



## Okanagan Area Council Minutes

**DATE:** June 28, 2020 **TIME:** 11:00 am **LOCATION:** Videoconference

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-Louiza Romano (AGR 20027)		X
Michelle Sibson (CEIU 20972)		X
Joy Harrison (APSAR)		X
Lyn Lutz (AGR 20041)	X	
STAFF:		
Robert Strang, BC Regional Rep (Vancouver)		
GUESTS:		
Jamey Mills, BC REVP (Vancouver) Darrell-Lee McKenzie (retired) Sargy Chima Danyel Haughton		

### LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I acknowledge that I live and/or work in the beautiful, unceded and traditional territories of the *Tk'emlúps*, te Secwepemc, Syilx, Ktunaxa and Metis Peoples.

### ADOPTION OF AGENDA

**Changes / Additions:** PA Group bargaining update from Sargy Chima

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

### ADOPTION OF MINUTES

**Changes / Additions:** Nil

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

### ACTION ITEM UPDATE

#### PSAC BC REGIONAL CONVENTION:

**ONGOING ACTION ITEM (2020-02-29a):** Linda to do purchasing of raffle basket. Tabled until such time as convention is proceeding.

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

**MIGRANT RIGHTS NETWORK:**

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

Update 2020-06-28: Distributed in region.

**CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS (CLC) CAMPAIGNS:**

**CLOSED ACTION ITEM (2020-04-18b):** Nadia to forward CLC campaigns (interest rates and pharmacare) link to Robert who will distribute in region.

Update 2020-06-28: Distributed in region.

**COURSES:**

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

Update 2020-06-28: AGR Local 20043 requested courses on grievance handling and disability insurance. Each Local to email Robert directly.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Balance as of April 15, 2020 - \$3529.26

Balance as of June 28, 2020 – 3529.65

**Changes / Additions / Questions:** Nil

Opening balance April 15, 2020 - \$3529.26

Expenditures: Nil

Interest earned: \$0.29

Closing Balance June 28, 2020 - \$3529.65

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

**UPDATE FROM JAMEY MILLS, BC-REVP**

The following updates were provided by PSAC BC REVP Jamey Mills:

**PSAC Geographic Coordinator for the BC Southern Interior region**

Carolyn McGillivray has resigned from the Coordinator position and was thanked and acknowledged for all her work with the Component and various committees. Karen Sutton, alternate, has taken over.

**Bargaining**

Treasury Board (TB) is back at the bargaining table for the PA group and common issue. This was in response to the 15000 letters PSAC members wrote to urge TB to resume bargaining. No update at the moment but cautiously optimistic. PA group and common Issues team are meeting and an update is expected soon. CFIA is waiting for Public Interest Commission, Victoria Airport employees have a tentative one year agreement and CMHC Granville Island employees are in negotiations.

**Q&A**

Linda had questions regarding Statistical Survey Operations (SSO) which will be discussed offline.

Kelly asked about rumours regarding downsizing and contracting out. Article on PSAC National site regarding privatization is available at <http://psacunion.ca/new-video-highlights-risks-privatization>

Nadia asked about how long the contracts will be, will we be back bargaining in a month. BC REVP was hopeful that new contracts would be longer than 3 years (ie/ extend beyond 2021).

## LABOUR DAY AND LABOUR COUNCIL REPORT

Nadia reported that she missed the last meeting of the South Okanagan Labour Council as it was the same night as the last Southern Interior Regional Women's Committee meeting. No one else from OAC attended. The regular Labour Day BBQ has been cancelled.

The North Okanagan Labour Council is asking for our help to celebrate / highlight this important day by contributing to a Labour Day video, particularly from members Peachland and north. Nadia distributed information to OAC committee prior to meeting. Robert captured a screen shot of the group. Videos can be emailed to Robert or Robert will record on video-conference on Sunday July 5<sup>th</sup>.

**NEW ACTION ITEM (2020-06-28a): Robert to set up short video conference on July 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM to record videos.**

## VIRTUAL ONLINE EVENT DISCUSSION

In light of events being cancelled and uncertainty around bargaining, Nadia presented the idea of having a virtual event. Four options proposed and committee members to email to Nadia regarding their interest: (1) separate 1 hour event with political activist outside of PSAC to draw new members into Regional Committees/Area Council, (2) shorter event (1/2 hour) tagged onto a meeting with the speaker being someone from PSAC, (3) table any planning to the fall, or (4) not interested. Several ideas discussed including possible speakers, creation of a sub-committee, some people experiencing virtual meeting fatigue, etc.

**NEW ACTION ITEM (2020-06-28b): Nadia to email committee members to solicit feedback. Members to respond to gauge level of interest.**

## ROUNDTABLE

Karen: Working with Robert to draft email to go out regarding Geographic Coordinator. A bi-election will be held to elect an alternate.

Kelly: Discussed the summit and representation from each committee.

Linda: SSO employees work in 15 minute increments and employees will be lucky to work 13 hrs/week. Canadian Health survey work has been taken away. Consumer price index work is now on-line and is time-consuming and difficult.

Kareen: AAFC is moving to Phase 4 with employees returning to lab work. It had been limited to primarily field work until now. Process will be gradual and many will still work from home.

Darrell-Lee: Highly recommends retirement.

Danyel: Most employees working from home and some are struggling with isolation.

## BARGAINING UPDATE – SARGY CHIMA

Sargy is a Team Leader at Service Canada and is a member of the PA Bargaining Team. She provided an update of bargaining activities, and discussed some of the issues for Service Canada employees returning to work. The teams are meeting virtually and negotiations are continuing into the next week. Mentioned the 15000 letters from PSAC members urging TB to get back to the table.

## ANTI-RACISM THROUGH THE LENS OF POLITICAL ACTION - DANYEL HAUGHTON

Danyel works at Customs and Immigration (CIU 20914, Kamloops) and is on the Human Rights and Race Relations Committee. The presentation discussed how anti-racism is an active effort (fight for liberation, identify and challenge structures that perpetuate racism, active way of seeing and being) to work against racism. When "diversity and inclusion" replace anti-racism there are no mechanisms to keep safe spaces. Anti-racism needs to be foundational in organizing. Invited speakers are doing work and it also takes an emotional toll. A reminder that they should not be expected to educate others for free. The Area Council can also ensure that organizations we donate to are anti-racist in their practices, mandates and policies.

**MOTION by Kelly for the committee to donate \$100 to an anti-racism group, in our region if possible. Seconded by Linda. Carried.**

**NEW ACTION ITEM (2020-06-28c): Nadia to identify organization and make donation.**

## ADJOURNMENT

**Motion to adjourn:** Linda **Seconded:** Karen **Carried:** Unanimous

**Meeting Adjourned:** 12:15 PM

**Next Meeting:** Saturday September 12<sup>th</sup>