

Report from the BC Federation of Labour Convention: Jamey Mills

I would first like to thank UTE Local 20027 and PSAC B.C. for allowing me the opportunity to represent our members at this event which took place at the Canada Place Convention Centre November 24-28, 2014.

Although this was not my first "Fed Convention" it was still a learning experience. Thanks to the Regional Executive Vice-president for putting my name forward to be a member of the General Resolutions Committee. This afforded me an opportunity to work with numerous Ranking Officers, Executive Council members and other Union activists on a multitude of issues. Prior experience has sometimes left me on the convention floor wondering what the motivation behind some of the resolutions is, after much debate on some issues I now know. In an organization such as the BC Federation of Labour, it is often a balancing act of ensuring all interests are accounted for while ensuring no one is harassed, insulted or their perspective not included.

This was no better presented to me on such topics as Liquid Natural Gas and Environmental issues. Our committee was diligent in presenting resolutions that resounded with the majority of delegates while effectively allowing us to have an efficient policy. I am convinced that the agenda put forward will allow us the voice to hold the current government to task while encouraging economic growth in many industries.

In addition to my role on the resolutions committee I was, for the first time, party Whip. While fun it sounds, hard work it was. Meeting daily before convention with other Whips and staff of the BC Fed we discussed resolution order, issues on the floor and speaker timing. These meetings were also an opportunity for Whips to present issues they may be dealing with on the floor (such as Mic Muffins etc...). It was a great opportunity to work with activists from other Affiliates to ensure the convention went smoothly and that our delegates were informed and prepared for the day. I would like to thank all those who held spots in line for days at a time to ensure our delegates were able to speak on PSAC issues affecting members and Canadians in general.

While I myself did not get a chance to speak on the microphone at this convention I felt my voice was heard as I was able to get some many first time delegates or first time speakers up there instead. Our collective voice was powerful and heard better than in conventions of past. Our affiliate, the PSAC, is a force not to be underestimated and I look forward to working with newly elected and first female president of the BC Fed Irene Lanzinger and newly elected Secretary Treasurer Aaron Ekman over the next cycle and many years to come.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamey Mills

A/Regional Executive Vice President PSAC B.C (Local 20027)

