

Minutes of Vancouver Human Rights Committee PSAC BC

Present: Tracy Shudo(chair), Wendy Bruce (Treasurer) (Fara Ladha Interpreter), Paul Croes, Leslye Brown, Jennifer Horsley, Tami Grenon, Hakam Bhalou, Deanna Kimball (PSAC Staff) on phone: Sargy Chima, Jennifer Chieh Ho, Kelly Sidhu, Parveen Deepak

People not able to be on call that did request to be on call: Celine Ahodekon, Karen Sutton, Pam Jabal

Regrets: Dean Bordokas, Shelly Bradford

The chair started the meeting by trying to get the members who wanted to join the meeting via teleconference connected. It seems that the maximum number of members able to participate via Teleconference call is 4. The members who participated in person gathered around 6PM and last member arrived as we were just starting at 6:45.

The chair read out a statement from Jennifer C H. Every year there is a march to commemorate the missing women of BC on February 14th at noon. Meeting is at the Carnegie Centre and a march goes past many of the sites to commemorate the missing women.

Everyone is encouraged to participate.

The chair explained that an election has to happen at this meeting as was outlined in the E-mail distributed by Patrick. This E-mail also indicated the process by which people could be nominated to be a Delegate representing the Human Rights Committee for the PSAC BC Convention being held April 25-27, 2014. It was determined that nominations were taken with Leslye and Kelly being nominated for Delegate and were asked if they wished to be considered, both wished to be considered. An election ensued and Leslye was voted Delegate. Kelly accepted to be the Alternate Delegate.

Resolutions were to be reviewed and voted on.

The Chair read a resolution from the Human Rights Committee Vancouver Island:
Resolution was moved by Tracy and Seconded by Paul – approved unanimously

Resolution # 1:

Participation by Members with Disabilities (MWD)

- **Whereas:** MWD have the right to participate at any and all PSAC sponsored events; and
- **Whereas:** Removing barriers ensures MWD can participate 100% in all aspects of any and all PSAC sponsored events; and
- **Whereas:** MWD are the best individuals to consult with when dealing with facilities that may not be barrier-free.

Be it Resolved that: the PSAC must involve MWD National Representatives at all levels of planning to ensure that any facilities considered allow for maximum participation; and

- Be it further resolved that:** The PSAC ensure that a visit to such facility by a potentially affected member(s), who resides in the geographic area of the event, and that consultation with the MWD Working Group takes place well in advance of booking any facilities and
- Be it further resolved that:** The PSAC be 100% transparent in their decision making when discussing matters related to any and all MWD; and
- Be it further resolved that:** The PSAC remove or accommodate every barrier to MWD in order to achieve maximum participation at any PSAC events.

Next Paul proposed three Resolutions:

Resolution #2:

End the Ban on Blood and Organ Donation:

- **Whereas:** There is a need for blood, bone marrow and organ donations with long waiting lists for life saving transplants; and
- **Whereas:** All blood, bone marrow and organ donations are screened to ensure the health of recipients; and
- **Whereas:** **Everyone** is susceptible to contracting HIV, hepatitis and other viruses; and
- **Whereas:** Singling out men who have sex with men for special mention as a high risk group is discriminatory

Be it resolved that: The PSAC will Condemn the federal government policy, lobby Health Canada and work with all political parties to amend the regulations and policies that prohibit men who have sex with men from donating blood and make it difficult for them to be bone marrow and organ donors; and

Be it further resolved that: Partner with social justice organizations to educate about why ostracizing men who have sex with men is discriminatory

Moved by Paul and seconded by Tracy – approved unanimously

Resolution #3

Anti Bullying legislation for schools across Canada

- **Whereas:** It is important for school divisions and governments to ensure legislation is enacted to allow current anti-bullying policies to be enforced; and
- **Whereas:** Egale Canada and other progressive and anti-bullying organizations have resources available on their websites to help make Canadian schools safer and a more welcoming learning environment
- **Whereas:** All school systems, including non secular systems funded by provincial grants, need to comply with anti-harassment / anti-bullying school policies.

Be it resolved that: The PSAC will Lobby provincial governments across the country to ensure

school board policies and legislation promote the values of respect, dignity and fairness for all, in an environment that promotes and supports diversity as well as the equal attainment of life opportunities for all students, staff, parents and community members.

Moved by Paul and seconded by Leslye – approved unanimously

Resolution 4 as presented was split in three:

Transgender Health and Inclusion

Resolution #4:

- Whereas: Transgendered individuals should not be burdened with the costs associated with medically necessary procedures,

Be it resolved that: The PSAC lobby Provincial, Territorial and Federal Governments to fully fund sex reassignment surgeries, hormone treatments and gender transitioning related procedures and develop access to health care services with the ability to approve surgeries in each jurisdiction.

Moved by Paul and seconded by Jennifer H – approved unanimously

Resolution #5:

- Whereas: Egale Canada and other progressive and anti-bullying organizations have resources available on their websites to help make Canadian schools safer and a more welcoming learning environment.

Be it resolved that: The PSAC lobby Governments to amend the Vital Statistics Acts to allow Transgender people to change their gender on Government documentation (example: Birth Certificates) to reflect their lived gender, without sex reassignment surgery,

Moved by Paul and seconded by Tracy – approved unanimously

Resolution #6:

- Whereas: Washroom and changing facility access issues can be particularly acute for people in transition and of ambiguous gender.

Be it resolved that: The PSAC encourage its components and membership to initiate discussions with employers about creating “positive spaces” by implementing “gender neutral” washrooms and changing facilities where necessary

Moved by Paul and seconded by Tammy – approved unanimously

Tracy asked Sister Wendy (Treasurer) if she is able to create and present a financial report so that the the election of Delegate and Alternate for the Human Rights Committee can be accepted and presented to Brother Bob. Wendy indicated that would be no problem.

Meeting adjourned 8PM.