

**Victoria Area Council (VAC) Meeting**

**October 8 2020**

Via Teleconference & Skype - Toll-free number: (844) 259-7596 / Conference ID: 375100392

6:00pm

**Attendees** – Patricia Martin CEIU 20975 / Marcello Lazaro UNDE 21016 / Ian Wiggs UNDE 21008 / Angela George CEIU 20975 / Andy Hughes UCTE 20209 / Ernest Hooker UCTE 20220 / James Little / Leanne Hughes CIU 20042 / Kuldeep Deol GSU 20001

**Regrets** - Giselle Henry USJE 2C086 / Denis St Onge

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**Agenda approval**

Any additions = nil / Motion to Approve = Marcello & Seconder = Andy Hughes / Passed, All in favour

**Previous Minutes**

Paul Jones requested amendments to his speaking notes, no further amendments received by Angela to date

Angela to amend = to attendees – Patricia Martin; also provide Component and Local info

Leanne – noted she attended last meeting – will amend her into attendees

Kuldeep – Dan – regards to procuring, was it for PIPSC or PSPC – clarification needed

Motion to Approve = Leanne & Seconder = Kuldeep / Passed, All in favour

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**Financial Report**

Ian Wiggs – report sent to Rosemary / Hard Copy available

April 1 2020 – Balance \$1,141.81 / August 31st \$907.46

    spent 234.35 in June on PSAC signage, cheque to be cashed by NIVAC

    still waiting to deposit PSAC BC cheque for \$2000.00

    \$25.00 utce 20209 for dues, discussed and decision to not cash dues payment

Chequing = \$907.46 and Savings = \$56.13 (18 cents in interest collected)

Trish - advised she mailed the 2000.00 payment to Ian previously; Trish to contact Kristen to discuss cancelling cheque and reissuing new cheque (cheque missing)

Marcello – Due to COVID and our lack of event spending, what is Regional planning to do next year in respect to budgets

Trish – told that as we cannot amend our budgets to spend money in other areas, so we would set higher budgets for events next year and use towards more events in the future.

Motion to accept = Ian Wiggs & Secorder = Marcello Lazaro / Passed – All in favour

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### COVID-19 Updates

Marcello – DND 75% of staff back to work / lots of safety concerns have been addressed and safety parameters being followed / member was away, when called was due to COVID 19 testing, members who worked with person not informed member was being tested, Marcello and Brad K following up with employer why staff related not informed to watch for symptoms

Ian Wiggs – added to DND update – masks must be worn in common areas, not in offices / potential incident in operational building, building closed / RP ops advised no deep cleaning in place and they were advised to close the building for a week and then perform a regular clean – inquiry sent to base commander why no deep cleaning procedures are in place.

Andy – most back in staff approx. 50% of time, not all yet / mandated to wear masks and masks and PPE have been provided to staff / mandatory site staff raising concerns about working full time when rest of staff sent home / sick notes for illness, employer is taking staffs word on illness / bargaining to begin next year, 1 year extension

Kuldeep – regional director creating a work resumption committee for Burrard, 1230 Govt staff – committee joined with largest employer which is Pensions (Service Canada) / grating staff all on site / Alaska Hwy staff all on site / 1230 Govt St, working from home, 1 person on site / equipment has been sent home to staff working at home / People can start returning if would like too, employer looking at capacity, making spaces socially distant by closing rooms and spacing desks appropriately, schedules appropriate to help with distancing requirements / 3 week notice will be provided to staff that will be able to return but are encouraging staff to stay working at home / been meeting weekly and/or biweekly with employer / work is being moved electronically and the use of electronic signatures being allowed / networks and VPNs getting set up and being improved / Mental & physical health being focused on and improved upon, and regular check ins being provided / looking forward to 2021 and setting up union meeting virtually / office safety parameters have been set up and followed

Trish – 1230 Govt St is at 30% of staff onsite / 500.00 being offered to staff for desk or chair purchases if working from home and these pieces required / long term plans to continue working from home / returning to office plans delayed until post second wave / OAS staff under pressure past months to complete the seniors one time payment (covid payment), deadline for this was mid September / masks have been ordered for staff at worksite / one section of staff, Foundation Services have to be onsite, leadership teams rotate attendance in office, and some processors have chose to continue working from office

Angela – OAS did have stressful several months, but large majority of work needing completing was done / leadership sent several thank you and kudos emails to staff on completing this / approx. 5000 clients missed this entitlement, due to file development and strict Sept deadline, clients not responding in time to have file put into pay on time / inquiries made as to why these clients could not be paid post

deadline, and answer was due to strictness around the funds and budgets provided to pay this supplementary payment, funds were a part of an emergency allotment created and this allotment would not be available after deadline / last of the OAS staff provided laptops so they could move to the VPNs rather than using their own personal computers and AppGate (Gateway) software / equipment provided to staff as needed, ie chairs and monitors / network access continues to improve but VPN still has some struggles

Ernest – Coast Guard is getting back to normal / ships when available are fully crewed and operational / admin building is at 30% staff and encouraged to stay working from home / emergency ops centre in place at Huron St and covers all worksites, due to this employer has been cutting out H&S committee, not holding teleconferences or webex meetings

Leanne – face to face training is back and working towards the safety parameters / 699 leave has been harder to obtain / component held hybrid board meeting / SV bargaining resumed in September and next meeting is in October

James – PSAC Staff – national office on Gilmour St starting to set up returning protocols, National office will be first, and regional offices following, some may begin pre Christmas but a majority will be post Christmas / Marcello inquired as to why staff offices not reopening following safety standards currently set out = James advised anything he can add would be speculation, but union needs to be cautious and set an example for members, they need to be cognisant as society returns to normal that they must be leaders in setting the example for safety standards and the returning of workplace safely / Moving forward the process will be to open the head office and then work towards opening regional offices / plan is to open Gilmour and use an example when opening regions office / larger offices will pose difficulties and smaller offices will be easier to relaunch / the big questions are how will the staff integrate with members and how will meeting be held with components

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**Post Covid Planning**

Trish – will be a running agenda item; please provide ideas for events or meeting we can hold

Marcello – suggestion to throw a party for James, Rosemary, PSAC staff for all the CA planning and voting work / such as open house for staff appreciation night

Trish – advised the latest signage purchased in June was not a good investment, no take up from Locals to pick up / Several still at Trish’s please inquire to her if would like some for Locals

Kuldeep - Employer will not allow a large sign to be placed at a Grating dock worksite sign, entrance to worksite. They were denied access to the worksite at 1230 Government St.  
Marcello to work towards getting signage permission

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**Round Table**

Marcello – SV team working on ratifying contract / signing shortly / noted to remember on the signing bonus and additional 90 day supplementary payment if process delayed

Trish - Phoenix problems still ongoing – Paycentre contact member to inquire if their pay was correct as their tickets have all been closed. Tickets appear to be getting closed without action

Kuldeep – Public Works (phoenix), 8000 open files of Phoenix issues and 77% fixed, decrease in number of new cases moving forward. Was advised Paycenter using new tactic and plans to move department by department to fix outstanding pay actions.

Trish - 1 more VAC meeting to be held before 2021, booking to be in November / AGM will be held in January 2021 / Conventions postponed, delegates (voting) also postponed

James – PSAC is working on the 2021 PSAC calendars and delivery system of them. May be mailed to regional offices and then delivered in person or via Canada Post

Meeting commenced at 6:52pm – Motioned by Trish Martin & Seconded by Angela George