

PSAC BC Mainland Human Rights Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
September 20, 2016

Attendance:

In Person: Todd S, Ferzana S, Cheryl O, Jennifer H, Wendy B, Amit D, Vic J, Robert S (PSAC Rep)  
Phone: Jennifer CH, Shirley T, Ruby L, Celine A

- 1) 5:30 Meeting Opening, recognition of unceded territory, round table introductions.
- 2) Pervious minutes were discussed and amended, Jennifer CH's report to be added.  
M/S/C Ferzana/Todd
- 3) Summer Events attended by committee members:  
National Aboriginal Day  
No summer BBQ planned this year, combined it with the National Aboriginal Day  
Pride Parade  
Surrey Pride  
New West Pride  
Surrey Fusion Fest
- 4) Upcoming events prior to next meeting (Nov 15)  
International Celebration of Sign Language Week - Wendy will email more info.  
Remembrance Day – In the past Bob J has lain a wreath for PSAC BC.  
Canadian Labour International Film Festival (CLIFF) – Jennifer CH will look into getting some movies to play at the next committee meeting.  
Sisters in Spirit Vigil – Oct 4<sup>th</sup> – Ruby will be planning something again this year, she will send out an email to let us know the details, volunteers are needed.
- 5) Roundtable  
Jennifer H – Appointed to her employer Equity and Diversity Committee, currently working on a diversity questionnaire.  
Wendy – Applied to the National Conference, will be her 4<sup>th</sup> year if accepted. Lots of changes and new hires at work. International week of sign language, promotes awareness of ASL. Wendy also teaches ASL. If anyone is interested in learning ASL, it is taught at VCC and the Delta Community School District. Sept 28<sup>th</sup> the National Video Relay Service will be launched in Canada. Wendy was appointed to a special advisory council for the deaf and hard of hearing for federal Government employees. They are looking at ways to improve recruitment of interpreters for employees.  
Ruby – Will be organizing a Sisters in Spirit Vigil again this year. There is an important court case coning up soon and the families can use the support. She will let us know the details once she has them. Looking to purchase books for the committees.  
Jennifer CH – Will submit a written report.

6:25 end of regular meeting

Robert S delivered a short presentation on writing resolutions.

The Mainland HR committee can submit 5 resolutions max. It was decided that there would be one resolution from each of the equity groups, plus one. There were 5 resolution discussed and agreed upon to be put forward. The reworked, reworded, updated resolutions need to be submitted to the committee chairs [mainlandhrc@psac.bc.com](mailto:mainlandhrc@psac.bc.com) by end of day Wednesday September 21<sup>st</sup>. The resolutions will then be forwarded to the committee for further discussion, the deadline for voting is Tuesday September 27<sup>th</sup>. The final versions of the resolutions will be submitted to Kristin S by Thursday September 29<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting Adjourned 8:30

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Report for PSAC Regional BC Human Rights Committees from Jennifer Chieh Ho,  
PSAC BC Regional Co Ordinator for Racially Visible Members

### **Events organised and Community Outreach:**

#### ***2015 05 13 to 2015 05 15 – first PSAC BC Regional Racially Visible Conference***

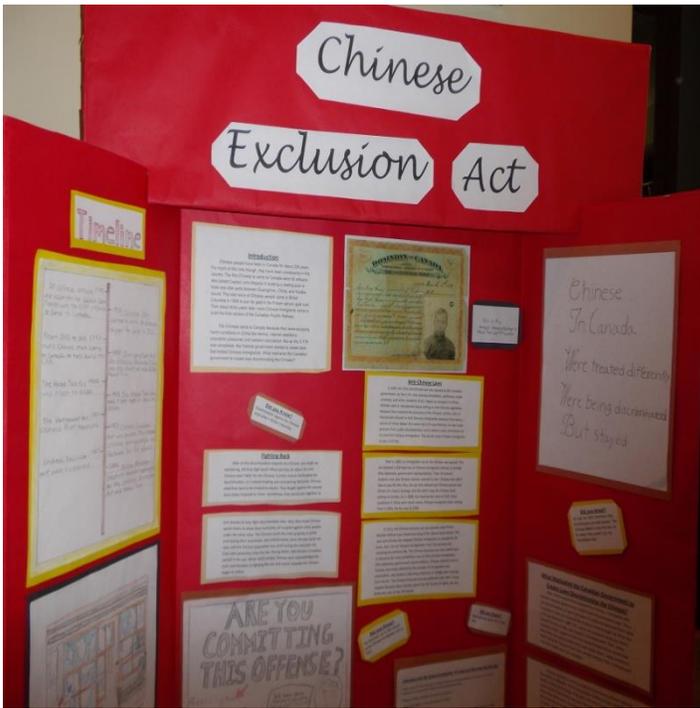
Full Report of this event is available at the PSAC BC website.

This is a historic celebration for PSAC BC Racially Visible members. I would like to thank the steering committee Celine Ahodekon, Suwinder Jassal, Vic Johal and Aly \_\_\_\_\_ and Vancouver Regional staff, Monica Urrutia for all their work for organising this successful event. Overall, we had positive review about the conference. Participants at the conference appreciated that there was safe place for everyone to come together for discussions of the same concerns and issues.

#### ***May Asian Heritage Month - May, 2016***

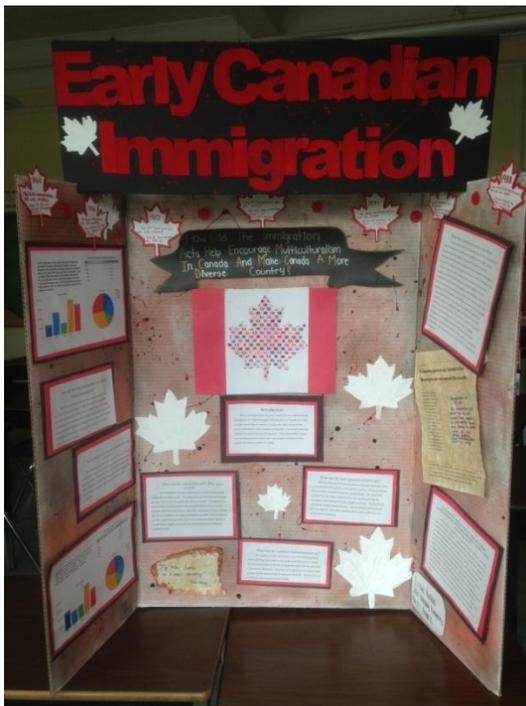
Organised the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual celebration co-sponsored by PSAC BC, CLC Pacific Region and BC Federation of Labour and held at the UNIFOR Hall located in New Westminster. Volunteers from the PSAC Mainland Human Rights Committee, PSAC BC Regional Racially Visible caucus,

There was union, community and municipal presence at this event. Educational pieces of the evening were on Asian Heritage Awareness; Chinese, Japanese, South Asian and Vietnamese history. Entertainment included fashion show and musical instrument performance by a Syrian Refugee who arrived eight months ago. We also invited two elementary students who had the opportunity to present their work on Immigration and Chinese Heat Tax respectively. These students are two of many students across BC who worked on heritage projects. A selection committee comes together, judges the work and selects the ones they think are good to proceed onto a second selection against other schools. Then the ones that are selected from that process move on to the provincial competition. Both these students scored very high marks and one of them is possibly going to the Provincial Competition.



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**June 27 Canadian Multiculturalism Day** - This event was also participated by unions, communities and municipality of Whitehorse. I reached out to Yukon Federation of Labour and PSAC North Representative for Racially Visible Members to organise an event to celebrate this day. There was enthusiasm and great interest in partnering up to organise an educational and

celebratory event in Whitehorse. During my trip there, I met up with the President of Yukon Federation and the City of Whitehorse with my proposal and suggestion plan. I contacted CLC Pacific Region, UNE Locals in the Yukon and union affiliates to sponsor this event while the Yukon Federation reached out to their networks for speakers and entertainers. It was a successful three hour afternoon event with great speakers and stories sharing by Aboriginal Elder, representatives from Syrian Refugee, Japanese, Domestic Workers Organisations. Entertainment from Highland Dancers, Philippines, Jamaican drummers and South Asian Bhangra.

### ***Surrey Fusion Festival – July 23 and 24<sup>th</sup>***

For the second year, PSAC BC partnered with BC FED union affiliates to have a multiunion booth at the festival for community outreach and networking. I would like to thank PSAC volunteers from the West Fraser Valley Area Council, the PSAC BC Young Workers, PSAC BC Racially Visible caucus and PSAC BC Human Rights Committee for their help at the PSAC table.

### ***Panel on Local community CO-OP Radio Station – July 28, 2016-07-28***

I was invited for the second time to be on a panel; discussion topic was on how unions and community work collaboratively and how to combat racism. You can hear the interviews at

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August 27- community action in New Westminister to reclaim the “color” section of the cemetery, the space for people of colour, and in reminding the province the basic civility needed for those before us, irrespective of their race, color and creed. In this post TRC era, we also need to stand with those still marginalized and to engage in truth telling so reconciliation will ultimately befall Canada.

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*Reference:* <http://www.metronews.ca/news/vancouver/2016/08/26/bc-misled-about-grave-sites-under-new-westminster-school.html>

Nearly three months after B.C.’s education minister vowed to “fix” a century-old injustice in New Westminister — [the building over a Chinese, Indigenous and Sikh cemetery](#) — a critic is accusing the province of “doing the opposite.”

*Cited:* Bill Chu, CEO, Canadians For Reconciliation Society:

*“The action is simply to symbolically reconstruct and to reclaim the “color” section of the cemetery, and thereby alert the unwary public to its sad history and games politicians still play on people of colour today. Please note for many years, School District 40 (SD40) succeeded in keeping the public in suspense by not disclosing its*

*reconstruction plans, by making the new school's exact location a secret, and by not inviting the 33 stakeholder groups to its private "consultations".*

*Although two schools were built one first over part of the "color" section in 1949 and then one over part of the white section in 1954, the significance of this cemetery has not been all forgotten. In 2015, it was nominated to BC Heritage and subsequently it was included in the 21 places of historical significance announced by the province in January 2016. The strangest thing is, just five months after, the province announced funding for re-constructing a secondary school over this historical site! While political flip flops are no surprise before election, this one to fund reconstruction over the "color" section of an un-decommissioned cemetery borders on the unthinkable, for why would a Province join in erasing another evidence of BC's dark history of segregating the people of color even at death?"*

### **Future events:**

December 6 Annual Candle Light Vigil to commemorate National Day to Remember the Murdered and Missing Women and Action to End Violence

- February 2017 – I was honored to be invited by Kwantlen Polytechnic University to be on a panel during KDocs 2017 (<http://www.kdocsff.com>) at the Vancouver International Film Centre.

KDocs is committed to engagement and dialogues, especially around issues of social, political, and cultural importance. They will be screening the film `Migrant Dreams`. Min Sook Lee, the film's director will be the special guest and keynote speaker as well as one of the panelists to discuss and Q&A following the film.

