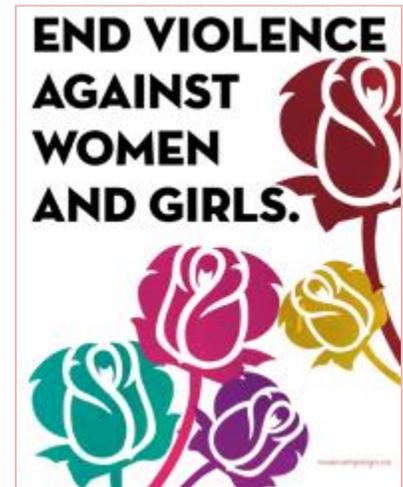




PSAC Okanagan Women's Committee
September 12, 2014
Kelowna BC

Joan Coburn CEIU
Kelly Megyesi CEIU
Maria-Luiza Romano AGR
Linda Woods UNE
Michele Sibson UNE
Susan Yaciw UTE
Darrell-Lee McKenzie AGR



Chair Michele Sibson

Terms of Reference

Michele asked for a report out on the Terms of Reference Subcommittee. Maria-Luiza and Kelly had volunteered to represent the Okanagan. The meeting dates were changed and the Okanagan representatives are not available for the rescheduled date. A request to have a date with at least one Okanagan representative was denied. Maria-Luiza and Kelly met and reviewed the information provided. Their report is attached. It will be submitted electronically to Virginia. The group took the opportunity to review the report and to have a discussion on the important roll of women and women's committees in the labour movement. **(attach 1)**

Financial

Michele & Joan have been into the bank to sign. It is assumed that Annette has as well.

Treasurer Report – Full report given by Joan and attached to the minutes. Balance as at August 31, 2014 was 1786.09 with two cheques uncashed. Year to date we have spent \$845 but have only received partial funding of \$800. **(attach 2)** Discussion about the problems of not receiving allocation in a timely manner from PSAC BC. Susan has been asked to take our concerns to the September Regional Council meetings. Kelly recently sent an email and will follow-up with Kristin and Bob. Joan moved her treasurers report. m/s/c

It was also noted that the motion to contribute to the meal at June 20, 2014 was not recorded in the minutes. Darrell-Lee moved that Linda be re-imbursed \$100 for the women's contribution to the meal. Michele Sibson seconded the motion and all were in favour.

Susan Yaciw is hoping to attend the BC Fed Conference and has applied for a BC PSAC subsidy. Kelly is hoping to attend but feels that Susan should be chosen to represent Okanagan. Darrell-Lee made a motion for a \$200 honorarium to Susan Yaciw towards attending this conference. Maria-Luiza seconded the motion and all were in favour.

Review of budget line items. We have been waiting to make donations as full allocation not received but the group was in favour of supporting the teacher hardship fund. Motion by Darrell-Lee to donate \$150 to the Vernon Teachers Hardship fund. Susan seconded the motion and all were in favour.

Childcare

A lovely thank you from the BC Childcare Coalition was read out. Kelly talked again about the rally that the Summer Institute for Union Women participated in Victoria early July, 2014. Speakers included Sharon Gregson, Irene Lanzinger, and many more.

Kelly talked about the National Childcare conference – November, 2014. Susan advised that Virginia as the BC Women's Chair would be in attendance. Susan also gave an update on PSAC childcare initiative from the last regional council conference call.

Initiatives

End Violence Against Women and Girls. The campaign toolkit was reviewed. All committee members agreed to take the kit into their workplaces. The kit can be accessed online at www.rosecampaign.ca. There is a great 30 second video at the website as well. Link for toolkit is not that easy to find use - www.rosecampaign.ca/awareness. Most committee still has some buttons. If time Kelly will make a few more n/c for the committee members.

Because I am a girl – information circulated. Linda asked for a copy. Kelly suggested that the website be visited as you are able to join their newsletter. www.becauseiamagirl.ca. The Okanagan Human Rights has donated to this organization. **(attach 3)**

Sisters in Spirit Vigils – Kelly has emailed the Kelowna centre but has not heard back from them on whether they will be hosting a vigil. Everyone is encouraged to attend their local vigil if applicable. Kelly also suggested that everyone participate in the virtual Candlelight vigil 2014 at www.october4th.ca/virtual-candle-light-vigil **(attach 4)**

Am I next – An awareness campaign posing the question 'Am I next?' is striking a chord with people concerned about murdered and missing aboriginal women. Online activists pushing for an inquiry into missing and murdered aboriginal women have a simple question for Prime Minister Stephen Harper. "Am I next?"

The Okanagan women's committee is participating in this campaign. **(attach 5)** (

Next meeting – Not scheduled at this time.

attach 1

Kelly Megyesi ~ Okanagan Women's Committee ~ Terms of Reference Input ~ Sept 10, 2014

My note or thoughts on terms of reference.....

First I have to say how disappointed I am that the Okanagan availability was not taken into consideration for meeting times. There are only four women's committees so all should be there if we are trying to develop something for BC.

That being said – Maria-Luiza Romano and myself met to discuss. We invested quite a bit of time and had varying ideas. I am sending some of my ideas or thoughts in a random kind of format. Hopefully you will consider some of it.

1) I think we need to be careful when doing this as the committees were formed to welcome women into the labour movement. Lots of rules and structure goes against the principle of working in a different way that meets the needs of members.

2) I think the national objectives as outlined in the handbook are sufficient. I feel that terms of reference should remain as simple as possible. Maria-Luiza and I both agree that action items do not belong in there.

to inform and educate women on the political, social, economic, and workplace issues that affect them;
to speak for women with a strong, common voice and advocate policies that promote all women's rights;
to mobilize women to participate in the union and take action on the issues;
to empower women with the knowledge, skills and confidence they need to exercise effective leadership;
to support women through a network that links them to each other, to the union, and to the community;
~~and to work side by side with racialized & Aboriginal women, lesbians, bisexual & transgender women and women with disabilities to advance real equality and make the PSAC an inclusive union.~~ (we felt this was a given/ that women would automatically be inclusive of all women)

3) Co-chair does not mean vice-chair. Again the women's committees were structured differently to allow shared responsibility and dialogue. The Co-chairs were to allow a more collaborative structure and the responsibility was shared. This was considered to be an easier way to encourage women to be involved. **noun: co-chair - a person who is in charge of a meeting or organization jointly with another or others.**

4) Women's Issues – Women have evolved. To me it is no longer appropriate to try and say that women's committees should work on "women's issues". Rather I believe that women's committees should work on "issues" and provide ideas, solutions, comments from the perspective of women.

5) The committees should not be token committees and should be consulted to provide their important perspective. There should be a responsibility for PSAC BC (REVP) to link with women's committees to encourage their voice and ideas.

6) To me the key to women's committees is to provide an entry into the union and the development of same.

7) Committees should think way outside of the box and should have very little restriction on their functioning (budgets given are so small that there really isn't a huge need for control)

8) Committees have an important link to community and area very important union face.

9) Even the structure of having terms of reference is an older style model and as women's committees we should be experimenting with other models.

10) I would like to see something about a new member orientation. Good way to welcome new members and it could encourage their involvement in a shorter timeframe.



attach 1(cont'd)

Maria-Luiza ~ Okanagan Women's Committee ~ Terms of Reference Input ~ September 12, 2014

My concern with not being on the call is that our views will not be taken into consideration. The points that I would like to add is that the terms of reference must be a lot simpler. There is too much information in the terms of references that were forwarded. They are too complex and do not belong in a terms of reference. Again I stress simplicity. I am including three samples/ templates of terms of reference. I believe that a combination or mix should be used. I would take a good look at them as one is not better than the other and draw from them.

Template 1

1. Name of Committee
2. Statement of Purpose
3. Functions of the Committee
4. Composition of the Committee
5. Roles of Chairpersons
6. Meetings (frequency, place, how is chairing, etc)
7. Agenda / Minutes
8. Amendments

Template 2

1. Name of Group
2. Membership and appointment (who can be a member? How and when are they appointed? Duration of the appointment, etc)
3. Co-chairs (who will be the co-chairs, how are they chosen, how long will be the term, etc)
4. Frequency of meetings and quorum (how often the committee will meet? how many votes are required to carry a motion?)
5. Record of meetings (how minutes will be recorded? who will be responsible for taking these?)
6. Reports (how will the committee report its meetings/activities? who will be responsible for the distribution? who will receive the report?)
7. Functions & delegated authority (specify limits to their authority: are they only advisory? Specify when/ in what situations the committee can make decisions, etc)

Template 3

1. Name
2. Members (name, contact information, roles & responsibilities)
3. Goals & Objectives
4. Scope / Jurisdiction (what are the bounds of responsibility and authority of the committee? What do they need to address and what is outside its area of concern? What can they decide on and what needs group/board input?)
5. Resources & budget (what are the sources of income? how much? Frequency of installments? how reporting back to the organizations will be done? who will prepare the reports? who will receive reports? where shared information will be stored?)
6. Governance (decision-making techniques: consensus, majority vote? What is the relationship of authority with the greater organizations?)

Again as mentioned, my view is that the ideal TOR should be made up by the mixing them all, and extracting what would be of use for us. However, the simpler the TOR, the easier for it to be a good tool for all four groups. Also, each one of the Women's Committee should have the ability of adjusting the general guidelines to their specific situation.

attach 2

PSAC
 Treasurer
 January 1, 2014 - August 31,
 2014

Okanagan Women's Committee
 Joan Coburn/Kelly Megyesi

Date	Cheque	Amount	Paid /Received	Reason expense/income	Debit	Credit	Balance
01-Jan-14			Opening Balance				\$1,781.04
08-Feb-14	167	\$ 100.00	Kelly Megyesi	Subsidy - Broadbent Conf	\$100.00		\$1,681.04
08-Feb-14	168	\$ 19.95	Roberta Gourlie		\$ 19.95		\$1,661.09
08-Feb-14	169	\$ 20.00	Victoria Regional Com	Book	\$ 20.00		\$1,641.09
28-Apr-14	170	\$ 150.00	Michele Sibson	Honourarium - Convention	\$150.00		\$1,491.09
28-Apr-14	171	\$ 200.00	PSAC HR	Re-imburse Reg M Sibson	\$200.00		\$1,291.09
13-Jun-14		\$ 800.00	PSAC BC	Partial Allocation		\$800.00	\$2,091.09
20-Jun-14	172	\$ 100.00	Linda Woods	Mtg Meal contribution	\$100.00		\$1,991.09
20-Jun-14	173	\$ 200.00	Kelly Megyesi	Honourarium - SIUW	\$200.00		\$1,791.09
30-Jul-14	174	\$ 125.00	Maria-Luiza Romano	Re-imburse Mtg Meal	\$125.00		\$1,666.09
30-Jul-14	175	\$ 50.00	CCABC	Membership/Donation	\$ 50.00		\$1,616.09

Last reported balance as of April 30, 2014	1661.09
Spent \$845.00 on conventions, reimbursement, childcare as previously approved	-845.00
Received partial funding of \$800	800.00
Outstanding two cheques - Michele 150 and Victoria Women's 20 for cookbook	170.00
Bank Balance of August 31, 2014	1786.09

BECAUSE
I AM A
GIRL



I WATCH MY *brothers* GO TO SCHOOL WHILE I STAY HOME.

I EAT IF THERE'S *food* LEFT OVER WHEN EVERYONE IS DONE.

I AM THE *poorest* OF THE POOR.

AND YET...



BECAUSE
I AM A
GIRL

I WILL *share* WHAT I KNOW.

I AM THE *heart* OF MY COMMUNITY.

I WILL PULL MY *family* OUT OF POVERTY IF YOU GIVE ME THE CHANCE.

I WILL TAKE WHAT YOU INVEST IN ME AND *uplift everyone* AROUND ME.

BECAUSE I AM A GIRL



Charitable registration number: 11892 8993 RR0001

Girls can change the world but they can't do it without you. Please join Plan Canada's Because I am a Girl initiative to support girls' rights in the developing world and help break the cycle of poverty. Visit becauseiamagirl.ca to donate.

Virtual Candle Light Vigil

2014 Click on an unlit candle.

The screenshot shows the website's header with navigation links: HOME, VIRTUAL CANDLELIGHT VIGIL (highlighted), SIS VIGILS, FINDING A VIGIL, DEDICATIONS, WE REMEMBER, WHAT IS HAPPENING, and CONTACT. Below the header is a green banner with the Native Women's Association of Canada logo and text: "Every October 4th, Sisters In Spirit Vigils:" followed by a bulleted list: "Honour the lives of missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls;" "Support grieving families and provide opportunities for healing; and," "Is a movement for social change." Below this is the slogan "United we can demand action on a Canadian issue that impacts us all!".

The main content area is titled "Virtual Candle Light Vigil" and "2014". It features a large black rectangle with the text "Click on an unlit candle." at the top. Below this text is a grid of 14 candles. The first five candles are lit and yellow, with initials EA, km, J9, EKO, and JS below them. The remaining nine candles are unlit and white. At the bottom of the grid, it says "Lit Candles: 5".

Below the 2014 section, the year "2013" is visible, followed by a black bar with the text "Click on an unlit candle." and some faint candle lights at the bottom edge.

(KM – Kelly Megyesi / second candle)

PSAC OKANAGAN NEWS

A division of PSAC Canada
WORLDS BEST UNION

making a difference
since 1889
www.psacunion.ca

"AM I NEXT?"



The PSAC Okanagan Women are standing in solidarity with their Sisters. It is time for all of us to take a stand against violence.

They are joining in a national movement calling on the federal government to take action on murdered and missing aboriginal women in Canada.

The Am I Next? campaign asks women to take a photo of themselves holding a sign that asks "Am I next?"

Holly Jarrett helped spark the campaign in Canada. Her cousin, Loretta Saunders was killed in February 2014 after completing her honours thesis on missing and murdered aboriginal women.

Jarrett wants a national inquiry on missing and murdered aboriginal women - something the federal government has so far refused to launch.

"Stephen Harper refuses to call for a national inquiry, and I refuse to stop," said Jarrett. "Look at your daughter and your sister and your mother and ask yourself, are they next?" The campaign has spread quickly. Women are calling for action.

PSAC has a long history of fighting for women's rights and social justice issues. Currently they are lobbying the government of Canada to establish a comprehensive plan of action to stop violence against Aboriginal Women.