

**DRAFT RECORD OF MEETING
B.C. REGIONAL COUNCIL ZOOM CALL
HELD MONDAY, MAY 10 AT 9:00 AM**

In Attendance:

Jamey Mills, REVP-B.C. (Chair)
Celine Ahodekon, Racially Visible
Tracy Arrowsmith, Northeastern BC
André Bessette, Indigenous Peoples
Susie Blyth, West Fraser Valley
Emily Craddock, Pride (LGBTQ2+)
Bert Farwell, North Vancouver Island
Linda Harding, Health & Safety
Jennifer Horsley, Metro Vancouver
Ernest Hooker, South Vancouver Island
Leanne Hughes, National Officers

Jill MacNeill, Northwestern B.C.
Trish Martin, South Vancouver Island
Marion McLarty, Metro Vancouver
Kelly Megyesi, Southern Interior
Jeanne Olineck, Southern Interior
Alan Otrosina, East Fraser Valley
Shane Polak, Access (PWD)
Karen Sutton, Women's
Todd Smith, Alt REVP-B.C.
Michelle Webster, DCL/SSE
Warren Wulff, Metro Vancouver

Regrets:

Terri D'Souza, Young Workers

Guests:

Kirsty Havard, USJE RVP and 2nd Alternate REVP

Staff:

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

Jamey Mills called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM.

Indigenous Traditional Lands Acknowledgement

André acknowledged that the call is taking place on the unceded lands of several Indigenous Peoples throughout BC. André went on to speak about the concept of being a 'guest' on Indigenous lands and that word implies with a colonial lens. Instead, André offered that he prefers to acknowledge that he is an uninvited visitor on the ancestral lands of the Musqueam, Tsleil-Waututh, and Squamish Nations. André then asked all to reflect on the traditional lands from which they are attending this meeting. He also provided some [history on the lands of the Squamish peoples](#).

Scent Free and Anti-Harassment Statements

Jamey reminded the Regional Council that the PSAC statement on harassment remains in effect for the duration of the Regional Council meeting. As the meeting is taking place virtually the scent free policy is moot.

Welcome and Introductions

Jamey provided some opening remarks and conducted a round of introductions for the B.C. Regional Council and staff in attendance.

All Regional Council members began their introduction by recognizing the Indigenous lands from which they were attending this meeting.

Karen, Women's Coordinator – Karen is a member of CIU Branch 20045 and has been with the union for over 13 years. Karen is looking forward to her new role on the Council and has already reached out to the RWC chairs.

Tracy, Northeastern BC Coordinator – Tracy has been a member of UTE Local 20002 for the past 20 years and an activist for 14 of those years. Tracy has served as her Local's 2nd Vice-President and is currently the Executive Steward for her Local. Tracy is looking forward to working with everyone and getting business done.

Todd Smith, Alternate REVP – Todd is a member of AGR Local 20044 at CFIA in Admin Services. Todd began his union involvement 2011 as term employee and became involved with BCMHRC after unfortunate situation with employer while he was a student hire. PSAC was able to lend their support, which encouraged Todd to become active with the union.

Jill MacNeill, Northwestern BC Coordinator – Jill is a member of UHEW 20147 in Prince Rupert and began her union activism due to Indigenous issues. Jill noted that she was also elected as the First Alternate Indigenous Peoples Coordinator at the recent convention. During this next term Jill hopes to focus on member engagement and see how it can work in a virtual environment. Jill added that she is still the current NIPC representative for BC and provided some further background on her Indigenous roots.

Bert Farwell, North Vancouver Island Coordinator – Bert is the Local President of UCTE 20220 and this is his third term on the Regional Council. Bert likes working on the Regional Councils Standing Committees and expects to have a great team this term.

Alan Otrosina, East Fraser Valley Coordinator – Alan is the Local President of USJE 20141 and is looking forward to the opportunities and challenges ahead of us. Alan hopes to get some new Area Council activity happening in East Fraser Valley over this term.

Linda Harding, Health and Safety Coordinator – Linda extended her thanks Jamey and staff for a successful regional convention. This is Linda's third term as the Health and Safety Coordinator. Linda started her union career on the East Coast. Within her Component, GSU, Linda is the RVP for Vancouver and the Lower Mainland.

Shane Polak, Access (Persons With Disabilities) Coordinator – Shane attended his first union meeting in 1990 with UTE Surrey Taxation. He later moved positions and joined UVAE where he was elected VP of his Local followed shortly by Local President for UVAE 20045. Shane is an RVP for UVAE at the national level. Shane first joined the Regional Council as an Alternate Metro Vancouver Coordinator and was later elected as a Metro Vancouver Coordinator at the 2017 Regional Convention. Shortly after taking on the role in 2017, Shane was asked to fill the MWD Coordinator vacancy after a resignation as he was also the First Alternate MWD Coordinator. Shane is also active on the Vancouver & District Labour Council, holding an executive board position, representing the PSAC.

Marion McLarty, Metro Vancouver Coordinator – Marion provided some of her family background and past involvement with the union over the last 17 years. Marion noted that she got involved with the Union during the PA strike and has held various union positions. Of note, Marion served two terms on the National Aboriginal Peoples Circle and was the Indigenous women's EOC member for the BC Region.

Warren Wulff, Metro Vancouver Coordinator – This is Warren's first time on the Regional Council. Warren is the president of UCTE Local 20088, which is a small Local that covers members at Natural Resources Canada. Warren has a long history of labour activism within his family, and he first began his union career at Environment Canada as a member of UHEW. Warren also noted that he is a librarian professionally.

Susie Blyth, West Fraser Valley Coordinator – Susie is the Local President for CEIU 20964. Susie joined that Regional Council in July 2020 when she took on the West Fraser Valley Coordinator role as the alternate. Susie's background is Indigenous and Chinese and she's looking forward to working with everyone over the next term and learning more about her position on the Council.

Jennifer Horsley, Metro Vancouver Coordinator – Jen advised that this is her third term on the Council. Jen originally joined the Regional Council as an Alternate for Metro Vancouver. Jen noted that she is the Local President of UPCE 20095 (Purolator), a separate employer unit, which often provides a different lens on issues other than those held by members of national bargaining units.

Emily Craddock, Pride (LGBTQ2+) Coordinator – Emily is a member of CEIU Local 20975 and has worked for the federal government in Canada Pensions for three years. Emily's family has several federal public service workers, including other PSAC members. Emily is of Metis and English heritage and is currently the secretary for the Vancouver Island YWC. Emily was also elected Alternate YW Coordinator at the recent convention. Emily is looking forward to the work ahead and having important conversations.

Trish Martin, South Vancouver Island Coordinator – This is Trish's second full term on the Regional Council. Previously Trish joined the South Vancouver Island Coordinator position as an Alternate. Trish is a member of CEIU Local 20975 and works in in CCP/OAS processing. Trish is passionate about member engagement. Trish advised that she's also the current president of the Victoria Area Council.

André Bessette, Indigenous Peoples Coordinator – André came into his Environment Canada position less than 3 years ago. Before that André was a frontline work with Indigenous communities through BC's public service youth program. Currently, André is in an acting position at Stats Canada for the census. During the pandemic, André has been working with 203 First Nations, with has been an incredibly difficult space to occupy given the historical violence Indigenous Peoples have faced from government. Part of the challenge has been getting others at Stats Canada to understand the impact a census can have on Indigenous communities given the historical context. One of André's passions is ReconciliACTION, and he has had some success with advocating for required Indigenous-awareness and cultural training for employees.

Jeanne Olineck, Southern Interior Coordinator – Jeanne grew up in a pro-union and NDP family and spent a good part of her working career in the service industry. Through that experience,

Jeanne dealt with a lot of awful situations, which led to her career with EI and CEIU. Jeanne has been a member of CEIU 20914 in Kamloops for 12 years and is an acting team leader. Jeanne had a slow start to her union career and has held a few positions within the Component and Local. This is Jeanne's first full term as the Southern Interior Coordinator, having come in as an alternate during the last cycle.

Ernest Hooker, South Vancouver Island Coordinator – This is Ernest's first full term on Council, having come in the role as an alternate during the last cycle. Ernest noted that this job is "second to none" and he appreciates the opportunity to do it again. In addition to working in the federal government, Ernest has worked in a variety of settings, including high school, parks and rec, and private industry with IBEW. Ernest is happy to see new faces on the Regional Council and some returning faces as well. We all have a lot to offer and have a lot to give.

Celine Ahodekon, Racially Visible Coordinator – Celine extended her congratulations to all on their (re)election. This is Celine's first time on the Regional Council. Celine has been the RV representative for her Component UNE over the last six years. She is also a chief steward for her Local, UNE 20278. Union work is Celine's passion and she has been involved for the last 15 years. Celine came to Canada as an immigrant and is currently the secretary of the BCMHRC and the Vice-president for the West Fraser Valley Area Council. Celine is also a Francophone and is willing to help with translations where required.

Kelly Megyesi, Southern Interior Coordinator – Kelly is excited to be back on the Regional Council. During the last cycle, Kelly was the Alternate Women's Coordinator. Kelly started with the federal government in 1992 and began with a strong union local. Currently, Kelly is the Local President of CEIU 20972, which covers the Kelowna and Vernon area. She is also the CEIU Women's Chair for the BC/YT Region. Kelly has been active in all the Southern Interior Committees and is currently involved in the executives of the Okanagan Area Council and the Okanagan HRC.

Leanne Hughes, National Officers Coordinator – Leanne is the Branch President for CIU 20042 and works for CBSA. This is Leanne's second term as the National Officers Coordinator. Leanne is an active member of BRUSH, VIRWC and VAC. Hello to new and returning Council members.

Jamey acknowledged that Terri D'Souza (Young Workers Coordinator) was unable to attend today and sent her regrets. Michelle Webster (DCLs and SEU Coordinator) will be joining the meeting later today. Jamey then invited guest (and 2nd Alternate REVP) Kirsty Havard to introduce herself.

Kirsty Havard (Guest, USJE RVP and 2nd Alternate REVP) – Kirsty provided that she's the RVP for USJE members in federal institutions, which are mostly in the Fraser Valley. Kirsty has been active in the union since 2011 when she was invited to a union meeting and was suddenly in a position. Kirsty is passionate about health and safety.

Jamey Mills, REVP – Jamey started as a union activist in 2004 and has been a member to three different Components: CIU, CEIU and UTE. Jamey got involved as a picket captain, which led to his participation at the Regional Convention in 2005 where he was first elected to the Regional Council as a Youth Coordinator. This is now Jamey's sixth term on the Council. Jamey is looking forward to working with this fantastic and diverse group.

Patrick Bragg, Political Communications Officer – Patrick has worked at the PSAC since 2001 when he started as an admin. Patrick took on the Political Communications position in 2007 under REVP Kay Sinclair, later working with REVP Bob Jackson and now REVP Jamey Mills.

Kristin Schnider, Executive Assistant to the REVP – Kristin started with the PSAC ten years ago after the 2011 Regional Convention and has held her current position since that time. Kristin’s role centred around the financial accounting for the REVP Office and assisting with governance matters.

Luc Guevremont, Regional Coordinator - Luc started with the PSAC as a member of UPCE and was later elected component officer. In 2005, Luc took on a staff negotiator role and later became the Regional Coordinator in 2012. Luc’s role is to serve as a liaison between the political side of the organization (the REVP Office) and the operational side (the Regional Offices in BC). His basic function is to operationalize the decisions of the organization.

Regional Council Coordinator Handbook – Q&A

All Regional Council members were sent an electronic copy of the PSAC B.C. Regional Council Coordinator Handbook, which provides an overview of the roles and responsibilities for all Council members.

Jamey provided an overview of the handbook and its contents, noting that it provides information on the organization of the PSAC and its relationship with the CLC, BC Federation of Labour and other Union in the Labour movement.

Jamey advised Regional Council members that one of their responsibilities is to prepare written report of their activities in advance of each full, two-day meeting. Kristin will send a reminder out regarding the deadline for reports approximately eight weeks before the meeting takes place.

Past Coordinator reports are available on the regional website. Here are the links to some recent reports:

- October 2020: https://psacbc.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/october_revp_and_regional_council_reports_-_web.pdf
- September 2019: file:///D:/Users/SchnidK/Downloads/bc_regional_council_coordinator_reports.pdf

A report template is also available in the Coordinator Handbook and/or Kristin can email a copy out as required.

Celine asked if the PSAC provides a letter to each Coordinator’s employer to advise of their recent election to the Regional Council. Kristin provided that the PSAC only provides that type of letter for full-time pay positions within the PSAC. For Coordinators, when meetings or events are scheduled member who require union authorization leave with pay (LWP) letters will receive them in advance upon receipt of the Coordinator’s RSVP for said meetings or events.

Todd commented that he doesn’t anticipate that members will be going back to same workplace in the same way as they did prior to the pandemic. This reality will impact how the PSAC will organize and engage members; there will be challenges as we move forward. Todd then suggested that a new Regional Council committee be struck to look at the different

impacts, how to mitigate them and how the Regional Council can make member connections going forward. Todd suggested that the Committee be called the “Future of union engagement” committee. Several Council members agreed, noting the additional communicate and health and safety issues that relate to WFH arrangements. Jamey noted that there would be nothing preventing the creation of this ad hoc committee. After further discussion ensued, Jamey and Todd agreed to work on a motion for the ad hoc Committee that could be voted upon at the next meeting.

ACTION ITEM: REVP Office to include discussion item for next Regional Council Meeting: Creation of an ad hoc committee on the future of union engagement

Coordinator Budgets – Explanation and Discussion

Jamey explained that each member of the Regional Council has a Coordinator Allowance to use for member outreach within their constituencies. Details on how to access Coordinator funds can be found in the Coordinator handbook. Expenses are to be preauthorized by the REVP, and Regional Council members should try to provide as much notice as possible with each proposal. In the past Coordinators have prepared annual budgets for their allowances to facilitate long-term planning.

Individual Coordinator Allowance amounts are set annual by the Regional Council at the first full, two-day meeting in each year. This was done at the January 27-28, 2021 BC Regional Council meeting, and the details were sent out in advance of this meeting.

Coordinator Allowance funds not used during a fiscal year may be carried over within the current cycle. Overages also carry over into the subsequent fiscal year within the 3-year cycle. The remaining Coordinator Allowances amounts from the 2018-2020 fiscal cycle have already been rolled into the net asset. Currently, the Region is in the first year of the 2021-2023 cycle. Coordinator Allowances funds not used by December 31 of the current year will be rolled over into 2022 and then into 2023.

There are opportunities to access other budget lines to supplement costs for Coordinators should their budgets not be able to support all plans. For example, Coordinator may choose to set up plans that bookend a Regional Council meeting to absorb travel costs.

In early July, the REVP Office will send out 6-month updates, which will provide the balance remaining for each Coordinator Allowance for the remainder of the cycle

The current Coordinator Allowance amounts for 2021 are set out below:

BC Regional Council Coordinator	2021-2023 CYCLE		
	2021 Budget*	2021 Spent YTD**	2021 Balance Remaining
Alternate REVP	\$ 1,400	\$ 88.66	\$ 1,311.34
Metro Vancouver 1	\$ 450	\$ -	\$ 450.00
Metro Vancouver 2	\$ 450	\$ -	\$ 450.00
Metro Vancouver 3	\$ 450	\$ -	\$ 450.00
DCLs	\$ 450	\$ -	\$ 450.00
South Vancouver Island 1	\$ 900	\$ -	\$ 900.00

South Vancouver Island 2	\$ 900	\$ -	\$ 900.00
Health & Safety	\$ 450	\$ -	\$ 450.00
Young Workers	\$ 1,425	\$ -	\$ 1,425.00
Racially Visible	\$ 1,400	\$ -	\$ 1,400.00
Members with Disabilities	\$ 1,400	\$ -	\$ 1,400.00
Indigenous Peoples	\$ 1,400	\$ -	\$ 1,400.00
Women's	\$ 1,400	\$ 267.71	\$ 1,132.29
LGTBQ2+	\$ 1,400	\$ -	\$ 1,400.00
East Fraser Valley	\$ 810	\$ -	\$ 810.00
West Fraser Valley	\$ 675	\$ -	\$ 675.00
Vancouver Island North	\$ 1,440	\$ -	\$ 1,440.00
Northwest B.C.	\$ 1,440	\$ -	\$ 1,440.00
Northeast B.C.	\$ 1,440	\$ -	\$ 1,440.00
Southern Interior 1	\$ 1,440	\$ -	\$ 1,440.00
Southern Interior 2	\$ 1,440	\$ -	\$ 1,440.00
National Officers	\$ 1,440	\$ -	\$ 1,440.00
	\$		
TOTAL	24,000.00	\$ 356.37	\$ 23,643.63

*** BUDGET AMOUNTS APPROVED AT JANUARY 27-28, 2021 MEETING**

**** Please note - These amounts are based on expenses paid by the REVP Office directly and those submitted through the Member Expense Portal. Currently, the REVP Office has only received 2021 invoices from the PSAC Finance Section up to March 2021.**

Additional amounts that were expended by Coordinators and submitted through the Member Expense Portal between April 2021 and May 2021 have not yet been invoiced to the REVP BC Office and will be deducted from the 2021 balance remaining for the respective Coordinator Allowance.

Jill commented that on the discussion during the Regional Convention on the use of Coordinator Allowances and the insinuation that Coordinators were not doing their jobs if they hadn't expended their full budgets. Jill asserted that this was not the case as many Coordinators had sourced funding for activities through other budget lines. Jill asked if there was a better way to demonstrate this in the financial reports presented at the convention. Jamey agreed that it has been the practice of the Region to utilize national funds before expending regional funds, particularly with respect to Coordinator activities. Jamey added that he wasn't sure how to incorporate this information in the convention report but suggested that it could have been brought forward through the floor mic by one of the delegates in attendance. Other Council

members agreed with Jill's comments, noting their own experience in being creative with Coordinator activities that haven't necessitated the use of their limited Coordinator Allowances.

Jamey advised that when Coordinators submit funding proposal for approval, often the REVP solicits additional information to find out how best to cover costs and if other budget lines may be used to carry out plans. This is part of the reason why it's important that Coordinators submit plans for approval in advance so that funding options can be investigated. Jamey further clarified that there are national budget lines that the REVP Office can access for some items (e.g. Phoenix campaign, mobilization, national campaigns, Participation in the Labour Movement, etc.) versus using the Regional Council specific funds and Priority Proposal that was approved at the recent PSAC BC Regional Convention. At times, funding can also be sourced through a combination of national and regional funds depending on the content of the activity and/or item(s).

Working Together / Working with members / Working with Alternates / Working with Affiliates

Jamey provided an overview on how Regional Council members can work together and other PSAC structures, noting the Region's practice of working with alternates whenever possible.

Karen asked if Alternates could attend Regional Council meeting to ensure they are fully apprised on Council matters. Jamey answered that while there is no funding to allow for observers at meetings, per the Regional By-Laws meetings are always open to members in good standing with the exception of any in camera discussions.

With respect to the BCFED and Affiliates, Jamey advised that the PSAC has representation on each of the BCFED standing committees. Traditionally Coordinator's whose constituencies correspond directly with the committee mandate are assigned to sit on the committee: Young Worker Coordinator sits on the BCFED Young Worker Committee, Health & Safety Coordinator sits on the BCFED OH&S Committee, etc. Other Committee assignments are determined by the REVP.

During the next Regional Council call, other committee assignments will be determined for the following BCFED Standing Committees:

- Community and Social Action Committee
- Human Rights Committee
- Political Action Committee

ACTION ITEM: REVP Office to include agenda item for next Regional Council Meeting: BCFED Standing Committee Assignments

Regional Council members should also be working with PSAC Regional staff. Regional reps are assigned geographic and equity portfolios, which align with those held by Regional Council members. Staff portfolios are listed on the regional website at <https://psacbc.com/staff/>

In terms of connecting with constituents, staff reps can provide email lists for Local/Branch presidents for Geographic Coordinators. For privacy reasons, the PSAC cannot release the email addresses for self-identified equity caucus members. Instead, staff can send out emails to equity groups on behalf of Equity Coordinators.

Patrick explained the email options available for Regional Council members: they can choose to use a personal email account for communication with members, they can choose to have a full PSAC email account set up, or choose to have a PSAC alias email account. The PSAC email is hosted on Outlook, which is accessible via web-based client or phone app; members don't require a paid MS Office license to access their email account.

Once Regional Council members have decided on their email address, they can also request that the REVP Office have business cards made for them. Requests for business cards should be sent to Kristin at SchnidK@psac-afpc.com.

André suggested that virtual backgrounds be developed for Regional Council members to display the position and contact information at online meetings. Jamey advised that Patrick could prepare backgrounds based on requests received.

Alan asked if there was a standard signature block to use for email communications. Jamey answered that there is nothing official, but Coordinators can work with Patrick to develop a signature block if they wish to set one up.

Emily suggested developing QR codes with Coordinator contact information that can be sent out and/or used in online settings. Again, Patrick can provide on a per request basis.

Warren asked how/if Coordinators can use Zoom for meetings. Patrick answered that the REVP Office and Regional Office staff can set up meeting on behalf of members and assist as required using the PSAC licensed accounts.

Michelle Webster then joined the meeting and introduced herself as the new Coordinator for Directly Chartered Locals and Separate Employer Units. Michelle is a member of UCTE and is looking forward to her new role on the Regional Council.

Committee Assignments

Jamey explained the Regional Council committee structure from the previous cycle, which includes eight standing committees: By-Laws, Convention, DASH, Education, Environment, Finance, Political Action, and International Solidarity. Each member of the Regional Council (apart from the REVP) will be assigned to at least two of these standing committees.

Consideration will also be given the gender, equity, Component, and geographic location when determining committee assignments. Kristin will send out a list of all Regional Council standing committees and seek each Coordinator's preference to assist with Committee assignments.

Outstanding Resolutions

Jamey noted that Convention was able to get through all the Finance Committee and By-Laws Committee concurrence recommendations. The concurrence resolutions from the General Committee that were not addressed at Convention do not die on the floor. The Regional Council does have the opportunity to ratify the work of the General Resolutions Committees and recommend that an Area Council send them forward to the PSAC National Triennial Convention in 2022.

During the next conference call, the Regional Council can look at these remaining concurrence recommendations and decide to ratify some or all of them as appropriate.

ACTION ITEM: REVP Office to include agenda item for next Regional Council Meeting: Outstanding General Committee Concurrence Resolutions from the PSAC BC Regional Convention

Todd noted that he was one of the General Committee Co-Chairs and would be happy to help with this work.

Jeanne asked if the delegates were able to get through more and less resolutions than the last Regional Convention, especially considering the virtual platform. Jamey advised that he didn't have the specific numbers available yet but could provide that information for the Council as a future date. Jamey added that he was surprised how few members spoke on the budget. However, that could be a testament to the work and consultation done in advance of the Convention. Jamey didn't think that there were necessarily fewer speakers overall, and the number of speakers was highly dependent on the resolution being debated. Further discussion ensued.

Shane asked if he could be provided with some clarification on the \$50 per diem eligibility for Regional Convention Delegates. Kristin explained that, as decided by the AEC, Delegates attending the 2021 virtual PSAC Regional Conventions will receive a \$50 per diem for each full day (as defined in the convention agenda) that they participate at their respective Regional Convention. This flat rate per diem is provided to assist Delegates with out-of-pocket expenses relating to their participation, including ordering lunch from a local restaurant. This per diem will not be pro-rated, will not be payable to observers, and will not establish a precedent for other virtual union events. For BC, the official convention dates are May 4 (Virtual Platform Training) and May 6-9. Members who omitted the per diems on claims submitted for the BC Convention dates have had these expense entitlements added by PSAC staff.

Shane then asked about other expenses members may have incurred for their attendance such as internet overage charges. Kristin explained that the REVP Office had sent out a communication on this in February advising that members would be assisted as required with any equipment and/or internet connection challenges they may have. On a case-by-case basis, this support may be inclusive of reimbursement of expenses such as internet overage charges related to their attendance at the virtual convention that can be demonstrated to the PSAC.

Warren commented that he saw an event had been set up in the Member Expense Portal for this Regional Council meeting and asked if Council members are able to claim any non-salary costs for their attendance. Kristin clarified that the event was set up to issue the Leave With Pay (LWP) union authorization letters for TB and CFIA members and also for other members to submit for loss of salary reimbursement (those who do not have LWP language in their collective agreements). As this meeting is virtual, members are not in travel status per the PSAC Travel Policy and are not able to claim any non-salary expenses such as meal allowances or travel expenses, etc.

Next Conference Call(s) and Fall Meeting Dates

The REVP Office will look to schedule a first conference call of the Regional Council in June subject to availability and the National Calendar of Events. Kristin will send out a Doodle poll to all Regional Council members to solicit their availability.

ACTION ITEM: REVP Office to send out a Doodle poll for the June Regional Council call

For the fall full, two-day meeting, the REVP Office will look at the PSAC National Calendar of Events to see what weekend dates are available. We can also look at including the B.C. Regional Office staff in a portion of the meeting. It's anticipated that the meeting will take place in late October or early November.

Other Business and Round Table

Linda advised that the next BRUSH Committee meeting is taking place July 7. The BRUSH Committee meets quarterly. If members are interested in attending meetings, they can reach out to staff rep Sharon Barbour to be added to the Committee's email distribution list. Linda then commented on a recent personal loss and extended her thanks to those who had reached out to her and offered support.

Celine asked who she should contact if she wants to do some outreach to Racially Visible members or if she wants to organize an event. Who approves the event? Jamey clarified that Coordinators should get in touch with the REVP Office through Kristin and/or Jamey when making event plans. With respect to the RV caucus, Monica Urrutia is the staff rep assigned to that portfolio and can assist with member outreach and communications. When looking to plan an event, Coordinators need to be in touch with the REVP Office for budgeting purposes. The REVP must approve all budget proposals.

Todd commented that he misses in-person breaks at meetings where he's been able to connect with other Council members. As means to get to know the new Regional Council member, Todd plans to have a phone call conversation with each Council member to connect and see what their plans are for the cycle.

Jen advised that the Metro Vancouver Alliance (MVA) is having their AGM next Sunday. See <https://www.metvanalliance.org/> for details. Jen added that the MVA is a good organization to get involved with for those in the Metro Vancouver area.

Andre referenced a comment that had been made during the Regional Convention regarding a past Regional Indigenous Peoples Circle that is not currently active. Over this cycle, Andre would like to reinvigorate this caucus and hopes to conduct at least two meetings per year that will be scheduled one month prior to the full Regional Council meetings. Andre then asked if there's any funding for this caucus. Jamey answered that there's nothing preventing a caucus meeting from taking place after work hours or on the weekend. However, this activity isn't currently funded in the Region.

Marion advised that in the past during regional Union Schools there was an opportunity for a gathering of Indigenous members and well as related training.

Jamey reminded the Council of the activist summit that will be scheduled later this year that is being sponsored by the Regional Council. As part of the Summit content, the Council could consider including content on ReconciliACTION and related discussions. Andre added that he strongly encouraged the Regional Council to take the KAIROS blanket exercise as a group, which would provide a consistent understanding and pacing in our work with Indigenous members and Indigenous communities.

Jill offered that constituency Coordinators are welcome to provide her with information for members in her geographic area that can be shared at the Northwest BC Area Council. Constituency Coordinators are also welcome to attend meetings where possible. On Indigenous education courses, Jill advised that there had been an Introduction to the Union for Indigenous

Members course offered a couple years ago as well as a course on Union Leadership for Indigenous women that had been piloted.

Jeanne extended her thanks to staff for the successful virtual convention. She further suggested that for future PSAC virtual events that they not use the Lumi platform as it was very problematic for members. Jeanne then asked if the election results could be sent out and include the city in which all Coordinators and Alternates reside. Jamey agreed and further advised that a feedback survey is being sent to all Regional Convention attendees. Responses can be anonymous and will certainly help guide decision regarding future virtual events.

Susie commented that she appreciated the suggestion of having a KAIROS blanket exercise for the Regional Council but suggested that we wait on organizing until it can be conducted in person.

Ernest commented that he found the virtual convention to be a positive experience even with the rough start and two letters of apologies from Encore.

Karen advised that she's already been in touch with the Chairs and Co-Chairs for the PSAC BC Regional Women's Committees. Karen added that she concurred with Susie that an in-person KAIROS blanket exercise would be preferable to a virtual offering. Karen added that she enjoyed the virtual convention and found comfort in being at home and in a safe place. This gave her (and others) the ability to freely attend, which isn't always possible with in-person events.

Andre echoed Karen's comments regarding virtual events and the access they provide to some members, especially as they relate to childcare, anxiety, etc. Andre is hopeful that there will be a hybrid approach for future PSAC events to accommodate diverse member needs.

Meeting Adjournment

Before concluding the meeting, Jamey commented that he feels privileged to work with all from the past Council and those who are new to the Regional Council. He added that the BC Region has been a pioneer in many actions and initiatives over the years. Jamey looks forward to the work ahead with the new Regional Council—the leaders of the Region—who will continue to foster BC's reputation as being a progressive and innovative Region with respect to membership engagement, mobilization, and political action.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:47 AM.

Minutes recorded by Kristin Schnider

Minutes published: May 2021