

PSAC BC Mainland Human Rights Committee

Minutes

May 17, 2016

Attendance – In Person: Todd Smith, Ferzana Samnani, Vic, Shane Polak and Ruby Langan

Attendance – Teleconference: unsure

- 1) Opening Remarks – Acknowledgement of unceded territories:
 - a. Call to Order at 6:00 PM
 - b. Ruby Langan acknowledged the unceded territories on which we were meeting.
 - c. The PSAC Harassment Statement was read aloud
 - d. A brief talk on adult bullying
- 2) Previous Minutes: The previous minutes were passed as amended.
- 3) Report Back on Syrian Refugee Donation Drive: Overall the response was good. Committee members were active with the drive. Most has a positive feel. There were some logistical issues that need to be resolved for the next time.
- 4) Syrian Refugee Continued Support: We also would like to support migrant worker rights. Looking to change.org and other such relationships we could cultivate.
- 5) May 28 Mental Health Event: blanket emails went out to all the locals from the PSAC admin staff. We asked for RSVP. Asked members to forward the email to local members. We need to reach out also to other committees we belong to.
- 6) National Aboriginal Day June 21: Ideas were that were suggested: Poems to be read aloud, Tea and bannock, First National Activists to attend and speak, Ruby noted the annual event at Trout Lake. Ruby like the ideas the group had. Other suggestions were an open mic event and a poetry slam. We decided to have an event at the PSAC office that would also include our Annual BBQ. The idea was to merge the two and host a Tea and bannock as well as Salmon BBQ. Ruby to invite a speaker that was well respected to be the main event. Todd to purchase food at Costco. Shane was to chef the BBQ (he was called out of town on work business). The budget for this was discussed.

Moved by Vic and Second by Ruby to amend the budget to add this line item. Motion Carried.
Moved/Seconded and Carried that \$75 would be transferred from the Access line item.

Moved/Seconded and Carried that we allocate up to \$150 additional from the budget.

- 7) June 26 Surrey Pride: Holland Park booth and banner to be displayed.
- 8) July 31 Vancouver Pride: there was an ask for committee support of the event. The committee agreed that this would be a must to support.
- 9) July 12 MHRC BBQ: See item#6.
- 10) Resolutions to the BCRC: Committee would meet in September and October to form resolutions. Committee is going to ask for a course in resolution writing. September 20 would be a discussion and learning meeting and October 5 would be writing day. Ruby asked to keep Aboriginal Resolutions in mind for the upcoming BC Fed Convention.
- 11) National Equity Conference: Committee noted upcoming National Equity Conferences in early 2017. We will need to prepare resolutions sometime after summer.
- 12) Financial Report: Moved/Seconded and Carried that we move the donations line item to have each equity group line item at \$150.00 (Aboriginal, Access, Pride, Racially Visible). The total would be \$600.00.
- 13) Roundtable
 - a) Pride Movie Night December 10, 2016
 - b) We would like to see how we can advocate for TFW working rights.
 - c) More discussion on the BBQ
 - d) Todd Terms of Reference was approved by REVP office.
 - e) Ferzana wanted to see if we can do something for the Ft. Mc. fire disaster.
- 14) Adjourned at 7:40.

Report from Jennifer Chieh Ho

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Chieh Ho

Racially Visible Equity Co-Ordinator

Dated 2016 05 16

1) **First PSAC BC Regional Racially Visible Conference** took place May 13 - 15 at Hilton, Burnaby. Theme of the Conference is "Race Forward: Our Union, Our community and Our Future". It was a successful event where there were great speakers who spoke about topics like foreign workers, how discrimination and psychological affects are connected, Employment Equity, racism and intersectionality. PSAC National President, Robyn Benson was there to send her greetings and best wishes on the opening day. CLC National VP, Marie Clarke Walker was our guest speaker who gave much encouragement and inspiring speech. We had a great meet and greet where there was a Filipino Dance presentation and the organising committee provided some games.

The following three workshops facilitated by PSAC Racially Visible Staff members from Vancouver, Ottawa, Winnipeg, Halifax, and Toronto:

- Racial Discrimination; the need for Equity in our workplace, union and Community
- Pushing our issues forward
- Building our networks and strengthening our solidarity

There was a discussion paper which was discussed and will be presented at the PSAC National Equity Conference in March 2017.

The conference raised a total of \$350 to be donated towards the unfortunate Fort McMurray fire tragedy.

2) May 29th is the date for the 2nd Annual Asian Heritage Month Event taking place again in New Westminster. Several PSAC Racially Visible members and activists from other Unions and community networked and put this event together. Please bring your families and friends to the event. We received funding from CLC Pacific Region, BC Federation of Labour as well as PSAC BC Regional Council. This will be a FREE event to all and there will be panel speakers and cultural entertainment. If you are able to help out on that day, please let me know asap.

3) I represented the PSAC BC Racially Visible Equity members on the steering committee for the PSAC National Equity Conference. We met for the first time in Ottawa on May 6th. Callout for delegates applications will be out soon and we, as the Human Rights committee should look into if there is any resolutions and to make sure that we will not miss resolutions submission deadlines.