

PSAC Okanagan Human Rights Committee

AGM Minutes

January 18th, 2020

Present: Kelly Megyesi (CEIU), Linda Woods (UNE), Nadia Sokal (AGR), Karen Sutton (CIU) Lorelei Sterling (UVAE), Jamey Mills (REVP), Varinder Johal (PSAC), Carolyn McGilivray (CIU) Phone: Jenny Anderson (CEIU), Carolyn McGilivray (CIU) Text: Maria-Luiza Romano (AGR)

Welcome:
Hello and welcome to our Human Rights AGM.

Minutes:
Previous minutes and AGM minutes reviewed and accepted. m/LW, s/KM – all in favour

Financial:
Kelly prepared the year-end reports and had them audited. Closing balance at December 31, 2019 was \$865.03. It was a very successful year again. Our allocation was \$1000.00 and we spent \$1000.15 while still completing many projects. Kelly also prepared a preliminary budget for 2020. It was discussed and one line item was increased by \$250 and another lowered by \$250. Kelly moved the financial statements as amended. m/KM s/LW – all in favour. All reporting requirements will be sent to PSAC BC this month.

Elections:
Unlike other committees the Okanagan Human Rights was formed with four components (only 3 required) and works on a basis of consensus and chairs. The chairs ensure that all duties are fulfilled. Discussion on chairs for 2020. Kelly Megyesi, Maria-Luiza Romano, & Linda Woods were nominated by KS, and seconded by LS – all in favour. All three accepted their nominations. Thank you to Varinder for attending our meeting and helping us with the election.

Projects/Events:
The committee will play an integral role in the Building Communities event V which we are hoping to have this year. A working group from all of our areas committees will be working on this. Stay posted!

Maria-Luiza was unable to attend this meeting in person but asked Kelly to report out on the Rubick Project that she initiated. An overview of the Project was given as well as the initial success of community contact and great feedback. Three events have been done. Moving into 2020 we are planning to roll it out to the Immigrant Service children and have also been asked to do it with the Boys and Girls club. Unfortunately our plan of presenting at the BC PSAC convention will not be possible but we are also exploring the possibility of presenting at the upcoming Racially Visible conference. If our success continues we will look at ordering a bigger quantity of cubes and putting our psac Wheel logo on them. (large minimum is required)

Projects/Events (cont'd):

Everyone is encouraged to continue to feed project ideas to the chairs. Our committee has been very active despite it's small size. There is also a hope of some liasing with other human rights committees within BC. Ideas talked about included possible Spirit Ridge events, quilts, etc.

Round Table:

Jamey – talked a bit about bargaining and gave meeting attendees a chance to ask questions. Thank you for attending our meeting Jamey

Linda – discussed some work issues facing her members and also asked about the problem with pay within PSAC

Jenny – asked about diversity day and activities the committe will be involved with. We are a small group with a limited budget but we are trying to find ways to reach into the Kamloops área.

Nadia – shared with the group a resolution that she is looking for support at convention – see attached resolution. Nadia shared work that was being done within her office/local to become more gender inclusive (pronouns/washrooms/awareness)

Varinder – had to leave for a flight but welcomed the opportunity to participate.

Kelly – was disappointed in the venue she chose for the meeting as it was too loud for the phone participants (apologies). We will continue to try new ideas. In person definitely works the best but that is not always possible. Looking forward to a busy and exciting year for human rights activism.

Karen – update on employment issues on duty to accommodate problems.

Motion:

Lorelei paid for the meeting meal. Motion to reimburse \$90.28. m/KM s/LW – all in favour.

Next meeting:

Meeting schedule for the year to follow. Generally the Okanagan Human Rights meets more than the committee requirements.



Resolution:

Submitted by local 20043

IMPROVEMENT ON PSAC BASIC COURSE "REPRESENTING MEMBERS WITH MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES"

BECAUSE: the current course content does not contain information on the National Standard for Psychological Health and Safety in the Workplace.

BECAUSE: the current course does not contain information on the Government of Canada's Centre of Expertise on Mental Health in the Workplace and how these resources can be used by union representatives.

BECAUSE: the current course does not discuss Occupational Health and Safety roles and responsibilities.

BECAUSE: the current course directly conflicts with guidance from some components, who use the above resources.

BECAUSE: according to the National Joint Council's Disability Insurance Plan Board of Management, mental health conditions claims represented 52% of claims approved for federal public service employees in 2018.

PSAC WILL: review the course content to include resources and topics mentioned above and discuss the content with components to ensure a clear message is delivered.