

Northwest Area Council Meeting

October 14, 2020

Attendees:

Jill MacNeill, President, UHEW 20147

Jen Gordon, Vice-President, UHEW 20147

Coral Cargill, UHEW 20147

David Lewis, Treasurer, CIU 20042

Nicole Pottle, CEIU 20926

Varinder Johal, PSAC Staff Rep

MINUTES

1. **AGENDA** - Motion to accept agenda of October 14, 2020, as posted on PSAC-BC website moved by Nicole Pottle and seconded by Jen Gordon. Carried.
2. **ACKNOWLEDGE TRADITIONAL TERRITORY, WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS** - Jill MacNeill acknowledged that meeting is being hosted in the traditional territory of the Tsimshian, specifically, the territory of the Gitwilgyots by Jill MacNeill.
3. **UPDATE FROM JAMEY MILLS REVP** - Jamey Mills, REVP, could not attend however Varinder Johal shared an Election BC message on Jamey's behalf. If members are interested, they can view his video message on the PSAC-BC website. In summary, Jamey encourages all to go out and vote as it is our opportunity to elect a government that will work for working people specifically in the areas such as childcare, Clean BC and our fight against Covid-19. It was noted the BC NDP brought the largest middle-class tax cut in BC History. Jamey Mills will be voting NDP and he encourages members to do the same.
4. **REVIEW OF MAY 4, 2020** - The minutes of May 4, 2020 were reviewed. Motion to accept the minutes moved by Nicole Pottle and seconded by David Lewis. Carried.
5. **FINANCES – BANKING** - Jill MacNeill commits to go to Northern Savings Credit Union prior to next meeting. David Lewis and Jen Gordon will discuss offline about going to set up their signing authorities.
6. **COORDINATOR UPDATE**
Jill MacNeill provided an update on:
 - Solidarity Saturdays – Jill attended two Solidarity Saturday events and encourages members to watch for news of them and attend when available. In June, Jill attended one with the theme of Aboriginal Day where she provided the land acknowledgement. She also attended one with a Labour Day theme and shared a video message on behalf of Northwest Area Council in relation to the importance of Labour Day.

- NE Women's Committee – Jill MacNeill and Coral Keehn regularly attend the Northeast Women's Committee meetings. At the last meeting Jill proposed the Northeast Women's Committee formally affiliate with the Northwest Area Council proposing a northwest member such as Coral Keehn be designated as the affiliated member. The Northeast Women's Committee agreed and a member will be designated to affiliate. Prior to the next AGM, Jill MacNeill and Varinder Johal will work together to update bylaws to incorporate this affiliation.
 - Resolutions – Jill MacNeill will share an email where there was a callout for new resolutions for conventions. Members are encouraged to think of ways to improve the union and share ideas for new resolutions.
7. **BC FEDERATION OF LABOUR – POLITICAL ACTION WORKSHOP** – Update from Jen Gordon
Jen Gordon attended a political action workshop hosted by the BC Federation of Labour. She advised it was very well organized. Her highlight was a cool and inspirational presentation by a guest speaking sharing about her experience in US Elections. The zoom platform worked well with a couple technical glitches. Brainstorming sessions took place and she benefited from the shared activities and networking. She really liked the use of the online polling and would like to see us use the zoom platform for Area Council meetings. Varinder Johal advised that use of zoom for future meetings is doable.
 8. **LOBBYING INTEREST** -- Jill MacNeill advised that upcoming organized sessions for lobbying are expected and encourage members to share items they wish to talk to MPs/MLAs about and we can work to arrange meetings. Jill MacNeill and Coral Keehn have been invited to participate in a National Childcare Lobby as there was expressed interest from persons in our area to talk to Taylor Bachrach who has the portfolio as critic for Infrastructure and Communities.
 9. **REMEMBRANCE DAY** – Northwest Area Council generally participates in Remembrance Day ceremonies providing a wreath on behalf of Northwest BC PSAC members. At this time it is unknown if ceremonies will take place as normal. David Lewis is well connected to the Legion and will watch for news and keep us informed.
 10. **EDUCATION:** Varinder provided an update on upcoming education opportunities. Due to covid, education plans have not continued as normal. Varinder advised that UHEW 20147 has arranged some virtual sessions for their members. Jen Gordon has received notification of UHEW Steward Training but the dates conflict with days where she has critical operational responsibilities at her workplace. She has been waiting for Steward Training for a while and may miss out on the training opportunity again. Varinder advised that some online educational modules are under development.
 11. **NEXT MEETING DATE** - Proposed to have the next meeting on Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at 6:30 by zoom.
 12. **ADJOURN MEETING** – Motion to adjourn meeting made by Nicole Pottle and Seconded by Jen Gordon. Carried.