



**PSAC Okanagan Human Rights Committee
MINUTES June 14th, 2016
Conference Call Meeting 7pm**

Present: Elaine Parker, Kelly Megyesi, Maria Luiza Romano , Linda Woods, Robert Strang

Regrets: Caroline McGillivray, Annette Hale, Karen Sutton

Minutes – April 27 reviewed

In order. Kelly noted that she was able to receive full funding so did not require the \$150.00 contribution.

Financial

Balance as of May 31st, 2016 remains unchanged at \$2079.26

Racially Visible Conference

Maria-Luiza reported out on her attendance at this conference. She took the quilt but due to moving from class to class she was unable to display and have an opportunity to discuss with members about it's importance. We will try and do at another upcoming event.

The conference was very good and Maria-Luiza enjoyed tackling the issues of racial discrimination and how it affects one. She was impressed that there were a lot of men and youth that have taken on the challenge of working on fighting discrimination. The conference had lots of activities and everyone seemed to benefit from the weekend.

One of the speakers talked about the temporary foreign workers and it was very interesting. PSAC Okanagan HR is wanting to pursue some speakers and education on this topic. Robert will get from Monica (if available) a summary of the weekend and names of speakers. Linda mentioned that she was talking with immigration Lawyer who told her that businesses are being forced to close, as they are not able to access the workers that they need. She was also talking with a business owner who told her that a lot of the foreign workers are very exceptionally skilled at their work.

Maria-Luiza will be drafting a potential event idea about temporary foreign workers based on the Committee's members input. The possible initial event would be on education, current policies and myths about the program, along with participation and economic importance of foreign workers in our communities. The event could include community leaders and other associations that provide services and support to temporary foreign workers. Subsequent event(s) would be for a broader public including employers/industry in the Okanagan that depend on the TFW program. **Committee members to send any comment/idea on that to luluza@me.com by July 15th, 2016.**



Human Rights Deep Diversity – 1 day educational

Attached is Kelly's report on the day. The speaker was very good and Kelly would like to look at having him out in the Okanagan. His rate is expensive so possibly we can partner with some of the other big unions in the Okanagan. Kelly will start to explore. Everyone liked the idea.

Donations

Agreement that we should wait on this. Depending on our event or speakers, it was felt that it would be good to tie the donations in with the topic.

Round table

Elaine - was selected for her components human rights conference in Ottawa. She is also hoping to apply for RISE UP – through the CLC.

Robert – will follow up on our request for conference info. He also offered to help with getting speakers to the Okanagan if needed which would be great for cost savings.

Maria-Luiza – will put together a request for our committee members asking everyone for their input on a foreign worker speaker or ????. She will send to Kelly for inclusion in the minutes.

Kelly – saw Regina last weekend. Actually talked about her quilt. She is heading out to the Okanagan soon so hopefully everyone will get a chance to catch up.

Linda – busy time for her in the fall. She will try and participate when possible. (thanks Linda)

B/F

Shiv – Labour Council
Syrian refugees

Interesting Links

Human Development Today

<http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?m=1115189453524&ca=e4b17418-e57b-4599-a0a6-530199133fff>

Implicit Bias

www.implicit.harvard.edu

Dates

Next meeting will be a conference call on Wed **September 7th**, 2016 at 7pm.
Please mark your calendars.

In person meeting, session, speaker targeted for Saturday **October 15th**, 2016.
Please save the date!!!