

Vancouver and District Area Council Annual General Meeting – February 3, 2016

In Attendance:

Jamey Mills (UTE 20027), Todd Smith (AGR 20044), Sharon Tieman (UPCE 20101), Aaron Chang (CEIU 20938), Wendy Bruce (CEIU 20937), Shane Polak (UVAE 20045), Christine Aw Yeong (AGR 20044), Monica Angell (CEIU 20937), Vic Johal (MHRC), Lorraine Gates (UTE 20027), Jennifer Horsley (UPCE 20095), Kieran Kennedy (UTE 20027), Dennis Wong (UTE 20027), Sandra Wasilewski (CEIU 20949), Jessica Gray (CEIU 20949), Theresa Marion (UNE 20150), Bowinn Ma (UCTE 20221), Monica Urrutia (PSAC Staff), Tyler Churchman (ASL Interpreter)

Regrets:

Terri Lee (AGR 20044), Cheryl Oenema (UCTE 20219), Calvin Smith (CEIU 20939), Jessica Kerek (CIU 20040), Crystal Warner (CEIU 20974), Marcel Hanson (UTE 20027), Sylvie Martin (CEIU 20951), Ruby Langan (UNE 20150)

Meeting Called to Order at 5:40 PM

Agenda:

1. Approve Prior AGM Minutes (October 23, 2014)/ Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting (November 17, 2015)
2. President's Report
3. Treasurer's Report
 - Financials 2015
 - Budget 2016
4. Affiliate Reports (3 minutes per local)
5. Elections
6. Annual Plan
 - MP Lobby
7. Next Meeting
8. Business Arising
9. Round Table

Adopt Agenda (M/S/C) Todd/Wendy

Prior AGM minutes (October 23, 2014) (M/S/C) Jen/Jamey

Prior Meeting minutes (November 17, 2015) (M/S/C) Jen/Jamey

Report of the Vancouver and District Area Council President – Jamey Mills - (M/S/C)
Jamey/Shane

I feel a significant need to thank everyone for their concerted efforts the past year. Locals, Components, the PSAC and Canadians in general asked a lot from everyone last year in

defeating the Conservatives. Unlike the several meetings prior to this it is with great pride that I can say our hard work has finally paid off.

Many of you worked hard for progressive candidates either through the PSAC Member to Member campaign, directly for candidates or helping out via community events such as the Metro Vancouver Alliance's member assembly or all candidates meetings to name a few.

Unfortunately, the work is not done. While this new government is coming out as progressive and is in fact making positive changes for the Labour movement, we need to make new relationships with many MPs, solidify the ones that currently exist and hold all to account.

Long before this meeting was scheduled members in this region and throughout Canada were talking about "What Next?" and the resounding response was an MP lobby. Based on what I have heard there has not been a major PSAC lobby in 10 years or more due to the nature of the prior government, majority or not. Tonight we will be asking for assistance in bringing forward our issues to the new government. We want those in power to know the issues we have with the current round of bargaining, protecting our sick leave, repealing legislation that diminishes health and safety in our workplaces and ensuring budgets can achieve mandates that serve ALL Canadians in the manner they expect and many other issues.

Sisters and Brothers, we have made serious gains with the work we have done. We have seen that this government is willing to be reasonable by getting rid of Bills 377 and 525 which had major impacts on how we organize and how we spend our money. We are an organization filled with grassroots activists that love a challenge. That challenge currently is to lobby this government in a way that best suites our activists and I hope we have some serious dialogue tonight on how we achieve that.

At the same time we need to celebrate our successes. I additionally look forward to hearing how we can better engage our members in both social and community aspects. We have many traditional events every year but likewise have new faces in the room. I hope to hear from everyone on how best we achieve this.

It has been an honour serving as your President during the past several years as I've watched many of us grow, myself included, as we rallied around common issues ultimately culminating in the defeat of the Harper regime. I will again be offering my name for President and hope for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamey Mills

Financial Report – (M/S/C) Sharon/Jamey

Sharon Tieman was given a card and gift for her years of service as Treasurer to the Area Council, this will be her last meeting with us as she has now retired. Sharon presented the financial report for the Vancouver Area Council for 2015. She presented the unaudited financial

statements and budget for the upcoming year. The financial statement audit was not completed due to unforeseen circumstances, but will be completed as soon as possible. Also noted in the budget, there is a Term Deposit that is coming due on March 12, 2016 which will be used to off-set the budget request, the proposal going forward to the REVPs office will be \$2000.00.

In the discussion around the budget a question came up about the PSAC Annual Support and how the National PSAC budget line item is divided. The Area Council allotment is divided amongst the 49 area councils, but an active council may get more funding. There is also a reserve for new area councils to be formed. We should as an area council be looking at putting resolutions forward to the next PSAC National Convention to increase funding to Area Councils in the budget.

Affiliate Reports

The floor was opened to Locals to make Affiliate Reports. We have received two written reports to be included in the minutes at this time.

UTE 20027

- office is moving to Terminal Ave Jan 2017 consolidating 3 offices
- no new news in bargaining, hoping for Feb dates
- AGM is Feb 17th, VP was vacated due to the retirement of long time activist Grant Inglis
- CRA is instituting a ban on small appliances, specifically fans and personal devices. The policy is being inconsistently rolled out in each office

UPCE 20095

- cuts continue, mostly by attrition,
- not filling vacated postings
- has a new steward in the Richmond facility

An item that continued to come up as an item of concern was Term Employees. Further discussion was added to the agenda.

Elections

President

Jamey Mills (N/S) Todd Smith/Jennifer Horsley – Acclaimed

1st Vice-President

Todd Smith (N/S) Shane Polak/Dennis Wong – Declined

Terri Lee (N/S) Jamey Mills/Vic Johal – Acclaimed

2nd Vice-President

Bowinn Ma (N/S) Jamey Mills/Dennis Wong – Declined

Aaron Chang (N/S) Todd Smith/Keiran Kennedy – Declined

Sandra Wasilewski (N/S) Jessica Gray/Vic Johal – Acclaimed

Secretary

Jennifer Horsley (N/S) Jamey Mills/Sharon Tieman – Acclaimed

Treasurer

Aaron Chang (N/S) Jamey Mills/Sandra Wasilewski – Acclaimed

Member at Large (3 Positions)

Todd Smith (N/S) Jamey Mills/Dennis Wong

Shane Polak (N/S) Bowinn Ma/Jennifer Horsley

Vic Johal (N/S) Todd Smith/Shane Polak

All three positions Acclaimed

Annual Plan

What events activities do we want to participate in or plan as a committee for 2016? Who will take the lead on these activities? This is an evergreen document, we can always add or subtract items depending on affiliate's interest.

May Day – May 1, 2016 – Todd and Jamey

Public Service Week Member Appreciation Softball Tournament – June 2016 - Jamey

Pride Parade – August 2016 (July 31st??) - Todd and Jen

Labour Day – September 3, 2016 - Shane and Jen

Aboriginal Day – June 21, 2016 – Check with Ruby Langan about date and participation

Area Council Barbeque – no date decided yet, will discuss at a later date

Other Suggestions:

Public Service Labour Fair – participated in the past, but the past few years union participation has not been welcomed

Vaiskhi Festival – Fraser Street in April/May

PSAC Young Workers Conference – November

Car Free Day – June 19 (Father’s Day)

MP Lobby

This was discussed at length at the Area Council & Political Action Summit that took place on January 29 & 30, 2016. The PSAC wants activists to Lobby their MPs between now and the release of the budget in March. We have 11 MPs in our catchment area, only 1 is a Conservative, several NDP and a lot of new Liberal MPs, including the Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould and Defense Minister Harjit Singh Sajjan. We are being encouraged to speak to our MPs about issues around Collective Bargaining, the repeal of Bill C-4, affordable housing and childcare. Another idea that came out of the summit was to have an MP come to the Area Council for a “back & forth” discussion about how best to approach an MP and what sort of questions are good to ask. We had thought that inviting a “friendly” MP such as Jenny Kwan (NDP). A good forum to establish relationships with new MPs and to continue relationships that we already have with incumbents.

Jamey opened the floor to find out who are constituents with MPs in our area, as we need constituents in order to lobby an MP.

Shane mentioned that he has a good relationship with Constance Barnes who ran for the NDP, also mentioned that Hedy Fry will probably be retiring before the end of her current term.

Hedy Fry – Shane/Vic/Theresa

Jenny Kwan – Jamey/Kieran

Jody Wilson-Raybould – Bowinn

Harjit Singh Sajjan – Monica A.

Joyce Murray – Jeremy Price a member of Jamey’s local has an established relationship with her

We would like to try to target the Cabinet Ministers, maybe get a group together to meet with them.

Going back to the idea of getting an MP to meet with us, make it a training session, maybe talk to the NDP about who would be a friendly Liberal MP. Perhaps plan this for our next meeting after the budget comes out.

Term Employees

Monica A. – in her department they can’t get a business case through for term roll-over to indeterminate, although she is hearing that it is happening in other departments. Service Canada is starting to download authority to local managers, which looks to be a better way to go

Discussion continued around term roll-overs, is happening some places, but not many. Some departments don't even have roll-over provisions.

An ad-hoc committee was formed to explore issues around Term Employment and find common ground, possibly have a Term Forum with elected officers and affected members (Terms) to discuss issues

Committee Members – Monica Angell, Todd Smith, Sandra Wasilewski

Next Meeting – Jamey will send out an email, looking at April 5th or 6th

Business Arising

Dormant Vancity Account – Shane is still trying to get together with Sam to go to the Credit Union to close the account. Jamey committed to remind Sam.

Round Table

Dennis – thinks that we are going in the right direction with the MP Lobby

Sharon – thanks to everyone, she is going to miss us. She is trying to get the new Executive of her local to send an affiliate to the Area Council.

Wendy – it was nice to come to the meeting, looking forward to help for new executive of her local

Shane – thanked everyone for coming out, offered to help anyone who needed it for their local, act as a mentor

Kieran – recommended that everyone keep an open mind, but with a healthy dose of caution with regards to new government

Lorraine – another issue to keep in mind about terms as well, that it's even cheaper to have a student than a term

Sandra – glad to be back at the Area Council

Jessica – this was a good learning experience

Todd – his employer, CFIA is also hiring temps (from an agency) instead of terms

Vic – his employer is also hiring students

Jamey – upcoming events:

- MVA Housing Forum – February 8th, 2016 – North Vancouver
- Women's Memorial March – February 14th, 2016 – Noon @ Main & Hastings

- Black History Month – February 13th, 2016 – Unifor Hall New Westminster, please see flyer handed out
- Human Rights Committee Meeting – March 15th, 2016
- MVA Movie Event – February 26th, 2016 – by donation, \$10.00 suggested

Funding Requests

Jennifer Chieh-Ho has requested \$100.00 to off-set the costs of the Black History Month event.

Motion

I move that the Vancouver and District Area Council will provide up to \$100.00 to the Black History Month Event from the Political Action line item. This funding is not to be used as an honorarium or stipend.

(M/S/C) Jamey/Theresa

We also received a request from Acorn for their event, but it is not financially viable for us to attend this event.

Returning to the Round Table discussion – Bowinn Ma

Bowinn will be seeking the nomination for the Provincial NDP for the North Vancouver Lonsdale riding. The issues that she feels are important and impact us all where we live are Education, Health Care and Affordability. It is to our benefit to pay attention to this upcoming election. This is going to be a hard riding to win, it hasn't gone orange since 1991. Bowinn is asking how to get support from the Area Council for her nomination campaign.

Jamey asked what the timeframe around the nomination are. Bowinn responded that NDP nomination meetings are usually late, probably Fall 2016. It is possible to force an early nomination with a strong candidate. Members need to be signed up (as members of the NDP) by April in order to vote.

As an Area Council we can look into how many members we have in the riding.

Shane asked if it would be appropriate to put forward a motion to endorse Bowinn's nomination, but that will be tabled for now.

The cost of Provincial NDP membership is a minimum donation of \$10.00.

Question came of anyone running against Bowinn, - Craig Keating

Area Council could get volunteers to come out.

Bowinn invited members to a brainstorming session being held February 20th & 21st

Other upcoming events:

Regional Racially Visible Conference – May 2016

Regional Women's Conference – September 2016

Young Worker's Conference – November 2016

Oath of Office taken by new Area Council Executive

Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 PM