

PSAC BC Mainland Human Rights Committee

Meeting Agenda - December 8, 2015

1. Introductions
2. Previous minutes – M/S/C
Issue surrounding possible change of the meeting dates. This was supposed to happen in November. Was postponed to today.
3. Previous events/activities – discussion regarding recognition for volunteers. It was agreed last meeting regarding to send out thank you cards to those who worked those events. There was a conversation regarding sending those school age children a thank you letter with the hours included to help them with their educational requirements. Point of order – We don't have the authority. Tracy - The committee should provide attestation for children. Ferzana and Todd will provide if the names are brought to their attention a letter.
4. BCRC Equity Reps Reports:

Ruby – MMIW event at city hall. At city hall, duty mayor and AFN chief attended. It was a successful event. We got a shout out from BCFED at the event that put our name out to the crowd. National Human Rights Committee in November. Encouraged to take training with women. Meeting at ending violence this weekend. BCFED diversity forum got another shout out for the End to Violence Against Women Vigil in Abbotsford. Ruby attended to give lens on disparity on indigenous women and violence.

Jennifer Chieh Ho - attended Oct 4 Sisters in Spirit Vigil in Ottawa while on component business. It was emotional and empowering to be there with the families of those who have lost their loved ones.

Organised the 5th annual candle light vigil held at Holland Park, Surrey to remember December 6th Montreal Massacre and National Day to Remember and End Violence Against women. Jennifer thanked PSAC Racially Visible members who helped with the event and those from the Human Rights Committee who attended to show support. There were altogether 8 speakers; three local politicians and five union leaders including Irene from BCFED and our REVP, Bob Jackson. This was the second year BCFED approached her to work jointly with PSAC on the vigil.

Nov 14 Canadian Labour International Film Festival: Thanks to the Human Rights Committee for the donation which was used towards refreshments that evening. We were fortunate enough to have one of the film makers there that evening to share his personal experience in making the film. Jennifer said she hopes to see more PSAC members to future events. Discussion surrounding CLIFF and the various films. One in particular Rana Plaza in Bangladesh and Canadian fashion.

Jennifer gave information on the BCFED Diversity Forum (Nov 15) and Union Renewal Conference (Nov 16 – 18). In her role as the BCFED Worker of colour and along with the other equity representatives, Jennifer presented her report to delegates at the Diversity Forum. There were four great equity speakers who spoke to specific equity issues.

Two in person meetings and teleconference calls (for those who could not attend in person) for the Racially Visible Caucus were held on Oct 13 and Dec 2.

Tracy - Need to learn to accommodate each community (hearing impaired). Do not generalize what you do not know. Persons with invisible disability.

Tracy attended December 6 event – felt it was a little too political and wanted a more community feel. Loved the event and provided scarves and presented white ribbons.

Crystal – The four seasons gave a thank you for Immigration union members support of Syrian refugees. Requested support to sponsor a Syrian family.

Todd - attended the BCRC for Paul as Equity representative. Attended social justice committee and brought up Syrian refugees. We need to do more.

Ferzana - we need to be more than a cheque writing committee and do more activism as a committee.

Celine - The refugees will be dispatched all over the country. As a HRC we must do more to coordinate efforts nationwide and we need to know how to help on this issue.

We need to forward some direction to our locals and a way to communicate this to others. A lot of people are concerned and we need to know how to help on this issue.

Crystal - prefers that we coordinate area councils, regional councils, local, committees etc. Work with social justice representatives to get funds from the social justice funds.

Jennifer said that in September, an email was sent to REVP's office to request a donation for the Syrian Refugee Crisis. The Donations Committee has advised that after receiving clarification on what the PSAC has done nationally for Syrian refugees, specifically referencing the PSAC's commitment of \$5,000 to the refugee crisis through the Social Justice Fund, the Committee has decided to respectfully decline her donation request. Moreover, the Committee felt that it is important that Regional Council's donations be directed to local organizations and needs within our community.

The Committee added that they felt the PSAC National President should meet with the new majority government and call on the federal government to provide assistance to refugees coming into Canada.

Amit– still a large number of people that don't understand this issue and we need to be able to provide information about resolving misconceptions and education of members and public.

Ferzana – get together and reconvene to determine what we can do. We don't have time here tonight. Each one of us take a piece and research and make an action plan. Eg cost to settle a family. Can each of us take back something to research? Amid – wants to research the positive aspects. Crystal – what the PSAC can do? Celine – please report back from your meeting tomorrow. Celine can email Todd Smith. Jen – will be

connecting up with MOSAIC to discuss. Shane – Economic Factors. Todd – what organizations are already doing.
Conference call – January 5. 6:00 PM.

5. International Human Rights Day

- a. Letter – free Nestora – feedback from members and translated into Spanish. This is our committee work and we are proud of it. The letter will be widely distributed

6. Annual General Meeting date

Elections – AGM is changing FY to match the CY. Agenda item suggest would be the February 14 March for the MMIW. January 20th. Approved. M/S/C.

7. Upcoming events/activities

February 14 March for MMIW and February is Black History Month. Also plan for December 10 as International Human Rights Day.

Jennifer Chieh Ho is working with affiliates on Black History Month, she will keep us up to date as events are organized.

Focus on between now and January 20 – December 21 Fry bread give away. Annual Labour Community Christmas Dinner. VDLC and NWDLC are doing these events.

8. Funding request:

- a. Jennifer Chieh Ho

Attending the BCFED Organizing Training - \$200.00. Simulate how to organize those who are in diverse work and are diverse workers. Transforming conflict.

Jen will endeavour to pass this knowledge to use via training. \$200 from donations line item. M/S/C.

9. Ken Waldron – MWD Representative – health issue.

M/S/C that a get well card be sent from the HRC. Todd will send one on behalf of the committee.

10. JCH showing videos on LGBT <http://bcypovertyreduction.ca/campaigns/lgbtq/> and poverty myth busters <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rYC13vsElnE>

and Refugee issues and Ikea building solar houses for refugees

<http://www.popsci.com/technology/article/2013-09/thousand-dollar-ikea-house-refugees-big-pic>

11. Members not getting email about meetings

12. Roundtable – Ruby and Jennifer were at an event at Parliament Hill on Nov 4 to rally for an inquiry into MMIW. Jennifer and Ruby did a dance and Ruby delivered a petition to Tony Clement. Amit – getting back into action. Shane –Attended Health and Safety Conference. Spoke about the poor quality of our DI plan and the effects of mental health

in the workplace. That our workplaces are full of sick people and we need to work on mental health issues. Tracy encourage that all the email go out to those who self identified as an equity member. Reminder to have fun. Jennifer – acknowledged and thanked Tracy for all the work she has done in this labour movement and social justice and the mentorship she has done for her and others. “She was there for me when I first started with the Union back in 2009 at the Union Development Program and the courage she gave me when we had to do public speaking”. Todd also thanks Tracy. Fergana suggested that we work on the fact that BC is the only province that does not have a Human Rights Commission.

13. Adjournment - 8:07 PM.