

Vancouver and District Area Council Meeting – June 13, 2018

In Attendance:

Todd Smith (AGR 20044) Sky Belt (AGR 20044), Jen Horsley (UPCE 20095), Jenny Lee (UVAE 200450, Donna Odne (AGR 20044), Shane Polak (UVAE 20045), Ruby Langan (UNE 20150), Terri Lee (AGR 20044) via phone, Monica Urrutia (Staff)

Regrets:

Cheryl Oenema (UCTE 20219), Crystal Isaac (UTE 20027), Chantal Seguin (AGR 20044), Kelly Megyesi (CEIU 20939), Sandra Wasilewski (CEIU 20937), Marion McLarty (UNE 20150), Christel S. (AGR 20044), Jamey Mills (REVP)

Meeting Called to Order at 6:05 PM

Agenda:

1. Approval of previous minutes (April 18, 2018) and ratification of motions voted on by email since the last meeting
2. Business Arising from previous minutes
 - a. Report on the Day of Mourning (if anyone attended)
 - b. Report on May Day (if anyone attended)
 - c. Report on PSAC National Triennial Convention (Todd Smith)
 - d. Report on Vancouver Crossroads Conference (VAC delegates who were supported to attend)
3. Metro Vancouver Alliance Update
4. Upcoming Events:
 - Car Free Day, June 16, 17 and July 8
 - Canada Day, July 1st
 - Annual Softball Tournament (date TBD)
 - Annual Barbeque (date TBD)
5. Phoenix sub-committee
6. Affiliate Reports (3 minutes per local/committee)
7. New Business
8. Round Table
9. Adjournment/Next Meeting is scheduled for September 12, 2018

Todd opened the meeting by acknowledging that the meeting was taking place on the First Nations Territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tseil-Waututh.

As we were waiting on a member not on the executive to arrive to reach Quorum, we moved the agenda around to make sure we had enough members for items that needed to be voted on. Moving on to item 2, Business Arising

Business Arising from the previous minutes:

Todd asked if anyone was able to attend the Day of Mourning? No one present at the meeting was able to attend.

Todd asked if anyone was able to attend May Day? No one present at the meeting was able to attend.

Todd gave his report on the National Triennial Convention as the Vancouver and District Area Council delegate:

Report back on 2018 PSAC National Convention from Todd Smith

I want to thank the Vancouver and District Area Council for the opportunity to represent us at the Convention. It was an incredible experience and I feel we have moved our union forward in many ways. In addition to being a delegate to convention I also served on the General Resolutions Committee. This committee work was an incredible learning experience as we went over more than 166 resolutions in 6 days. Being a part of this process has taught me what a good resolution looks like and has allowed me to experience more of the political process.

The convention opened with a welcome and territory acknowledgment delivered by an Indigenous elder. Throughout the convention PSAC also showed solidarity with Indigenous peoples through a moving and emotional performance honoring the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and by passing a resolution affirming our commitment to reconciliation through the development of new and ongoing training on Article 57 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's report. Article 57's call to action is to:

“provide education to public servants on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal-Crown relations. This will require skills-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.”

Further to this we also passed amendments to the constitution to change the references to Aboriginal to Indigenous on the advice of the National Aboriginal Peoples' Circle. Similar updates were made with changing the language from GLBT to LGBT2+ throughout the Constitution which was a resolution coming from the National Equity Conferences.

The first order of business for the General Resolutions Committee was the Phoenix policy statement. The policy statement speaks to escalating actions and for executive pay bonuses to be stopped until we are paid on time and properly every time in addition to other demands. The full text of the policy statement, which is three pages long, can be found here:

http://psacunion.ca/sites/psac/files/psac_policy_statement_on_phoenix_pay_system_amended_at_convention_final_-_bilingual.pdf.

Area Councils also came out of convention with more funding as we passed a resolution to double the national line item from \$45000 to \$90000 per year. I'm proud to have been the first speaker on this resolution. I spoke to the important political work Area Councils do and tied that into some of the political work that would come out of resolutions from the General committee including the resolution on P3 and Privatization Fight Back which was also passed.

One of the biggest structural changes resulting from convention is the passing of a resolution to fully fund regional conventions. The resolution, CS-051A, defined representation at regional conventions as each local being entitled to one delegate for every 215 members in the region and an additional delegate for every fraction thereof. Area Councils are entitled to one delegate, Regional Councils are

funded for 20 members as delegates, Regional Women's' Committees and Human Rights Committees each are funded for one delegate, National Aboriginal Peoples' Circle is funded for two delegates, Young Workers Committees are funded for one delegate, and component national officers are delegates in the region in which they live or work. This was costed at 49 cents per member per month.

During convention there were a number of caucuses for components, regions, equity groups, and Area Councils. At these meetings delegates discussed group priorities and heard from candidates running for the positions of National President, National Executive Vice-President, and Alternate National Executive Vice-President. These meetings were before convention, over lunch, and in the evenings making it difficult for some delegates to attend all that they were eligible to.

Our Area Council submitted what we were hoping would be considered an emergency resolution regarding the federal government's commitment to use taxpayer funds to bailout or support the Kinder Morgan Transmountain Pipeline Expansion project. Unfortunately, the NBoD determined the resolution to be a late resolution and the General Resolutions Committee felt the intent of the resolution was already covered by another concurrence resolution titled *No More Pipelines*. The resolution was non-concurrence.

Reflecting back on my experience at Convention I'm excited for our direction going forward and honored to have represented our Area Council.

The final convention report was not released at the time of the writing of this report. Therefore, I have kept my report short with some highlights.

In Solidarity,

Todd Smith

In addition to this written report, Todd also mentioned that during Convention the PSAC had a rally at Bill Morneau's constituency office and about 15-18 people, including himself and Sky, occupied the office itself for about an hour. The office staff were nice and thanked the occupiers for sharing their views.

Todd opened the floor to questions:

Shane asked about the fully funded Regional Conventions – with the new numbers, we will be losing equity delegates? Todd said yes, but the Regional Council may be able to find a way to fund them.

Report on the Vancouver Crossroads Conference – the person who attended is not in attendance at this meeting, but we will request a written report from them.

MVA Update:

Jen reported on the Transit Assembly, which was not as well attended as expected, she was the only one from the PSAC to attend. There was however good work done at this assembly, with MLA Shane Simpson and Burnaby Mayor Derek Corrigan and a member of the Translink Board in attendance. Shane reported on the Metro Vancouver Alliance AGM, at which there were elections for some positions held and there was discussion about how to get more members and member organizations to participate. Upcoming Shane and Jen will be attending the Housing Research Action Team meeting on July 3. Monica will send out an email on upcoming MVA events.

Upcoming Events:

Car Free Day – Shane got in touch with the Car Free Day for the West End, but they were already at capacity for participating organizations. If we are interested in doing this for next year it was suggested that we would need to make a decision much sooner, perhaps at the AGM.

Canada Day – Sky looked into participating in the Vancouver event, there is a \$6000.00 registration fee, which priced us out of the event.

Annual Softball Tournament – August 17, 2018 at Gordon Park which is located on 49th Avenue between Victoria & Knight. The leads for the event will be Todd, Sky and Crystal. It has been decided that we will be having cold lunches instead of trying to get the barbeque moved to the event. Registration is \$10.00 with all proceeds after costs going to the MVA. The event will run from 9-5. The organizers are highly recommending the use of helmets due to some high profile injury cases that have happened over the past year.

Annual Barbeque – Monica let us know that Luc had approved the rental of a vehicle to transport the barbeque to the location. Ruby arrived at this point and there was some discussion of a joint barbeque with the Mainland Human Rights Committee, as they are also planning a September barbeque. The date will be Saturday September 15, 2018, from 11-4. We decided to use Evite or a similar online service to gather RSVPs so that we can plan food appropriately. We will try to book a park space so that we can make sure we have a guaranteed spot. We talked about Trout Lake park, but on a Saturday we would be competing with the Farmer's Market for parking. Sky said that she can bring kids games, Shane would like to have bocci ball there if anyone has a set. Sky volunteered to take on the RSVPs. Todd will look into availability of parks – will look into Confederation Park, Brighton Park and Deer Lake Park. We will need to speak to Aaron about the budget, will do over email. Monica asked if we will need staff assistance for the event, Todd said yes.

Labour Day – Todd is on the Planning Committee for Labour Day this year. It is at the PNE. There will be a march from Pandora Park at Nanaimo & Hastings to the PNE. Members who participate in the March will receive wristbands for entry into the PNE. We will not be able to have politically branded signage & handouts at our public area, but there will be a private picnic area for the Labour members. We will have 50 wristbands, children 12 & under entry is free. There will also be discounted ride passes available. Gives us good public exposure. Jen & Shane volunteered to staff the booth. We will need more volunteers to give out wristbands at the beginning and end of the march. The VDLC is reaching out to politicians to speak at the private picnic area. No food will be provided, but there are lots of food vendors at the fair. More details to come, start getting the word out about the change of venue for this year.

Monica also mentioned that the PSAC has a discount code for members for Playland. She said that she would send out the poster with the code on it via email. Monica asked if we will need staff assistance for Labour day, Todd said yes.

Previous Minutes – April 18, 2018 (M/S/C) Jen/Sky

Our emergency resolution that was drafted at the last meeting for the Triennial Convention was deemed to be a late resolution and did not go to the floor. The General Resolutions Committee went non-concurrence.

Motions to be ratified:

\$250 to support Todd Smith to attend the BCFed Renewal Conference.

\$200 to support Sky Belt to attend the BCFed Renewal Conference.

Phoenix Subcommittee – Sky Belt:

There was a conference call on June 6. The good news is that at Convention more budget money was allocated to make Phoenix a national conversation. There will be one action per month funded by National starting in July. There is also a national media campaign launching in July. Get your creative juices flowing and please bring forward any ideas to the next conference call or the subcommittee. The call-out will go out to all Area Council Presidents and the Political Action Committee of the Regional Council. Sky would like to tie a campaign into Labour Day. All campaigns will be tied to bargaining as well, as most affected units are in bargaining. Shane asked if there was any news about damages for Phoenix. There is currently no update. Also to be noted, there was so much demand for Phoenix materials for National Public Service Week that they were all handed out. The Phoenix subcommittee will be trying to organize an event for Vancouver.

Affiliate Reports:

No written reports were received.

New Business:

Sky Belt – Motion regarding the Hard Rock Casino Strike

The ongoing strike has been hard on the BCGEU members, in Solidarity we would like to visit the picket line and provide refreshments.

Motion for the Vancouver and District Area Council to provide up to \$100.00 in refreshments to the Hard Rock Workers on the picket line. (M/S/C) Sky / Shane

The picket is a 24-hour line around the Casino. The Area Council will extend an invitation to the West Fraser Valley Area Council to join our members in visiting the line and bringing refreshments on Monday June 18. Todd can pick up members who are taking transit at the Braid skytrain station at 7:00 PM. Monica will send out to the rest of the Area Council.

Sky will also send a request to the REVPs office requesting a donation to the Strike Fund.

Round Table:

Monica – the Fall Advanced Courses applications are available on the PSAC BC website for Unions Work for Women (October 25-28) and Advanced Duty to Accommodate (December 8-9) and save the date for Advanced Local Officer Training (November 15), application should be coming soon. Also, look forward to a Regional Health & Safety Conference coming in the fall. Feed any ideas for the Conference up to Linda Harding, the Health & Safety rep on Regional Council.

Ruby – she is happy to be at this meeting and glad to be coordinating with the Area Council on a combined barbeque with the Human Rights Committee.

Sky – with the Pipeline purchase going ahead the protest movement is continuing to look into solutions and to find a way to turn back the purchase.

Also, for Vancouver Pride the theme that Nia will be promoting is protesting the blood banks' outright denying of donations by gay and transgender people.

Terri – is currently attending the Public Services Conference and will provide a report at the next meeting

Next Meeting will be September 12, 2018. Watch for info coming out about upcoming events.

Adjourned 7:50 PM