

**DRAFT RECORD OF MEETING
B.C. REGIONAL COUNCIL CONFERENCE CALL
HELD WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2020 AT 6:00 PM**

In Attendance:

Jamey Mills, REVP-B.C. (Chair)	Trish Martin, South Vancouver Island
Susie Blyth, A/West Fraser Valley	Jill MacNeill, Northwest B.C.
James Brierley, Young Workers	Carolyn McGillivray, Southern Interior
Bert Farwell, North Vancouver Island	Jeanne Olineck, Southern Interior
Nia Gillies, LGTBQ2+	Antony Paller, East Fraser Valley
Linda Harding, Health & Safety	Shane Polak, MWD
Ernest Hooker, South Vancouver Island	Kelly Sidhu, Women's
Jennifer Horsley, Metro Vancouver	Todd Smith Alternate, REVP-B.C.
Leanne Hughes, National Officers	

Guests:

Karen Sutton, A/Southern Interior

Absent:

Johann Ackermann, West Fraser Valley	Terri Lee, Metro Vancouver
John Davies, DCL and SE Units	Jenny MacLeod, Indigenous Peoples
Ron Hardy, Northeast B.C.	Stephen Torng, Racially Visible

Staff:

Patrick Bragg, Political Communications Officer	Kristin Schnider, EA to the REVP-B.C.
Luc Guevremont, Regional Coordinator	

Jamey Mills called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Before starting the meeting, Jamey acknowledged that the call was taking place on the unceded lands of several Indigenous Peoples. Jamey in particular was attending the call on the unceded lands of the Musqueam, Tsleil-Waututh, Squamish and Stó:lō Peoples.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Jamey advised that the agenda had been circulated in advance via email. Two additional items were added to the agenda: "National Public Service Week" under the Political Action Report as well as Area Council/Regional Committee Summit.

Moved: Todd Smith; seconded: Linda Harding

Carried

REVP REPORT

a. AEC and NBoD Updates

The AEC and NBoD continue to meet at least weekly to discuss the impacts of COVID-19 on members, worksites and the organization as a whole. The AEC also had a lengthy meeting on May 20 where a large portion of the meeting focused on regional conventions.

COVID-19 IMPACTS ON WORKING CONDITIONS

Over eleven weeks into the pandemic most have settled into new work routines and have adapted their work practices accordingly. Now with the COVID-19 curve 'flattening' in Canada, there have been some initial discussions with the Employer on what a gradual return to work will look like in

the 'new normal.' These preliminary discussions have included consultation with all public sector unions. There is an understanding that members will not go back into the worksite until the Employer can ensure the health and safety of all members and the public we serve.

REGIONAL CONVENTIONS

Jamey reminded the Council that the NBoD had discussed a couple resolutions which presented different options for dealing with the postponement of the regional conventions. The resolution that was agreed upon and approved by the NBoD was the resolution that called for all Component and regional conventions to be rescheduled in-person in 2021 and for the PSAC National Triennial Convention to be postponed until 2022. Consequently, all Regional Council terms have been extended by one year with the REVP and Regional Council members continuing until the rescheduled date of their respective regional convention.

Subsequently the AEC has had several discussions on implications resulting from the rescheduled regional conventions. Of particular concern has been delegate entitlement and resolution submission. The AEC is of the opinion that regardless of the decisions on these items there needs to be a uniform approach for all Regions. However, this presents some challenges as not all Regions were at the same point in planning when the regional conventions were postponed.

In BC the delegate list had already been established, the majority of registration fees had been paid, and resolution committee reports had been finalized. This was not the case for several other Regions. Consequently, the AEC is putting together a proposal for NBoD approval that sets for a uniform approach for regional conventions. The proposal will be presented and voted upon at the June 16 NBoD meeting.

Included in the proposal is the suggestion that Delegate entitlements for Locals/Branches will not change and the original calculations provided in October 2019 is to be used for the 2021 regional conventions. Relatedly, PSAC Area Councils and Regional Committees that had received delegate entitlements for regional conventions would retain those entitlements insofar as they maintain their constitutionality until the 2021 regional convention. This means that Area Councils and Regional Committees must continue to stay in good standing for 2020 and 2021, holding at least four meetings per year with minutes and financials submitted to the REVP Office within prescribed timelines in order to keep their delegate seats.

Also included within the proposal is the recognition that some regional conventions may still not be able to take place in person in 2021 if current public health restrictions aren't removed (e.g. prohibition of gatherings of more than 50 people, etc.). Therefore, the PSAC needs to establish a 'Plan B' to address these situations, which will likely be an electronic format.

Carolyn McGillivray asked if the postponement would change the three-year cycle in the Region. Jamey clarified that with the postponement the Region's fiscal cycle remains the same. The current cycle is still 2017-2020 and the next cycle will still be 2021-2023. However, the term of office for current Regional Council members is extended an additional year until the Regional Convention in 2021. The Regional Council members elected in 2021 will then hold office for two years until the next Regional Convention, which will take place in 2023.

The current Priority Proposal ends as of December 31, 2020. For the period between January 1, 2021 and the 2021 Regional Convention, the Regional Council is to continue operate using the proposed budget that is to be approved at the 2021 BC Regional Convention. That budget is largely

based on the current Priority Proposal and will allow for regular Region Council operations (Coordinator Allowance expenditures, Regional Council meetings, etc.). The exceptions within the draft 2021-2023 Priority Proposal and the current Priority Proposal are the funds set aside for scholarships, Area Council/Regional Committee Summits and the Resolutions Funds. These funds would not be actioned or used until the Priority Proposal is approved at the Regional Convention. Jamey noted that it is not uncommon for Locals/Branches to operate off a proposed annual budget in advance of the AGM where it is then approved. This is essentially the same thing for the Region.

Shane Polak asked what would happen with Coordinator Allowances. Would they continue to roll over to 2021 with the extended Coordinator terms or would they be reset at the start of 2021 as is traditionally done at the start of a new three-year cycle. Jamey advised that he would provide an answer to the Council on this as soon as possible.

PSAC FINANCIAL UPDATE

Jamey reported that the PSAC continues to be in a good financial position. COVID-19 has not impacted the PSAC financially and it continues to operate with approximately 200,000 members. The vast majority of dues owed to the PSAC by the Employer have now all been recovered. There had been some budgetary lines that were overspent prior to the pandemic (i.e. negotiations). However, as members and staff are not travelling presently, these overages have been regulated and the budget is back in line.

PHOENIX

Phoenix continues to be a real issue for members. However, the REVP Office is receiving fewer calls on significant Phoenix pay issues. The government's system replacement process is still moving forward, but before any replacement system can be implemented all the pay issues within the current system need to be resolved.

The PSAC is still seeking damages for members, but this process is on hold as it's tied to bargaining. Regardless, the PSAC continues to hold the position that any restitution must be a cash settlement to ensure that it is equitable for all members, past and present. The PSAC continues to put pressure on the Employer to get back to table to negotiate fair and equitable settlement including Phoenix damages.

SOCIAL JUSTICE FUND DONATION TO THE RED CROSS

At the last AEC meeting, the Officers passed a resolution that provided for a large donation to the Red Cross through the Social Justice Fund budget.

b. Regional Events – Solidarity Saturday, Virtual Pride Events, Action Wednesdays, etc.

SOLIDARITY SATURDAY, MAY 16

Given the challenges many members are facing due to COVID-19 and the fact that 2020 was to be a busy year full of union conferences, conventions, and courses that have all been postponed, the BC Mainland Human Rights Committee came up with the idea to host a virtual event on May 16 called 6 O'clock Solidarity Saturday. The aim of the event was to foster a sense of community for members while listening to dance music and watching short videos that conveyed messages of support. Prior to the event, the Committee reached out to Area Councils and Committees in BC and asked them to participate and submit short videos on a variety of COVID-19 related subjects: maintaining good mental health, speaking against the increased racism toward Asians during the pandemic, ways to volunteer or help others struggling under COVID-19, sexual and domestic violence awareness, etc. Roughly 45 members attended the May 16 event and the feedback received was very positive.

Tentative plans are being made for a further Solidarity Saturday in the coming weeks which will be hosted by another PSAC structure.

Jamey noted that the event format was new for the organization which did present some technological glitches. However, they were able to plug through. Most importantly, the event did not follow a meeting format and was a good way to engage members in a new way, outside of a meeting. Several Regional Council members commented that they attended the event and enjoyed it. It was a good way to connect with members they haven't been able to see in person.

Jamey added that the BC Mainland Human Rights Committee is now looking to host a similar virtual event to recognize National Indigenous Peoples' Day. The tentative date for the event is June 20. REVP Office staff will be working with the Committee to figure out logistics and any required supports, etc.

Jamey added that members do not need to have access to a video camera to attend this kind of event; members can connect online without video or dial in by phone to hear the event audio. This makes these types of events very accessible for all.

ACTION WEDNESDAYS

Over the last couple months, the Vancouver & District Area Council (VDAC) has been showcasing different local/regional campaigns each week on Wednesdays to provide support to the large number of people hurting right now. This information has been promoted through the PSAC BC Region's social media accounts and through members' personal social media accounts (Twitter, Facebook, etc.) Some examples of the campaigns the Area Council have been involved with include support for PSAC members who work at Casino Regina, the letter writing campaign for Queen's University graduate students regarding a freeze on summer tuition, participating in the call for an end to for-profit seniors care in BC, the Unite Here! petition supporting for hospitality workers' health and recall rights, virtual Day of Mourning events, and signing the Canadians for Tax Fairness open letter demanding that public funds are not used to bail out corporations that dodge taxes.

Todd Smith commented that the Area Council's Action Wednesdays have been well received and thanks goes to staff rep Monica Urrutia for her efforts to support the VDAC. The Actions Wednesdays have been good opportunities to advance union/labour values and bring attention to like-minded organizations and entities.

Jamey encouraged other Area Councils and Regional Committees to look for local appeals and initiatives they can support in similar ways. In addition, if Council member are aware of issues or organizations that the PSAC can support in this way, please let the REVP Office know or share it with their Area Council.

VIRTUAL PRIDE EVENTS

There has been some talk of virtual Pride events, but there are no updates or firm plans presently. The REVP Office will continue to work with Nia Gillies and the LGTBQ2+ caucus to see how we can support any plans for virtual events over the coming months.

c. Negotiations Updates and Mobilization Activities

CANADA POST/UPCE

The tentative agreement for members at Canada Post was ratified earlier this month. This agreement was achieved under an expedited bargaining process. The new collective agreement contains wage increases of 2% per year over four years (2020/21/22/23) and some gains around leave provisions. The agreement expires in 2024.

TREASURY BOARD: FB

The FB bargaining team met with the Employer May 12-14 via teleconference. Despite our ongoing efforts, CBSA management still refuses to make meaningful progress towards a new collective agreement for FB members. At the May meeting, the team made it clear that it is time for the government to address core workplace issues that have been raised in negotiations regarding excessive discipline in CBSA workplaces and scheduling issues. The same is true with respect to parity with the broader law enforcement community, including pension reform. The team also raised the union's telework proposal, which is pertinent at this time given that so many FB members are now working remotely as a result of the pandemic. We are in the process of setting additional dates with the Employer in July.

CFIA

CFIA PIC hearing took place May 7-8 via videoconference. Both the Union and the Employer made presentations on a set of outstanding CFIA-specific issues that had been agreed to with the Commission prior to the hearing. CFIA made the argument that the economy is not and will not be doing well due to the pandemic, and that the panel should take this into account when considering the economic package. CFIA also said they have no mandate as they are waiting for Treasury Board. The bargaining team expects the report to come fairly quickly and is still optimistic that the PIC will come out in favour of the union's position despite the Employer's attempt to use the pandemic as an excuse for being unwilling to come to the table with a fair economic package over the past year and a half.

TREASURY BOARD: EB, PA, SV, TC

The PSAC continues to try to find various ways to put pressure on the employer to get our EB, PA and SV Treasury Board teams back to the bargaining table and get a fair deal. Chris Aylward spoke to TB President Jean-Yves Duclos and the Office of the Prime Minister to remind them that our members did not hesitate to step up in this time of crisis when the pandemic hit. PSAC members across the country stepped up to deliver the government's massive response to COVID-19 in record time. Now, more than ever, members should not have worry about their collective agreement. It's time to tell the government to get back to the table. The PSAC has undertaken an email action on the national website where members are asked to [send an email directly to Treasury Board President Duclos](#). The action has a template message, or members are able to send their own personal message to Duclos. Since launching last week, over 7,000 email have already been sent as part of the campaign.

YVR

The Vancouver Airport Authority is laying off approximately 25% of their unionized workforce – about 100 members. PSAC staff members Patty Ducharme and Erna Post have been working closely with the Local and UCTE to help keep members informed and ensure their workplace rights are protected during this very difficult time. In light of the layoffs, a webinar was held for the Local and 180 members participated.

AIRINC

AIRINC, which is a small part of the UCTE Local at YVR that consists of 5 members (down from 12), was provided a letter of understanding. This has not yet been signed off by the employer. The ratification process will take place once the letter of understanding has been signed.

CMHC GRANVILLE ISLAND

The Bargaining team is meeting with the Employer for the second time next week on June 1 and 2. Negotiations are moving along well, and we expect that the Employer will come to the table with a wage offer at that time.

NAV CANADA

The input call for bargaining was sent out via UCTE recently. The deadline for input is July 31.

REGIONAL COORDINATOR UPDATES

Luc Guevremont reminded the Council that RO staff have been working from home since mid-March and PSAC regional offices will remain closed until the end of June. The adjusted working arrangements have been challenging, but staff have been able to get a lot accomplished. Staff continue to be available by phone and email.

One of the successful undertakings by PSAC BC staff has been the webinar series put on by regional office staff on a variety of COVID-19 related subjects. The next webinar will be on returning to work under COVID-19 and is scheduled to be held on June 9 and 10. [Details and registration](#) are available on the regional website.

Discussions have started at national level regarding the return to work for PSAC staff with the participation of representatives from all staff unions. A regional sub-committee has also been established to ensure that the return to work in BC is done following the directions from provincial health authorities and WorksafeBC. Return to work procedures and protocol for PSAC staff will be guided by the [article posted at the national website](#) earlier today.

POLITICAL ACTION REPORT

a. “Still Here for Canada” Campaign

It’s important that we continue to highlight the good work ALL PSAC members, including non-federal units, are doing to help Canadians and help keep the country going during the pandemic. PSAC members are *Still Here for Canada*. To showcase this, the PSAC set up an online campaign at the national website under the COVID banner. The aim of the campaign is to let the public and members know how our work is helping Canadians. Members have been asked to upload a photo using the [online form](#) and tell us about their work. The PSAC has posted stories on the national and regional social media accounts. In the Region, we’ve received around 12-13 submissions so far and a [Facebook album](#) of the content has been created. To date, there have been approximately 17,500 views of the posts and 1,200 likes, comments or shares of the campaign content on the regional page, which is quite good. Patrick asked Council members to continue encouraging members to submit photos for the campaign.

As part of the campaign, headquarters staff have [posted a series of longer member profiles](#) at the national website that highlight the work of individual members. These campaign efforts are one of the ways the PSAC is putting pressure on the Employer to come back to the bargaining tables for Treasury Board members.

b. Thank You Public Service Workers Campaign (EFVAC Initiative)

The East Fraser Valley Area Council came up with a creative initiative to thank public service workers for their work during the pandemic. Using the Still Here for Canada messaging, the Area Council worked with the Region to produce large signs that read “Public Service Workers Make a Difference – Thank You.” One of the motivations for the signs was the COVID-19 outbreak at the Mission Institution in the Fraser Valley; the Area Councils wanted to find a way to thank members at the Institution for continuing to show up for work despite the outbreak. Signs were posted near the Mission Institution entrance and at other institutions, at border crossings, and at CFIA offices in the Fraser Valley. Digital versions of the signs were also developed and sent to members to print/post at home. After the signs were installed, news spread to other Regions regarding this initiative and the templates have been shared (now in English and French) for members to use across the country.

Jamey noted that other Area Councils in BC have since ordered their own large thank you signs that will be posted at worksites in their communities. Thanks to the East Fraser Valley Area Council for such a great initiative.

Jamey added that the PSAC in partnership with USJE has also set up areas of respite for members at the affected institutions as another way to show thanks to those workers. It's hoped that the respite areas also lessen some the stress members are experiencing at these worksites. The respite areas have 10 x 10 shelters as well as snacks and drinks for members.

c. National Public Service Week

National Public Service Week (NPSW) starts on June 12 this year. To recognize it, Jamey came up with a great idea to place some ads in local newspapers to thank our members and highlight the good work they do on behalf of Canadians. It's hoped that the ads would boost membership morale and mobilization. The ads would also give local media some much needed financial assistance – community papers have really been feeling the COVID pinch.

Depending on how bargaining proceeds over the next couple weeks, head quarters is also planning to release some communications during NPSW that will be on a similar theme.

The REVP Office already reached out to several local newspapers across the province to get pricing for the ads and plans are moving ahead. Patrick will be speaking with head quarters next week to get a clearer idea on what will be done nationally for NPSW and to see if there's potential for placing newspaper ads nationally. Stay tuned.

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

SUSIE BLYTH, A/WEST FRASER VALLEY: Service Canada staff exercised their right to refuse unsafe work on March 13. Later that day, staff were able to go home and have been teleworking since. Members continue to process EI and SIN applications and eService calls remotely. They continue to meet weekly with their Team Leader, which provides an opportunity to destress and discuss issues. The Employer is looking to install plexiglass in the workplace, but the configuration of Service Canada Offices presents some challenges. No word on when members will be returning to the workplace yet, but it doesn't look like it will be anytime soon. There are some members within the Local who are very anxious about the return and struggling with mental health concerns related to the pandemic.

JAMES BRIERLEY, YOUNG WORKERS: Has been working from home for last couple months. James is with Integrity Service, but they have stopped their investigative work with the pandemic. Instead IS staff have been repurposed for the delivery of CERB and other COVID-19 government benefits. The majority of James' local members are also working from home. There are some who are struggling with mental health issues. On Vancouver Island, the number of COVID-19 cases continues to drop, but in the community it seems that people aren't necessarily following the provincial health protocols, which is concerning.

NIA GILLIES, LGTBQ2+: Still going into the office every day, where good social distancing measures have been implemented. One measure that has been imposed is the fact that clients do not have to certify documents presently. This is also helping to speed up the workload.

LINDA HARDING, HEALTH & SAFETY: The office has been shutdown since March and staff are teleworking. Linda is the health and safety representative on the workplace renewal committee. The Committee's first meeting will be held tomorrow, and they will discuss the return to work (RTW). Right now there is not set timeline for a return, but it is looking at September.

LEANNE HUGHE, NATIONAL OFFICERS: Members are concerned about what a RTW will look like and they have begun speaking with the Employer on what it will entail. Recently the Employer has been putting pressure on members to take their vacation leave, and have advised that, if necessary, they will begin scheduling it. Members have been busy working with Canada Post on the increased mail volumes due to increase online ordering due to COVID-19. Leanne also commented that the “Thank You Public Service Workers” signs would be good to install at worksites during NPSW.

ERNEST HOOKER, SOUTH VANCOUVER ISLAND: Worksite has been operating with a skeleton crew over the last couple months, but they have been getting by for the most part.

JENNIFER HORSLEY, METRO VANCOUVER: At Purolator, all members continue to work onsite throughout the pandemic except for those who asked for leave. There was a COVID-19 outbreak at a Calgary facility where 67 Teamsters members were affected. The Employer stated that they would top-up employees who tested positive for COVID-19 but not for any other COVID-19 related leave. Purolator stores are going to extend their operating hours soon and they are trying to figure out how that will work to ensure the health and safety of staff. However, the union has not been consulted. The Employer is also trying out curbside deliveries at the Richmond location, which poses some health and safety concerns. Again, there was no consultation with the Local executive. Social distancing is generally being practiced at facilities. However, the main lunchroom has been an issue due to its size, the number of staff, and social distancing requirements. There have been some tense interactions between staff as a result and a security guard has been hired to help mitigate any further problems, but an additional guard or adjusted hours may also be required to address the situation. The VDAC has been discussing the purchase of some ‘thank you’ signs that could be installed at YVR sites where members at CBSA, Canada Post, Purolator and the airport work.

TRISH MARTIN, SOUTH VANCOUVER ISLAND: Have been busy with one-time OAS and GIS top-ups the government announced, which are to help seniors manage increased costs during COVID-19. Top-ups will be coming out in June and delayed applications will be retroactive. Approximately 45 members under Foundations Services are still reporting to the worksite who have scanned in over 175,000 items. The Union has clarified 699 leave with the Employer to ensure that all managers are approaching leave requests with the same guidelines. There have been some concerns with RTW, but they do not to be back in the worksite before the end of the year. The Victoria Area Council has purchased some of the ‘thank you’ lawn signs and will be posting them at worksites in the area.

JILL MACNEILL, NORTHWEST BC: All DFO members who can work from home are working from home. There are some essential service workers who are still going into the office. Jill has been placed on the regional RTW committee, but they have not held any meeting yet. The UMCC has been concentrating on issues concerning member privacy rights and 699 leave accommodations, etc. Jill is also scheduled to deliver JLP session on June 8-9. The NWBC Area Council has held two meetings year to date. At the last meeting, the AC decided to use funds that were to go toward their Seafest entry for a donation to a meals at home program for vulnerable people in the Prince Rupert area.

CAROLYN MACGILLIVRAY, SOUTHERN INTERIOR: At CBSA in the Southern Interior it seems as though officers are only working half time and are then cycled off, but they assert this isn’t true and that they’re working just as much. Within the CR ranks, hours depend on where members are working. As such there appear to be some inconsistencies with scheduling. In terms of teleworking arrangements, the Employer has not been as prepared or able to accommodate member needs,

which has been a challenge for members. Some CBSA worksites are more prepared than others. However, the Employer has indicated that the majority of work must be conducted onsite. Carolyn added that she'd love to have some of the thank you signs at Southern Interior worksites.

JEANNE OLINECK, SOUTHERN INTERIOR: Members have processed nearly 4 million EI claims since the onset of COVID-19, which is nearly three times what members process in an entire year. Kudos to all members who've stepped up to help Canadians in this time of need. Most staff are working from home. There are a few who remain in the office by choice or because they cannot work from home. No word yet on what a return to work will look like and when it will occur, but they are anticipating a gradual RTW. At the Citizen Services pre-UMCC call members were advised that the Employer is looking at partly reopening up to 5 offices in BC by the end of June with social distancing requirements in place. Although the employer has polled staff on their concerns, the union is concerned that the employer is not consulting with the Local Executive on this. There is no word yet on what will happen with 699 leave for those without childcare. However, they are anticipating some new hires soon. Jeanne suggested a political action idea where members could take a picture of themselves working from home holding "I support my bargaining team" signs. The photos could be used to create a collage for each worksite and/or use online.

ANTONY PALLER, EAST FRASER VALLEY: Members at corrections facilities are still working full time, as are CFIA inspection staff. However, those with health issues and childcare issues can stay home. On the 'thank you' signs, Antony has received positive feedback from members and from members of UCCO and PIPSC. On behalf of the AC, Antony extended thanks to Patrick and Patty for their help with the signs. At CFIA, there haven't been any work refusals and the Employer has provided PPE for staff. Some members have been dispatched to work at different facilities where other staff aren't able to report to work. Some plant inspectors had tested positive for COVID-19 in BC and in other Regions.

SHANE POLAK, MWD: All staff at Veterans Affairs Canada are working from home if they're able to do so. All others are on 699 leave. There have been some issues with teleworking, largely around printing decision letters, which now been resolved. Some Local members have approached Shane with issues concerning ergonomics and working from home. But for the most part, teleworking has been going well for members. RTW will likely be gradual and it's expected that a telework option will stay in place for most people. Shane is still attending VDLC meeting regularly (by virtual means). The VDLC has been working on fights for health care workers, which has kept Shane busy. Self-isolation has left Shane feeling distanced from other members, and he looks forward to reconnecting in different ways.

KELLY SIDHU, WOMEN'S: Switched from Work Sharing back to negotiating contribution agreements. There are pressing member concerns regarding 699 leave and balancing childcare responsibilities over the next couple months particularly with school breaking for the summer and with a large number of summer camps being cancelled. Members are anxious about managing family responsibilities and their usual work hours. Mental health is also an area of concern for members and for the community. In Richmond, anti-Asian hate crimes have been on the rise, ranging from slurs to outright physical violence. The City of Richmond opened first emergency response centre to support the community during COVID-19, especially those facing homelessness.

TODD SMITH, ALTERNATE REVP: Has been busy with workplace communications and meetings at CFIA as there have been issues. There continue to be weekly regional OH&S meetings. The Employer will be letting go of some term employees who aren't fully working at this time, and the

Employer is also looking to hire new positions. Hoping that the Employer can look at these terms to fill some of the new positions. Early discussions are taking place on RTW. Todd is also continuing his role with the VDAC and reaching out to members to ensure they're doing OK during these challenging times.

BERT FARWELL, NORTH VANCOUVER ISLAND: At the Coast Guard critical employees have continue to come aboard the ship, but there have been some issues with members who aren't able to show up. The Employer has sent out letters to members asking them about their RTW, which appears to be opening a door for a broader look at things. It's expected that there will be modifications to some work processes, but there are still in the early stages of determining what changes will be required. Bert continues to keep in contact with management and ensure that health protocols are followed by the Employer and members.

KAREN SUTTON, A/SOUTHERN INTERIOR: Situated in a more rural area of the province, but there are still a lot of people very concerned about what the 'new normal' will look like and the relaxing of public health restrictions. Karen was glad to hear the Prime Minister and Premier commit to 10 paid days of sick leave for all Canadians; it's about time.

UPDATE ON PSAC REGIONAL TRIENNIAL CONVENTIONS

In late April the NBoD decided to postpone all Component and regional conventions until 2021 and to postpone the National Triennial Convention until 2022. For the B.C. Region, the regional convention has been rescheduled for May 7-9, 2021 at the Pinnacle Hotel Harbourfront in Vancouver (which was the original venue for the 2020 dates).

We recognize that the last half day of the 2021 PSAC B.C. Regional Convention will fall on Mother's Day, and this is regrettable. Given Vancouver's busy conference and convention schedule and the hotel's limited availability, these were the only dates available for our convention. With the new delegate entitlement formula, the budget envelope for regional conventions and the PSAC policies on using unionized services and facilities wherever possible, the Pinnacle Hotel Harbourfront is our only venue option for the PSAC B.C. Regional Convention at this time.

The AEC had further discussions on the rescheduled regional conventions earlier this month. During those discussions, the AEC addressed a number of questions and potential implications that result from the postponement to 2021. While many of the arising concerns are still under review at the AEC, consensus was found for a few issues, which will be brought forward for NBoD approval at the June meeting. As soon as we have all the details and information in place, the REVP Office will share this information with all Locals/Branches, Area Councils, Committees etc.

Jamey noted that if Regional Council members have further questions on regional conventions, please let the REVP Office know so they can be brought forward for discussion at the June meeting.

REGIONAL COUNCIL POSITIONS – PLANS GOING FORWARD UNTIL BC REGIONAL CONVENTION

There is currently a vacancy on the BC Regional Council. Sky Belt was on a leave of absence until April 30, 2020 at which time she formally vacated the Metro Vancouver Coordinator position. With the Regional Convention now being postponed until 2021, and since there are no further alternates available for the Metro Vancouver constituency, a by-election will have to be held using the Metro Vancouver caucus list from the 2017 PSAC BC Regional Convention.

Before proceeding with the by-election, we thought it would be a good idea to canvass the Regional Council to see if there are any other Coordinators considering vacating their positions before the 2021 Regional Convention (either due to retirement or other personal reasons) so that any required by-elections can be conducted concurrently. Coordinators who plan to vacate their positions are asked to advise the REVP in writing no later than June 12, 2020.

DASH COMMITTEE

a. Donation Request – Amnesty International

The DASH Committee received a donation request from Amnesty International. The DASH Committee is recommending a donation of \$100 for the organization through use of the Donations and Membership budget line, mirroring previous annual donations to the Amnesty International.

Motion moved by: Jennifer Horsley; seconded by: Jeanne Olineck
Carried.

b. Regional Award Nomination – Lea Serron

Jennifer Horsley advised that the DASH Committee received a nomination for a Union Warrior Award for Lea Serron for coming up with and spearheading the recent Solidarity Saturday event. Lea's creative idea promoted a sense of unity and solidarity between members even when they are physically separated. The event also engaged members in several COVID-19 related issues they may not have been aware of otherwise.

Jen added that Sister Serron has been getting more and more involved in the Union over the last two years, which has included participation with the Vancouver RWC. As an active member of the RWC, Lea also came up with the idea for the [2019 FHAB Bag campaign](#) the Committee conducted. Through Lea's leadership she was able to bring many women members together and gather some much needed supplies for the Lookout Society in Surrey.

A motion was then made to approve the DASH Committee recommendation to approve the Union Warrior Award nomination for Lea Serron.

Motion moved by: Jennifer Horsley; seconded by: Jeanne Olineck
Carried unanimously

UNITED WAY'S COVID-19 EMERGENCY COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND

The UWLM launched their COVID-19 Emergency Community Support Fund, which is a new fund developed in partnership with the Federal Government. The Fund allows the UWLM to provide funding support to COVID-19 emergency programming run by community/charitable organizations in the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley. There are two broad areas of funding: food security and youth mental health. A grant application is available on the UWLM website at: www.uwlm.ca/ecsf/ This is a rolling grant application with decisions being made weekly and funding opportunities will close on July 10 at 4:30 PM.

If there are members who volunteer in the charitable sector or members who work with any other non-profits that provide services regarding food security or youth mental health, please forward this information on to them and encourage them to apply. If they do apply, please let the REVP Office know so we can forward that information on the UWLM.

In addition to establishing the COVID-19 Emergency Community Support Fund, the United Way has had some early discussions on what the GCWCC fundraising campaign will look like this fall. Linda advised that she attended the United Way Cabinet meeting on behalf of the PSAC BC Region where the campaign plans were discussed. Further details to follow as more concrete plans and fundraising goals are set.

AREA COUNCIL/REGIONAL COMMITTEE SUMMIT

Traditionally, the REVP Office hosts a one-day annual Summit for Regional Committees or Area Councils. The Summit ensures that executive members of PSAC structures are aware of PSAC financial and governance requirements and that they have an opportunity to plan member engagement activities with staff. In recent weeks, preliminary discussions have taken place on holding an Area Council/Regional Committee Summit virtually this year given current public health restrictions regarding gatherings and non-essential travel.

By moving to an electronic format this year and not necessitating any travel costs, it will allow us to include two representatives from all Area Councils and Regional Committees as well as the full Regional Council. Currently, we are looking to schedule the Summit in mid-July on a weekday and are consulting staff on their availability. Loss of salary and/or leave with pay reimbursement will be provided for all participants. Additional details will be provided as they are available.

Jeanne commented that a July date may be a challenge for some members and it's a peak time for member vacation leave; leave for union business can be difficult to obtain during that time. Jamey acknowledged Jeanne's concern, noting that the REVP Office will look to ensure maximum participation of members. That said, vacation leave may look a lot different this year given the implications of the COVID-19.

SCHEDULING OF NEXT CONFERENCE CALL

Jamey suggested that the Regional Council convene another call during the week of June 22.

The REVP Office will send out a doodle poll for availability.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Before concluding the meeting, Jamey thanked all for attending and for providing information on the current situations in their workplaces regarding COVID-19 and return-to-work planning. Jamey also extended his appreciation to members for their continued hard work to provide the services Canadians depend on.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was then made.

Motion moved by: Susie Blyth; seconded by: Jennifer Horsley

Carried

The call concluded at 8:04 PM.

Minutes recorded by: Kristin Schnider

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