA to the utmost extent.

Food Safety First

In July we held a joint press conference with the Agriculture Union, designed to highlight the planned devolution of meat inspection to provincial regulators, the deficiencies in provincial regulations, and the risks to the public. Media interest in this story was high and provincial governments and CFIA are coming under pressure to reconsider this plan.

HST / Provincial Election

PSAC BC participated in the BC Federation of Labour NO to HST campaign by mailing material to the entire membership in the province and encouraging members to get involved with the broader campaign. Members also participated in the New Media Bootcamp, an innovative online activists’ training module offered by the BC Fed.

The HST was defeated, giving the BC Liberal Government a black eye in the process. The provincial election which almost everyone thought would be held this fall has now been pushed back to 2013.

Health and Safety

Planning for the next Regional Health and Safety Conference, scheduled for spring 2012 is underway – the organizing committee has been struck and a venue is now booked. In the run-up to the Conference, 3 Health and Safety courses have scheduled for BC this fall, and interest in these has already been high.

Education

The region’s fall education program is underway: courses have been scheduled throughout the province and many of them are already almost fully subscribed.

Equity

Pride

In conjunction with our summer Think Public campaign, PSAC BC marched with and participated in Pride events in Vancouver, Victoria, and Surrey this year.

Young Workers

The PSAC BC Young Workers Caucus has been very active: within the broader labour movement, attending the Summer Institute for Union Women and the Camp Jubilee weekend retreat for young workers sponsored by the BC Federation of Labour and within the PSAC, organizing a film night and a barbecue social event. The Caucus now consists of almost 100 members throughout the province. They plan to add to this number and have created tool for Local Executive members designed to assist with recruitment and outreach as well as a brochure for young workers themselves.

Renovations

The Vancouver Regional Office is currently undergoing much-needed renovations. The meeting room facilities will be upgraded and enlarged, providing a better environment for weekend courses and Local and Committee meetings, and office areas will also be overhauled, providing a more modern and collaborative environment for the staff to carry out their work. We are also working with the building management to improve exterior signage. Renovations are expected to be complete in November.

This concludes my first report as Regional Executive Vice-President for British Columbia, in Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Jackson', with a large, stylized initial 'B'.

Bob Jackson
Public Service Alliance of Canada
Regional Executive Vice President, BC

ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS

October 4-7, 2011

	MAY 2010	
Date(s)	Event	Location
May 13-15	B.C. Regional Convention	Vancouver
May 16-18	AEC meeting	Ottawa
May 26	BC Federation of Labour	Vancouver
May 30	AEC meeting	Ottawa
May 31	NboD meeting	Ottawa
	JUNE 2011	
June 1-3	NboD meeting	Ottawa
June 13	BC Federation of Labour - CAW strike	
June 14	National Public Service Week tradeshow	
June 14	Victoria Area Council meeting	Victoria
June 15	UEW 20729 Lunch & Learn	
June 18	Langley Parade - Mark Wawara	Langley
June 19	Car Free Days on Commercial Drive, Think Public	Vancouver
June 21	BRUSH meeting	Vancouver
June 22	ADLC BBQ	
June 24	Meeting with CCPA	Vancouver
June 27-28	AEC meeting	Ottawa
June 30	CEIU Lunch and Learn	Langley
	JULY 2011	
July 4	Meeting with CCPA	Vancouver
July 5-9	AEC Strategy Session	Quebec
July 11	BC Fed / United Way meeting	Vancouver
July 12	USGE Convention	Vancouver
July 14	USGE Convention	Vancouver
July 16-17	Surrey Fusion Festival, Think Public	Surrey
July 18	Rally for Public Services	Vancouver
July 19	BC Federation of Labour MP Consultation	Vancouver
July 20	Worksite visits (INAC)	Vancouver

July 25-29	Leave	
July 27	AEC conference call	
	AUGUST 2011	
August 9	VDLC Labour Cabaret, Think Public	Vancouver
August 10	Food Safety First Press Conference	Vancouver
August 16	UEW Convention	Victoria
August 17-19	AGR Convention	Vancouver
August 22-26	Worksite Tours	Courtenay, Nanaimo, Victoria
	SEPTEMBER 2011	
September 1	TC worksite tour and meeting	Victoria
September 2	Young Worker Caucus, CoDevelopment Canada meetings	
September 5	Fraser Valley Labour Day picnic	Abbotsford
September 7	AEC conference call	
September 6-8	Worksite tours	South Okanagan
September 12-16	Leave	
September 19-20	AEC meeting	Ottawa
September 26-29	Worksite tours	North Okanagan
Sept 30 to October 2	Aboriginal People's Conference	Yellowknife