

PSAC Okanagan Human Rights Committee
April 27th, 2016 MINUTES

Present

Shiv Reddy, Kelly Megyesi, Annette Hale Caroline McGillivray & Maria Luiza Romano

Regrets

Linda Woods, Karen Sutton

Communication

Tried out new conference call system - Vesta. The rate is \$.04 per minute plus GST per person. So a 1-hour meeting would cost \$2.52 per person calling in. We were given 300 minutes free so there would be no cost for this meeting. It was thought that it is easier to have a call in number for future calls as vs. the Skype, I-phones, and work around.

Our group liked the idea of the conference call. Also felt an in-person meeting would be good. Agreement to try and tie the next human rights meeting in with the same morning of the area-council / women's meetings. Human Rights would meet before if Area Council were first or would meet after if Area Council goes after Women's. Kelly will check with the other chairs.

Received names of a Kamloops person that would like to participate in our Human Rights Committee. Kelly will send her information.

Financial

Budget for the upcoming year 2016 discussed and formulated as follows:

Income	1500.00
Donations	300.00
Meetings	300.00
Events	500.00
Training/Conference	500.00
Banking/Misc	50.00
	1650.00

All in favour of new budget.

Allocation received from PSAC of \$1000.00. Balance as of March 31st, 2016 \$2079

Structure

Briefly discussed the structure/organization of the committee. There was no want to change to a more traditional style (which included elected positions). The group will continued to operate with shared responsibilities and alternating project leads.

Events

Maria-Luiza set-up a PSAC booth at the Women's Day event held in Vernon. It was poorly organized and our paid table was not remembered. In the end the organization fixed up the matter and provided the table. Maria-Luiza took Regina's PSAC quilt and that definitely attracted people to the table. It was made from PSAC t-shirts from many different campaigns. There was lots of great discussion and it was a very positive way to engage in dialogue with the community. Lots of questions were asked individually & there were great community conversations regarding the importance of the events.

Sponsorship

Prior to the meeting Kelly sent an email to the group requesting some assistance with attending a BC FED one day Human Rights workshop June 2, 2016.

Motion: Carolyn made a motion to sponsor Kelly up to \$150.00 to attend. Shiv seconded and all were in favour. (Linda sent an email stating she was in favour but wouldn't be at the meeting.

Planning

Discussion about current quilts. The group decided that they would not take to the smaller regional conferences like the upcoming racially visible conference happening in Vancouver. The group felt that it would be better at the larger human rights conference. Suggestion that Maria-Luiza who is attending the racially visible conference, take Regina's quilt to display.

Carolyn talked about an idea of reaching out to friendship centers. Everyone agreed to potentially contact the centre in their area. The Sisters in Spirit Vigil Is held October 4 and this might be something we would like to participate in or donate to. Also mentioned homeless and northern communities within BC as other suggestions for us to work on.

Syrian refugees were mentioned and the consensus seemed to be that as a group we were very interested in doing something in this area. Everyone tasked with thinking about events and ideas and bringing them back to the group. Some ideas for the refugees included donations to an organization working with them like amnesty, or working with the community with other organization.

Kelly suggested that possibility of having a speaker on human rights.

Shiv talked about the local District Labour Council and maybe working with them on an event or possibly having the quilt go to a meeting.

Next meeting

Will be in May or June, 2016. Date to be advised. If unable to connect with area council meeting we will go with a conference call followed by the in-person in September.