

PSAC BC Mainland Human Rights Committee

Minutes

October 29, 2014

In Attendance:

Jen Horsley
Shane Polák - Recording
Todd Smith
Leslye Brown
Sargy Chima
Felicia Areghene
Melissa Shih
Tracy Shudo - Chair
Betty Choi
Dennis Wong
Ferzana Samnani
Jennifer Chieh Ho
Amit Deo
Sandy Chathe
Kelly Sidhu
Dean Bordokas
Crystal Warner
Ruby Langan
Emma Fleetman
On Phone – Terri Lee
 Shirley
 Jill McNeil

Guest - Jamey Mills – A/REVP BC

PSAC Staff Representative – Deanna Kimball

- 1) Call to Order at 6:04 PM by Tracy Shudo – Chair
- 2) Round Table – Introductions of committee members and guests.
- 3) Approval of the Agenda
 - a) Agenda Review
 - b) Minutes of previous AGM September 24, 2013 and BC HRC BBQ July 9 2014
 - c) Financial Report
 - d) Report of Activities of Executive and A/REVP Report

- e) Elections – Chair/Vice-Chair/Secretary/Treasurer
 - f) Panning Activities up to 2015
 - g) Next Meeting Date
 - h) Adjournment
- 4) Minutes of September 24, 2013 Moved – Tracy Shudo / Second – Jennifer Chieh Ho – Carried
- 5) Minutes of July 9, 2014 – Moved – Tracy Shudo /Second – Todd Smith – Carried
- a) Report of Komagata Maru Event – Attached
 - b) Noted that there were nice roses handed out to the donors of the event – A picture was passed around.
- 6) Report of A/REVP – Bob Jackson sent his regrets. All Treasury Board Bargaining Units in bargaining at this time. Public sector is under attack from the current government, Fraser Institute and others. Need to push back against these attacks. Reminded members that sick leave has not been bargained away and to not give up. Tracy mentioned that she would like to see more town halls. Town halls are on the radar and may be needed in the fall as there may be a fall election.
- 7) Financial Report – Treasurer sends her regrets. Wendy Bruce not in town. No financials were prepared for the meeting other than a bank statement.

Deanna mentioned that may be a good thing as the PSAC would like our reports to match up with calendar year end. It was noted that the REVP office requires our bank and financial statement monthly though. As a result it was suggested that the elected positions would remain for 14 instead of 12 months based on the change of financial reporting. No motion was introduced on this subject.

The bank statement was noted to be missing cheques--for both credits and debits. Tracy noted that a cheque for \$200 for the Fusion Festival would not be cashed as it was refused by the REVP office due to the low number of dollars spent in the past for food vouchers for volunteers. As a result of all of this we do not know the true bank balance. The balance of account at the meeting was \$1,612.71. Equity Share balance was \$26.02. All funding requests from this point can only be approved dependent on the financial statements and account balances until the Committee knows its financial standing.

There was a motion put forward but not seconded that was tabled as follows:

That the children that volunteered at the various summer events supported by the PSAC BC Mainland HRC be recognized for their efforts with a \$30.00 gift certificate or card from the budgeted line item for those summer events.

Discussion ensued and it was determined that the members would rather not give money but instead a certificate and letter recognizing them for their efforts. The letter ought to include the number of hours served so that it could be included in high school education credits for volunteering in the community. It was confirmed by committee members that it does not matter to the school if the students were not advised they were volunteers before they actually volunteered.

8) Reports of HRC Members – See attachment

a) Jennifer Chieh Ho, Racially Visible Co-Ordinator:

Nov 12th - Shared that the racially visible coordinator team organised the CLIFF (Canadian Labour International Film Festival), the first time ever hosted by PSAC. There will be members from other affiliates joining us through the BC Federation of Labour and New Westminster Labour Council. She hopes that everyone around the table this evening will be attending the Nov 12 event and to RSVP by Nov 5.

Dec 6th National Day of Remembrance and to End Violence Against Women: Recently at regional council, she announced that she will not be organising the Dec 6th candle light vigil as she had hoped to attend the vigil in Victoria marking the 25th anniversary of the Montreal Massacre. However, Director from BC Federation of Labour contacted her last week and asked if she was doing anything this year for this day. Jennifer said she could not let go of the opportunity; she reconsidered and now is going to work with BC Fed and the PSAC West Fraser Valley Area Council.

BC Federation of Labour Human Rights committee is organising a Dec 10th free event to mark International Human Rights Day from 7 pm - 10 pm; Jennifer proposed/suggested the human rights committee to consider rescheduling the previously planned Dec 10th year end (Xmas) dinner meeting to another date so that we could all participate on the BC Fed event.

Banner for the PSAC BC Human Rights Committee is now completed. Thanks to the contribution of all four Equity Co-Ordinators, Paul Croes, Ruby Langan, Ken Waldron and Jennifer herself for their input and thanks to Patrick for his help in designing the banner.

Jennifer acknowledged and thanked the hard work, time and commitment the outgoing executive members they put in for the last year.

- b) Terri Lee – summer events – Car Free Day – rainfall at the start then it cleared up and the crowds came. Volunteers promoted the “We are all affected” campaign and there was face painting. The PSAC booth was very popular.
- c) Todd Smith – Attended World Pride in Toronto, Surrey Pride, Vancouver Pride, the People’s Social Forum in Ottawa and the same time Pride in

Ottawa. All the events were well attended. He really appreciated the multi union pride float in the Vancouver Pride Parade. (see attachment for full report)

- d) Ruby Langan noted that she wanted PSAC to provide food for volunteers as there is little time to get to eat when working the events.
 - e) Jamey Mills – thanked the volunteers for their efforts. Will take back the issues raised to Bob Jackson REVP BC.
- 9) Elections – Tracy Shudo handed over the chair to Deanna. She gave a parting speech before doing so. She was thankful for being a part of the committee for the past three years and will support the committee in the future.

Regarding eligibility to vote – Deanna pointed out that there is no national regulation regarding the PSAC HRCs and voting rights. The BC Mainland HRC may want to create our own regulation regarding this. As a guideline those who have self-identified as equity members and are here are eligible to vote. The members consented to this. The persons on the phone can vote via text.

- a) Chair declared vacant and nominations were taken from the floor as no nominations were presented in advance. Todd Smith was nominated by Ferzana Samnani and Mellissa Shih; Jennifer Chieh Ho was nominated by Tracy Shudo and Ruby Langdon. Jennifer declined the nomination with thanks to her nominators and Todd accepted. Todd Smith was acclaimed chair of the committee.
- b) Vice-Chair was declared vacant and nominations were taken from the floor. (Note the change in name from Co-Chair as it was felt that Co-Chair appeared like there were dual chairs). Ferzana Samnani was nominated by Crystal Warner and Tracy Shudo; Amit Deo was nominated by Jennifer Chieh Ho and Sandy Chathe. Amit declined and Ferzana accepted the nomination. Ferzana was acclaimed Vice-Chair.
- c) Secretary was declared vacant and nominations were taken from the floor. Emma Fleetman was nominated by Todd Smith and Ferzana Samnani; Shane Polák was nominated by Dean Bordokas and Tracy Shudo. Shane accepted and Emma accepted. Both agreed to be Co-Secretaries.
- d) Treasurer – Betty Choi was nominated by Ferzana Samnani and Todd Smith. No other nominations came forward. Betty was acclaimed.

All the candidates thanked their nominators and seconders. All were sworn in by A/REVP Jamey Mills.

- e) Event Co-coordinator Position was tabled to the next meeting.

- 10) Planning for Events – It was decided to plan for the following events at the next meeting – November 20 – Transgender Day of Remembrance; December 3 – International Persons with Disabilities Day; December 10 International Human Rights Day.
- 11) Planning for events in 2015 with occur at the next meeting.
- 12) Good and Welfare:
- a) Todd and Ferzana will try to get a PSAC email account for HRC business. It is mainlandhrc@psacbc.com.
 - b) Jennifer Chieh Ho wants us to put aside time to attend the Cliff Film Festival. It is a series of short films about 100 minutes in total. (Link for event will be in these minutes.)
 - c) December 6 is the 25 year of remembrance of the école polytechnic massacre and will have event with BC FED help in Surrey. The Fraser Valley Area Council will be sponsoring. Watch for announcement.
 - d) PSAC National President Robyn Benson will be coming and we should all come and see her.
 - e) November 21 is a fundraising dinner for the Hanna and Amelia's Foundation Kelly and Sargy are going. The Vancouver Regional Women's Committee provided funding for the purchases of 2 tickets. A request to purchase a 3rd ticket was made. They requested funding of \$200. A gift basket and a ticket for admission of \$75.00 m/s/c. Conditionally approved by committee dependent on financial statements and available funds.
 - f) Give away draw was had. Todd, Leslye, Mellissa and Amit were the winners.
- 13) Adjournment – Tracy Shudo moved to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded and carried. Time of adjournment was 7:56 PM.