

PSAC Mainland Human Rights Committee

Tuesday, November 25, 2014

PSAC Vancouver Regional Office

Attendance:

Wendy Bruce, CEIU 20937  
Sandy Chatha CIU 20040  
Sargy Chima CEIU 20949  
Betty Choi UTE 20027  
Ruby Langan UNE 20150  
Todd Smith AGR 20044  
Ferzana Samnami UTE 20027  
Ken Waldron MWD Coordinator BC  
Dennis Wong UTE 20027  
Deanna Kimball PSAC

Phone:

Leslye Brown  
Celeine Ahodikon

Regrets:

Calvin Smith  
Angela Marafon  
Tami Grenon  
Jennifer Horsley  
Tracy Shudo  
Jennifer Cheih-Ho  
Linda Harding  
Bill Plemming  
Cheryl Oenema  
Shane Polak

Meeting started at 5:45

1) Minutes from October 29, 2014 were approved with changes

2) Action tabled items

Suggestion of creating an event coordinator position for the committee was discussed. It was decided that, members of the committee should have the opportunity to take the lead on different activities, instead of everything falling to one individual.

- 3) December 10 event with BC Federation of Labour – Patrick had sent out an email regarding the request for volunteers. Please share with members in your local.
- 4) 2015 Event participation (see appendix 1)

The committee identified a number of equity days and/or events throughout the year:

- a) Events directly related to the four equity groups (GLBT, Racially Visible, Persons with Disabilities and Aboriginal Peoples)
- b) Events directly related to Union priorities
- c) Political action/other events

The committee identified two events related to each of the four equity groups it represents that it will be involved with to some degree:

- Aboriginal Peoples
  - o June 21 – National Aboriginal Day
  - o February 14 – Women’s Memorial March
- GLBT
  - o July 5 – Surrey Pride
  - o August 2 – Vancouver Pride
- Persons with Disabilities
  - o Dec 3 – International day for Persons with Disabilities
  - o May 1 – Memory Hearing Month
- Racially Visible
  - o February – Black History Month
  - o March 21 – International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

- 5) 2015 Meeting dates:

Tuesday February 3 (AGM – pass 2014 Financial Statement and 2015 Budget)

Tuesday, April 14

Tuesday, June 16

Tuesday, September 15

Tuesday, November 3

Food will be served at 5:30 and meeting will begin at 6:00 pm

Reminder to RSVP to meetings, when notices are circulated: attendance, food allergies

The executive agreed to meet in January to review financial statement and prepare for the February meeting

- 6) Human Rights Committee Banner

Todd will follow up with Sister Jennifer Ho-Chieh regarding the banner graphic and with Patrick Bragg to see what it would cost to have a banner made for the committee.

## 7) Affiliation to the PSAC Vancouver and District Area Council

The committee approved \$25.00 (motion – Sargy. Seconded – Todd), to affiliate to the PSAC Vancouver and District Area Council.

### Benefits:

- Delegate seat from the HRC on the AC. This allows voice and vote at meetings, the opportunity to submit resolutions through an additional body, educational opportunities, funding for events, and potential to be delegate to numerous events and conventions.
- Allows a voice during roundtable to discuss issues directly related to HRC.
- The HRC is affiliated to the Metro Vancouver Alliance through the AC.
  - More info on Metro Vancouver Alliance:  
<http://iafnw.org/canada/metrovancouveralliance>

## 8) PSAC National Convention Observer

Sargy asked if the committee may be willing to send an observer to the PSAC National Triennial Convention in 2015.

The Observer registration information is scheduled to be posted on the PSAC website in December. The committee was unsure if this had been done before. Deanna will follow up with the REVP and other Regional Reps to seek their advice on how to do this if it is the will of the committee. Wendy stated that there is a Funding Request form that has been developed and finalized, for funding requests to the committee. It was suggested that a draft budget be provided if someone was going to ask for funding to the convention. It probably wouldn't be feasible for the committee to solely send an observer as the cost would be too great. The committee agreed to discuss this at the next meeting further provided the research on costing is done.

Deanna will resend out the funding form and it should be posted on the regional website for members to access.

## 9) Transgender Day of Remembrance - November 20

The committee acknowledged that was the Transgender Day of Remembrance and watched a video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UgWpGLB-QKI#t=152>

**Transgender Day of Remembrance** (TDoR), which occurs annually on November 20, is a day to memorialize those who have been killed as a result of [transphobia](#)<sup>[1]</sup> (the hatred or fear of transgender and gender non-conforming people) and to bring attention to the continued violence endured by the [transgender](#) community.<sup>[2]</sup>

The Transgender Day of Remembrance was founded in 1999 by [Gwendolyn Ann Smith](#), a [trans woman](#) who is a graphic designer, columnist, and activist,<sup>[3]</sup> to memorialize the murder of [Rita Hester](#) in [Allston, Massachusetts](#).<sup>[4]</sup> Since its inception, TDoR has been held annually on November 20,<sup>[5]</sup> and it has slowly evolved from the [web](#)-based project started by Smith into an international day of action. In 2010, TDoR was observed in over 185 cities throughout more than 20 countries.<sup>[6]</sup>

Typically, a TDoR memorial includes a reading of the names of those who lost their lives during the previous year, <sup>[7]</sup> and may include other actions, such as candlelight vigils, art shows, food drives, film screenings, and marches.<sup>[8]</sup> The TDoR is the culmination of [Transgender Awareness Week](#).<sup>[9]</sup> The [Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation](#) (GLAAD) has extensively covered TDoR.<sup>[10]</sup> GLAAD has interviewed numerous transgender advocates<sup>[11]</sup> (including actress [Candis Cayne](#)<sup>[12]</sup>), profiled an event at the [New York City LGBT Community Center](#),<sup>[13]</sup> and discussed media coverage of TDoR.<sup>[14]</sup>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transgender\\_Day\\_of\\_Remembrance](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transgender_Day_of_Remembrance)

#### 10) Hanna and Ameila Fundraising Event Report

I would like to thank the Women's Committee and the Human Rights Committee for purchasing tickets for the Hannah and Amelia Fundraising Dinner.

This was my first time I attended the second annual Hannah and Amelia Fundraiser dinner with Sandy Chatha and Kelly Sidhu, and I can certainly say, it was a very well supported fundraiser by people in the community, from different backgrounds and cultures.

This sold out fundraiser was put on by Dina in memory of her two daughters Hannah who was still born on June 15, 2016 at 28 weeks and Amelia who was still born on May 3, 2008 at 26 weeks. As a result of this, Dina had suffered deep depression for many years. With strong support from her husband, family and friends she was able to regain her strength and move forward in her life. Dina decided to set up a foundation in the name of her daughters to improve the lives of children, in particular girls. Girls are viewed as a burden in many parts of the world, including India. Therefore, this foundation is raising monies to bring hope, joy and help to girls living in an orphanage.

Dina spoke about the loss of her daughters, the depression she suffered, and the decision to raise monies and help build playgrounds in orphanages in other countries. A video was displayed sharing stories from girls living in orphanages and their struggles. Last year, the foundation raised 25,000 dollars that was used to build a playground for girls, in an orphanage in Jallandar, India. This year, the goal is to raise another \$25,000 dollars that will go towards building a playground for an orphanage in Chandigarh, India, and a simple thing like a playground will help to provide these opportunities.

Helping children, in particular girls, is very heart-warming; therefore, I would like to see that this event is supported and attended by PSAC members annually.

Sargy Chima

Kelly Sidhu

Sandy Chatha

#### 11) Meeting Adjourned at 7:45 pm

Appendix 1:

February Black History Month

<http://psacunion.ca/black-history-month-february-2014>

February 14 - Women's Memorial March Honouring Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women

<http://psacunion.ca/womens-memorial-march-honouring-missing-and-murdered-aboriginal-women>

March 21 International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

<http://psacunion.ca/international-day-elimination-racial-discrimination>

April 17 Equality Day

This marks the day when one of the equality provisions (section 15) of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms came into force. The section states that every individual is equal before and under the law and has the right to equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, sex, age, or mental or physical disability.

May Asian Heritage Month

<http://psacunion.ca/asian-heritage-month>

May 17 – International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia

<http://psacunion.ca/international-day-against-homophobia-and-transphobia>

**May Memory Hearing Month**

June 21 – National Aboriginal Peoples Day

<http://psacunion.ca/justice-aboriginal-peoples-its-time>

August - Pride (events depend on location)

August 7 Transgender International Rights and Education Day

August 7 was declared Transgender International Rights and Education Day as a reminder that all of us have the same human rights and freedoms, regardless of gender,

gender identity, or sexual orientation. The day is meant to raise awareness of the obstacles that transgender people continue to face everyday, and to honor the courage of those who refuse to hide their true selves for the sake of public approval.

August 9 International Day of World's Indigenous Peoples  
<http://www.un.org/en/events/indigenousday/>

September (4<sup>th</sup> week) International Sign Language Rights Day  
[http://www.cad.ca/news\\_events\\_en.php?newsID=128](http://www.cad.ca/news_events_en.php?newsID=128)

At World Congress of the WFD in Madrid, Spain, in July 2007, delegates and conference participants were in overwhelming support of the creation of an International Day of Sign Language Rights as an annual observance during the 4th week of September, in concurrence with the International Week/Day of the Deaf which usually takes during the 4th week of September annually.

November 20 – Transgender Day of Remembrance  
<http://psacunion.ca/transgender-day-remembrance>

December 1 World AIDS Day  
<http://www.worldaidsday.org/about-world-aids-day.php>

World AIDS Day is held on 1 December each year and is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, show their support for people living with HIV and to commemorate people who have died. World AIDS Day was the first ever global health day and the first one was held in 1988.

December 3 – International Day for Persons with Disabilities  
<http://psacunion.ca/international-day-persons-disabilities>

December 6 – National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women  
<http://psacunion.ca/national-day-remembrance-and-action-violence-against-women-0>

December 10 – Human Rights Day  
<http://psacunion.ca/human-rights-day>