

PSAC Okanagan Human Rights Committee

April 8th Minutes

Kelly Megyesi, Maria Luiza Romano, Linda Woods,
Regrets: Karen Sutton, Elaine Parker, Carolyn McGillivray, Robert Strang,

Minutes Reviewed minutes - **msc**

Financial

Cheque issued for BC regional convention for registration for Linda Woods \$200.00
Deposit made for quilt donations – National Equity Conference \$1330.00
Current Balance as of April 3, 2017 - \$2653.16

Motion for Linda Woods – per diem for convention \$200.00 **msc**
Motion for Maria-Luiza Romano supplies for the National Equity Conference \$100.00 **msc**
Motion for Kelly Megyesi for last three conference calls 10.80 +11.26 + approx. \$10 **msc**
Motion for quilt donations - Indspire & BC Poverty Reduction each \$650.00 **msc**

Mental Health

Discussion on workplace issues. Linda brought up that there is harassment happening on the jobs. Everyone agreed that there are issues happening within their workplaces and that we should feed up issues and continue to encourage our members to have a voice. A lot is happening under the guise of privacy.

Quilt

The Okanagan HR is very proud of their continued work on the quilt projects. Special thank you to Maria-Luiza Romano for being the artist and driving force behind these projects. Not only does the donations raised go to wonderful charities, it also gives us as activists a chance to have conversations about human rights – increasing awareness, connecting communities and as peoples. Please see pictures and report attached. The BC participants out did themselves with supporting this event – thank you, thank you, thank you.

National Equity Conference

The Okanagan Human Rights took the initiative to prepare a welcome event for the participants. Bob sent out the letter inviting everyone for an informal gathering the first evening. Welcome notes were handed out and blue ribbons tied on to our lanyards. Thank you to the Human Rights lower mainland (Jennifer Chieh Ho) and Vancouver island (Paul Jones) for joining us in this initiative. We feel that working together is key to successful projects, ideas and the collaboration is so welcomed!

Our committee believes that there needs to be this work on a regular basis and would like to see activists from all three HR committees meet and learn together at least once per cycle. This will be a good question to ask those that will be running for leadership.

Maria-Luiza talked about the knitting and the continued contribution to the Vancouver Women's Committee and the benefit this has for everyone. We must continue to encourage this.



Welcome PSAC BC

We hope your experience at this national conference is **amazing!**

Please tie this blue string on your conference tag to represent our BC region. Look for someone else wearing it if you need anything.

Challenge yourself to connect with another BC member. The union is us and by coming together we can continue to build a connected, inclusive union.

In solidarity ~ Mainland, Okanagan, & Vancouver Island Human Rights

Ps: the candy represents our BC blue too. In case of an emergency please eat :o)

Election

Agreed that it was best to talk to candidates at convention. All Okanagan HR members are encouraged to think of questions that we can ask all candidates. Please forward your ideas to Maria-Luiza and she will coordinate (she is not attending the convention but will put together the list of questions).

Temporary Foreign Workers

Kelly talked about a women's resolution that didn't hit the floor at the National Equity Conference. The National Equity had an amazing series for allies. At the racial-visible session there was a dynamic speaker that talked about the temporary foreign worker. This was met with mixed reaction and it was obvious that our members need to learn more on these issues. Kelly will put together the motion to the BC convention and add a whereas are members need to understand more about the issues facing the temporary workers and their violation of rights. Resolution 5-024 Temporary Foreign Worker in Canada Kelly will submit. **msc**

K Doc's in Vancouver– which showed (among other shows) the film Migrant Dreams. It was amazing to see PSAC Okanagan Human Rights as one of the credits. “Yay for us” Jennifer Chieh Ho, Paul Croes, and Kelly Megyesi volunteered at the documentaries and Jennifer was on a panel for Migrant Dreams. We will try and show this film in the Okanagan.

Convention

Linda talked about the totem pole that was recently put up at UBC. Our committee was in agreement that Linda should approach Bob and Kristin to see if there is a way we can have a tour during convention. Our group discussed the reconciliation and speaker Murray Sinclair Murray said, “ People say why don't you just forget about it?” And his response is “Why don't you just remember it?” Totem UBC reconciliation – article can Linda send a blurb.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/reconciliation-totem-pole-goes-up-at-ubc-1.4050078>

Linda will send an email to Bob to see if we can arrange something.

Callout for donations for convention. The Okanagan HR committee has decided to contribute a raffle item. Motion for \$50-\$75 for gift. Committee has decided that it will be purchased from a local organization call the Pink Spotted Goat (Vernon). Kelly and Maria-Luiza will put it together in May and Linda will bring it down to convention. **msc**

Shoebox Project

Kelly asked that the Okanagan HR provide a shoebox (value \$50) to the Shoebox project that is being organized by the VRWC. Maria-Luiza felt that this is in line with our want to have work across committees and suggested that hats be knitted for each box as well. Kelly said there will be knitting bees happening and the shoebox project will be promoted at convention. Shoebox donations will be for the fall 2017. Motion for a shoebox valued at \$50 made. **msc**

Fall Project

Oct 21, 2017 meeting and fall event Kelowna Capri. Kelly has booked the venue. Group felt that the same format with a lunch would work well. Possible continue with our migrant theme, have a film screening, invite a panel for discussion, and a lunch. Possibly invite Jennifer Chieh Ho or other panelist from the K Docs

Next meeting

Jun 16, 2017

Breakfast meeting at convention (Four Season Yew Restaurant 7:30 am)

OKANAGAN HR QUILT REPORT

The Okanagan Human Rights Committee raffled two quilts during the 2017 PSAC National Equity Conferences. The proceeds of the raffles (\$1,330.00) will be donated to two previously selected organizations: **Indspire** and **BC Poverty Reduction Coalition**

Our sincere thank you to all sisters and brothers at the Conferences for the awesome support.

1. Jane McDonald and Maria-Luiza Romano



2. Jane McDonald and Terri Lee



3. "Our Sisters" quilt was won by Jane McDonald (Alternate Human Rights Director – Agriculture Union)



4. "Our Communities" quilt was won by Marianne Hladun (PSAC REVP – Prairies Region)



Maria Luiza Romanó