

PSAC OKANAGAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

June 14th, 2013

Minutes of the meeting

Participants:

Kelly Megyesi (chair)

Maria-Luiza Romano

Darrell-Lee McKenzie

Ruy Romano (guest speaker - AGRU)

1. Union School

IMPACT OF CUTS

Both Kelly and Maria-Luiza participated at the 2013 PSAC Advanced Union School. Participants of **Union Works for Women** were divided in teams which, along with participating on several interesting workshops, worked on a project of their choice. Our team chose the theme **Impact of Cuts**. It was decided we would present a dramatization on the impact of cuts under two different aspects: **Members** and **Services**, with the last part being presenting **Solutions** to the problems we face. For that, some suggestions were:

VOTE

RE-INSTATE CORPORATE TAXES TO 28% (YEARS 2000 LEVELS)

RE-INSTATE SERVICES LOST.

2. PSAC Equity Conferences - Nov 2013

Okanagan Womens Committee and Okanagan Human Rights Committee presence

The Committee discussed the possibility of having a table/booth during the 2013 PSAC Equity Conferences. That would display our involvement and work on women and human rights issues. The Committee hopes to raise some money for activities throughout the sales of buttons and tickets for a raffle of a quilt.

Kelly will look for information on the possibility of having the table/booth.

3. Quilt project

HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGH THE EYES OF OUR CHILDREN

The goal of the project is to encourage PSAC members to create awareness on Human Rights (HR) issues, by talking about that to our children.

The group discussed the logistics for the making of a quilt, which would stamp an interpretation of a human right, drawn by children, in each block of the quilt. Maria-Luiza will buy fabrics and permanent markers and will prepare the fabric blocks for drawings. The blocks, markers and an explanation on the project, with links to websites of institutions promoting and defending human rights will be distributed to members, who will then teach HR to their children. The expectation is for the quilt to be ready in the Fall, for a raffle during the 2013 PSAC Equity Conferences (see item 2).

4. Impact of cuts on the Public Service

Future of the PSAC Okanagan Human Rights Committee

The Committee discussed the impact of cuts and the changes in our structure if PSAC members who are affected/surplussed could not continue performing their work with the Union. The effects of that for the PSAC Okanagan Human Rights Committee would be devastating; the Committee would become unviable due to the loss of its membership.

5. Guest speaker: Ruy Romano (AGRU Human Rights Committee - BC rep)

5.1 Visibility of the AGRU Human Rights Committee

Ruy talked about the discussions carried over the AGRU Human Rights Committee meeting, held in Ottawa this week. The representatives of the AGRU Human Rights Committee will be looking into ideas on how to make their Committee more visible for the membership. Ruy's suggestions to his Committee were:

- linking the AGRU HR Committee with the need of communities, through the AGRU Social Justice Fund
- presence in the 2014 AGRU Convention by presenting their work to AGRU members through discussion panels, posters, etc.
- having a guest speaker on HR for the AGRU Convention.

5.2 Violence Against Women

The role of men on the problem of violence against women.

6. We Are All Affected

Bullying at the workplace - Building Communities

An overview of our successful workshop which run March 2, 2013 with the help of the PSAC Okanagan Womens Committee & Okanagan Area Council. More than 80 people (members from PSAC and other Unions as well) attended the workshop.

We are very pleased to see that the workshop and the Women Reaching High event has inspired participation of members in other PSAC functions, like the 2013 BC Womens Conference and the 2013 PSAC Union School, in different roles including organization of such PSAC events.

7. Migrant Workers

<http://www.indiegogo.com/projects/migrant-dreams>

The Committee discussed the donation of funds for the making of "Migrant Dreams" (see link above), a documentary featuring Mexican women working in Canada. The documentary is directed by Min Sook Lee, an award winning Canadian filmmaker. Some of her previous work include "El Contrato", a documentary about the lives of Mexican workers in Southern Ontario as temporary foreign workers. The Committee approved the donation of \$100.00 (one hundred dollars) for the project.