



## Okanagan Area Council Minutes

**DATE:** April 18, 2020 **TIME:** 11:03 am **LOCATION:** Teleconference

MEMBERS:	PRESENT	ABSENT
Nadia Sokal, President (AGR 20043)	X	
Lorelei Sterling, Vice President (UVAE 20035)	X	
Kelly Megyesi, Treasurer (CEIU 20972)	X	
Kareen Stanich, Secretary (AGR 20043)	X	
Jeanne Olineck (CEIU 20914)	X	
Karen Sutton (CIU 20045)		X
Carolyn McGillivray (CIU 20045)	X	
Linda Woods (UNE 20140)	X	
Maria-Luiza Romano (AGR 20027)	X	
Justin Lee (AGR 20027)	X	
Michelle Sibson (CEIU 20972)		X
Joy Harrison (APSAR)		X
STAFF:		
Jamey Mills, BC REVP (Vancouver)	X	
Robert Strang, BC Regional Rep (Vancouver)	X	
GUESTS:		
Nil		

### ADOPTION OF AGENDA

**Changes / Additions:** Addition of two topics: Migrant Rights Network, Canadian Labour Congress campaigns.

**Motion to accept as amended:** Kelly **Seconded:** Kareen **Carried:** Unanimous

### ADOPTION OF MINUTES from February 29, 2020

**Changes / Additions:** none

**Motion to accept:** Kareen **Seconded:** Lorelei **Carried:** Unanimous

### ACTION ITEM UPDATE

#### Area Council Dues:

CLOSED ACTION ITEM (2020-01-18): Nadia to find out why local dues were stopped being collected and who paid in the past. Update 2020-04-19. Kristen Schnider provided information to Nadia regarding dues collected in past. Nadia reported that collection of dues was stopped for a variety of reasons including: funds were not needed as budget wasn't spent, some locals encompass more than one Area Council region, increasing costs to Locals not wise considering Phoenix problems. Suggestion to discuss again when Phoenix stabilizes and COVID19 pandemic is over. Kelly and Carolyn concurred it would be good to discuss in future as payment of dues is an important tool to ensure commitment from Locals.

**PSAC BC Regional Convention:**

**ONGOING ACTION ITEM (2020-02-29a):** Linda to do purchasing. Update 2020-04-19. No purchasing done yet. Tabled until such time as convention is proceeding.

**ONGOING ACTION ITEM (2020-02-29b):** Linda or Carolyn to transport to Vancouver. Update 2020-04-19. Tabled until such time as convention is proceeding.

**Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) Convention:**

**ONGOING ACTION ITEM (2020-02-29c):** Linda, Jeanne and Kelly to make a request to the committee with anticipated costs, funding (applied for or confirmed) and request for subsidy within two weeks. (March 14<sup>th</sup>). Update 2020-04-19.

Tabled until such time as convention is proceeding.

**Area Council Bylaws – clarification regarding quorum requirements:**

Update 2020-04-19. Clarification from PSAC President Chris Aylward was received that stipulation in Okanagan Area Council bylaws that two Executive members constitutes a quorum is fine. Area Council bylaws supersede the guidelines set out by PSAC.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Balance January 31, 2020 - \$2928.70

Balance April 15, 2020 - \$3529.26

**Changes / Additions / Questions:** none

**Expenditures:**

PSAC BC Regional convention delegate fee (\$150.00)

Phone charges (\$17.04)

Reimbursement for flights booked for Kairos Blanket facilitator (now WestJet credit) (\$232.30)

**Revenue:**

PSAC annual contribution \$1000.00

	<b>Budget 2020</b>	<b>Actual Apr-15</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Meetings	500	17
donations	400	
Labour Events	500	
Major Okanagan Event	750	232
Conference / convention	750	150
Office	50	
Membership	150	
Education	500	
<b>Total</b>	<b>3600</b>	<b>399</b>
<b>Revenue</b>		
Allocation	1000	1000

**Motion to accept:** Kelly **Seconded:** Lorelei **Carried:** Unanimous

**UPDATE FROM BC-REVP**

The following updates provided by PSAC BC REVP Jamey Mills:

**Bargaining.** Most units, with the exception of SV and CFIA, had called for strike votes when pandemic started. The CRA votes were almost finished. All votes are on hold. Bargaining teams are ready and available for further negotiations so if TBS calls, teams would return to the table. UPCE has negotiated a collective agreement with Canada Post. PSAC staff are available even though offices are closed. PSAC members are working at unprecedented levels including at CRA, EI, Customs, Food Inspection, postal, airports, etc. which is a testament to members dedication to keeping Canada running.

**Conventions.** BC Regional, Component, CLC all postponed. A small committee has been struck at PSAC to determine how to proceed. Important business such as passing budgets and resolutions as well as election of REVP need to occur. Hope to have plan by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Internal Organizing.** Important to work on internal organizing capacity for COVID19 communications and ratification votes.

#### Q&A

*Is training on hold?* PSAC currently looking at alternative delivery such as webinars. There was a recent Health and Safety webinar in BC and other topics will follow including mental health and ergonomics. Courses are being rolled out in geographic sequence due to limitation with webinar software. The training is also tailored for each jurisdiction considering the needs of Directly Chartered Locals and small employers as well as provincial standards. Comment that ergonomic webinar would be timely considering issues with working at home.

*Are there any national campaigns to address public frustration?* Yes, Still Here for Canada campaign – “PSAC members across the country are working hard to get Canadians the help they need during this pandemic, and to make sure all the services we depend on keep going. No matter what, we’re still here for Canada. Let everyone know how your work is helping Canadians. Upload a photo using this form and tell us about your work. We’ll be posting your stories on our national and regional social media accounts.” Also working to have media attention - good article recently in National Post.

*Please comment on the issue of public perception around bargaining during this unprecedented time.* Important to get back to bargaining table as it is a time to be working together for all Canadians.

#### Thankyou

Thanks to everyone for their hard work for the employer as well as keeping the union strong. Please keep it up.

#### LABOUR COUNCIL UPDATE

Reminder May Day event in Penticton cancelled. On hold.

#### KAIROS BLANKET EXERCISE (MEMBERSHIP DRAWING EVENT)

On hold

#### MIGRANT RIGHTS NETWORK

The link provides a very detailed explanation before signing petition. We know that migrant workers are among our most vulnerable workers in Canada. The Migrant Rights Network is endorsed by the BC Federation of Labour.

<https://migrantrights.ca/covid19/>

**NEW ACTION ITEM (2020-04-18a):** Nadia to forward Migrant rights Network link to Robert who will distribute in region.

#### CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS (CLC) CAMPAIGNS

The CLC is campaigning to have the banks reduce their credit card interest rates during the pandemic. The campaign is already making gains with two of the big banks already announcing changes, CIBC and RBC, but their reductions only target small segments of the people in need. <https://canadianlabour.ca/campaigns/enough/>

For those of you on Twitter, the CLC also has a tweet action to continue to put the pressure on the Big Banks at <https://canadianlabour.ca/campaigns/tell-your-bank-send-a-tweet-now/>

Nadia also briefly mentioned their ongoing fair Pharmacare Campaign.

<https://pharmacare.canadianlabour.ca/add-your-voice/>

**NEW ACTION ITEM (2020-04-18b):** Nadia to forward CLC link to Robert who will distribute in region.

#### ROUNDTABLE

how Components and Locals are handling COVID-19, opportunities for helping workers in our region

Reminder to send all meeting materials to Robert for distribution.

Robert. Internal Organizing was initiated for bargaining activities. However initiative is still important in order to contact members for other reasons such as COVID19 communications. All Locals are now welcome to join the ULink database. AGR 20043 is done and CEIU 20972 in underway. Some Locals may be too busy at this time but any interested Local should contact Robert to set up access to database. Also looking for suggestions for fall courses. Thanks to everyone for their hard work to hold the country up.

**NEW ACTION ITEM (2020-04-18c): Okanagan Area Council to send suggestions for fall courses to Robert.**

Discussion on how Components and Locals are handling COVID-19 pandemic.

Positives include: working from home opportunities, virtual staff meetings, closing offices to keep front-line workers safe, front-line workers dealing with essential traffic only, reminders about taking care of mental health. Some challenges included the employer not having personal contact info to communicate with employees who can not access work email; ergonomics and having to use personal equipment and supplies at home.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion to adjourn:** Maria- Luiza    **Seconded:** Kareen    **Carried:** Unanimous

**Meeting Adjourned:** 12:03 PM

**Next Meeting:** TBD