

# **PSAC Mainland and Haida Gwaii Young Workers' Committee**

## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**

**Thursday February 18, 2021**

**18:30 PST**

**Held virtually via Zoom**

- Members in Attendance:** Simba Muskwe (Chair; CEIU 20974), Kevin Au (Vice Chair; CEIU 20937), Todd Smith (PSAC BC Alt. VP; AU 20044), Navid Tasouji (CEIU 20937), Susan Tsang (CEIU 20937), Ariza Divecha (CEIU 20937), Jasdeep Dhaliwal (USJE 20054), Alice Wang (CEIU 20937), Tammy Li (CEIU 20937), Khalil Nanji (CEIU 20944), Karen Thin (CEIU), Karanvir Thiara (CIU 20040)
- Regrets:** Dina Kasiri (Treasurer, CEIU 20974), Jennifer Zanella (Secretary, CEIU 20938)
- PSAC Staff:** Varinder Johal (PSAC Regional Rep – Young Workers)

## **Order of Business:**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Acknowledgement of Indigenous Traditional Territories
- III. Introductions
- IV. Review of minutes from the previous annual general meeting (February 6, 2020)
- V. Review of minutes from the previous meeting (December 3, 2020)
- VI. Chairperson's Report
- VII. Treasurer's Report
- VIII. 2021 Budget Proposal
- IX. Old Business
  - a. 4th PSAC BC Young Workers' Summit – Update
  - b. Joint Social Night w/ Island Young Workers – Update and feedback
  - c. New role/position for running social media pages – Update
  - d. New delegate to Vancouver Area Council
- X. New Business
  - a. N/A
- XI. Elections of new executive
- XII. 2021 meeting schedule
- XIII. Roundtable / News
- XIV. Adjournment

### **I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 18:38 by Simba.

### **II. Acknowledgement of Indigenous Traditional Territories**

The committee acknowledged the traditional and unceded territories of the many First Nations that make up the BC Mainland and Haida Gwaii.

### **III. Introductions**

The members introduced themselves to each other.

**IV. Review of minutes from the previous annual general meeting (February 6, 2020)**

Motion to accept the minutes moved by Kevin

Seconded by Todd

Carried unanimously

**V. Review of minutes from the previous meeting (December 3, 2020)**

Motion to accept the minutes moved by Alice

Seconded by Jasdeep

Carried unanimously

**VI. Chairperson's Report**

Simba acknowledged that it's been an interesting year for everyone, and with an almost all new executive for the committee as well. He stated he had a meeting with the Alliance's Executive Committee, that our Committee itself had made donations to several charities to help assist others in these times of hardship. He states he also had the opportunity to set up a meeting with the Quebec YW Committee and offered to exchange guidance on best practises. Simba also noted that he is heartened to see the Committee's membership growing and to see many new faces at the PSAC BC Young Workers' Summit, the fourth of which was held this year, and which will be touched upon later in the meeting as well, and he thanks everyone who attended.

Motion to accept the report moved by Simba

Seconded by Navid

Carried unanimously

## **VII. Treasurer's Report**

As Dina is unable to attend the meeting, Kevin tabled the treasurer's report in her place.

Kevin noted that as a result of the shut-downs, that the only in-person event was the 2020 AGM and so accordingly spending has been very limited, with the majority of it being donations to charities. He noted that there may be a double reimbursement of an expense in which case there was be a reimbursement due back to the Committee.

Motion to accept the report moved by Kevin

Seconded by Navid

Carried unanimously

## **VIII. 2021 Budget Proposal**

The 2021 budget proposal was tabled – it was based on the 2020 budget with some amendments.

It was noted that the funding for the Committee comes from the office of the Regional Executive Vice President (REVP). For those new to the Committee, it is noted that there are 7 REVPs nationally, and each within their region leads the components, directly chartered locals (DCL), and serve as both a representative and as the political leader, attending events and speaking to the media.

It was noted while no in person meetings are planned, that it's best to leave the meeting expense and social event line items.

The donations amount has been increased to \$500 in acknowledgement that we should do more to help and aid a wider range of activities and organizations.

After discussion, it was agreed to increase the "swag" line to \$600 as that may help with engagement.s

Todd noted that the Committee can also, if working on a specific project, ask for monies specific to that.

In the course of the audit, it was noted that several cheques sent to charities in preceding years totalling \$350 had not been cashed and are now stale-dated. It was agreed to rename "new donations" to "donations" and increase that line by \$350 to reflect the uncashed amounts previously committed, and to consider the possibility of re-offering those donations to the respective charities they were issued to.

Motion to accept the amended budget proposal moved by Simba

Seconded by Todd

Carried unanimously

## IX. Old Business

### a) 4th PSAC BC Young Workers' Summit – Update

The 4<sup>th</sup> PSAC BC Young Workers' Summit was held January 29-30, 2021, virtually for the first time. Attendance was greater than expected and lots of useful feedback was received from participants. Participants had noted that it's a great way to get started and learn about the union movement, that it's important to have such events given that there'll be more young workers as the public service continues its renewal, and that it's always great to meet new people and learn new things. Simba closed in noting that the theme was "Young and Leading Change" and he hopes to see that being embodied by the participants.

### b) Joint Social Night w/ Island Young Workers – Update and feedback

Simba advised that this had been planned for a few months now and a tentative date of March 18 has been agreed upon. Simba noted that they also got in touch with the BCFed Young Workers' group and they had something similar planned and so decided to adopt the date and join in as well. No financial commitment is anticipated.

### c) New role/position for running social media pages – Update

\* Varinder noted that the creation of a new executive position would require a bylaw change which in turn requires a 30 day notice, whereas if it's an informal position then no changes are needed.

\* Simba advised that his preference would be for it to be an executive position given the time commitment, then opened the floor to discussion.

\* Susan inquired about the possibility of splitting the role since different people may have different experiences and expertise

\* Simba expressed reservations about creating a executive role split among three persons

\* Todd concurred and noted that creating a large executive may cause issues with meeting quorum since that reduces the number of non-executive members

\* Karanvir also agreed, and added that Facebook and Instagram are integrated, and it would also be best to have one person to ensure a consistent message is presented

\* Simba, Karanvir and Ariza affirmed that having this as an executive role would ensure recognition, and Todd added that it would also ensure it comes up regularly and so doesn't slip off the radar

\* Ariza suggested perhaps having the role as a coordinator who could then have a team to assist them

\* Alice concurred with Ariza's suggestion

\* Varinder reminded the committee that the PSAC regional office has a communications officer, and also that PSAC / PSACBC generally handle external communications, so the committee may wish to consider the scope of this – if it's for external messaging, internal messaging, or both?

\* Simba suggested that the committee consult with the REVP for an opinion

\* Todd noted that if the committee is considering this, that perhaps to have a bylaw change tabled at the next meeting to open up the possibility of that (tabling the change does not obligate making it)

\* Navid noted that he created a subreddit r/PSACunion if the committee may wish to use that

\* Varinder advised he'll follow-up with the communications officer

d) New delegate to Vancouver Area Council

Alice has volunteered to be the committee's delegate and has already attended a meeting of the VAC.

Todd, the council's current president, noted that she has already shown herself to be an active participant.

Kevin noted that now that the committee has a delegate, that as he recalls there would be an affiliation due payable, and if so, which budget line would that come from?

Todd noted that that could come from engagement.

Todd noted that there are 47 regional councils nationally, and they form the political action arm of the union. He also advised that everyone is welcome to attend meetings as an observer – it's just that only formal delegates get to vote.

Motion to confirm Alice as the committee's delegate to the Vancouver Area Council moved by  
Todd

Seconded by Navid

Carried unanimously

## **X. New Business**

No new business was introduced.

## **XI. Elections**

Varinder explained the election proceedings. There are three calls for nominations for each position, then in reverse order of nomination, nominees would declare if they choose to stand. Nominees may make a speech, or ask their nominator to make a speech.

Each unit may cast a vote each, and executives may independently cast a vote each.

Reference: <http://psacunion.ca/sites/psac/files/attachments/pdfs/psac-constitution-2018-nov-en.pdf>

As such, the CEIU 20937 members (aside from Kevin, as an executive) would need to designate one voting delegate.

A poll was taken and Arizia was selected as the voting delegate for CEIU 20937.

Each role was introduced to the members.

For the position of Chair

Simba / Jasdeep nominated Navid.  
Kevin / Todd nominated Simba.  
Simba declined his nomination.  
Navid accepted his nomination.  
Navid acclaimed to the position of Chair.

Simba remarked that at the Young Workers' Summit that Navid had a lot of interesting and eye-opening questions applicable to Young Workers, pointed out issues on things like remote work, had lots of ideas, and he feels that Navid would make a great asset in guiding and leading the committee to greatness.

Navid advised that he is moved and honoured.

For the position of Vice Chair

Simba / Navid nominated Jasdeep.  
Navid / Todd nominated Simba.  
Jasdeep's connection disconnected. After waiting several minutes it was decided to proceed.  
Simba accepted his nomination.  
Simba acclaimed to the position of Vice Chair.

For the position of Treasurer

Kevin / Todd nominated Jennifer.  
Navid / Alice nominated Susan.  
Susan accepted her nomination.  
Jennifer had expressed interest in the position and so was deemed to have accepted her nomination in absentia.  
Susan elected to the position of Treasurer.

Alice noted that Susan, who did the audit of last year's financial with her, exceeds with working with numbers.

For the position of Secretary

Ariza / Navid nominated Alice.  
Alice accepted her nomination.  
Alice acclaimed to the position of Secretary.

Alice stated that she'll try her best to take meticulous notes.

Todd led the swearing in of the new executive.

## **XII. Next Meeting**

The committee agreed upon the following meeting schedule for 2021:

Thursday March 25 at 18:00 Pacific

Thursday May 20 at 18:00 Pacific

Thursday September 9 at 18:00 Pacific

Thursday November 18 at 18:00 Pacific

## **XIII. Roundtable / News**

Navid advised he'd like to touch base with Simba to connect and share experiences and Simba advised he'd love to do so.

Todd thanked everyone who stepped up and commended them for not being *leaders of tomorrow*, but *leaders of today*.

Varinder also expressed his thanks to everyone who stepped up and noted it's nice to see new faces. He reminded everyone that he's available as a resource person and one should not feel like they are inconveniencing him to ask about things, and he can do a sit down to discuss roles. He also added that the online educational portal has launched and encouraged registration and participation.

Varinder also noted that in the upcoming PSAC convention that those interested may wish to register as an observer – the usual fee has been waived.

Varinder also noted that for members of the PA group that feedback is open for the current round of bargaining and there's a bargaining conference in April and equity group and young worker participation is sought.

Simba advised that Varinder is an extremely helpful rep and resource person.

Susan asked about communication and was advised that the committee's Whatsapp group is used for communications between meetings.

Kevin noted that he's glad to see Navid step directly into the chair role, as this continues an unwritten tradition of the committee, for the past several years that he's been on it, for someone to step right into the chair. He thanked Simba for staying on as the vice-chair, and noted that aside from last year, that the other tradition has been for the chair to step down into the vice chair to provide support and continuity. Kevin remarked that what brought him into the treasurer role several years back was serving

as the auditor, and he's glad to see Susan join the executive the same way. Kevin also advised he's sure that Alice will do well as she seems super engaged though relatively new.

Kevin advised that he would like to advise that as he is aging out this year, he had decided to step down from the executive, though he could technically serve for one more year, and to that end, that he has turned over the delegate seat representing the committee at the PSAC BC conference to Simba, who was chosen as the alternate. Kevin noted he is glad to see CEIU 20937, as one of the larger components, continue to be represented on the committee's executive, and noted that many of its current executives had been members of this committee. Kevin wished the Committee all the best going forward.

#### **XIV. Adjournment**

There being no new business, Simba called the meeting adjourned at 21:46.