

West Fraser Valley Area Council Meeting

Date: October 24, 2022

Time: 5:30pm

Location: Online / ZOOM

Present: Nielene Chand (President, UTE 20007), Monique Bakker (Secretary - UHEW, Local 20147), Nerissa Hermosura (Secretary, UTE 20029); Zita Lambert (UTE 20007), Celine Ahodekon (Vice-President, UNE 20278), Susie Blyth (CEIU 20964), Mike Reeves (USHE 20086)

Guests: Jason Manchester – PSAC Regional Rep; Janet Andrews – secretary of the Union Protein Project.

1. **Call to order** at 5:35pm and acknowledgement of the land by the chair, Nielene; Nielene welcomed the members present and introduced the guests Janet Andrews of the Union Protein Project
2. **Guest Speaker: Janet Andrews – Union Protein Project**

Janet mentioned that:

- The Union Protein Project (UPP) is a non-profit society that started in 2006.
 - Union and individual union members donate cash to subsidize food bank purchases of canned salmon and peanut butter.
 - UPP supports food banks across BC by subsidizing protein-based foods so food banks can save money and maximize their purchasing power.
 - Food banks experience shortages of protein-based food, which is an important food for brain and muscle development, and nutrition that we need.
 - UPP holds community forums to connect food bank clients to different information sources in social policy, labour standards, housing and health.
 - UPP supports 60 families in Port Coquitlam
 - UPP partners with Save On Foods that help deliver products in community
 - Janet advised that to organize or set up challenges for other components to participate, they can start coordinating towards spring order with different components
 - She can also talk or share or come out to speak to different components regarding setting up a challenge to purchase bulk orders that can be shared among other labour union council.
 - Monique mentioned different campaign tools – 50-50, raffle basket, Christmas in July
 - Nielene said we could reach out to other committees about donations and funds that will be collected can be used to offset the cost of spring purchase for foodbank.
3. **Adoption of the agenda:** M/S Susie and Zita to adopt the current agenda. – Carried
 4. **Review and Adoption of Previous meeting minutes from August 15, 2022:** M/S Monique and Zita - Carried

5. Events

- Holland Park Labour Day - Nielene showed some photos from the Holland Park Labour Day event. She also said about meeting some politicians, had spin-a-win with labour day questions, giving some chips, PSAC swags
- Dec 6 vigil, partner up with New West District Labour Council – reach out to the new Surrey mayor if she is available to come out for the event, reach out to KPU and see if we can get a speaker from NEVR
- Zita mentioned that she is part of the Regional Women’s Committee and would like to partner and coordinate the Dec 6 vigil
- We will accept donations of feminine hygiene products and other items to assist women’s shelters
- Monique stated that we still have \$604.27 in our budget for events. Last year we spent \$220.03 for the Dec 6 Vigil last year.

Monique motion to spend upto \$600 for the December 6 Vigil (costs for speaker, items to purchase for donations, child care costs for members to attend, etc), seconded by Mike Reeves. Carried

6. Financial report – \$3,538.02 current bank balance

- Samina has provided a written report to executive for attending Women’s conference in Nova Scotia, we provided \$375 for educational funding
- Surrey Fest spent \$190.99
- Labour Day event spent \$204.74
- Etransfer fees are \$0.90 per etransfer, which is cheaper than cheques which is about \$1.80 per cheque.

Monique Motioned to adopt Financial Report, seconded by Susie. Carried

- Area council currently has \$500 budget under donations and nothing spent to date
- Monique adopted a motion for the donations below:
 - \$100 donation to the Black Class Action Lawsuit (seconded by Zita) Carried
 - \$100 donation to the Union Protein Project (seconded by Susie) Carried
 - \$100 donation to 27th Labour Council Holiday Dinner (seconded by Mike) Carried
 - \$200 to be divided to 4 different women’s shelters or food bank withing our area council
 - \$50 to Ishtar Women’s Resource Society (Women’s Shelter’s in Langley, seconded by Zita) Carried
 - \$50 to Cythera Transition House Society (Women’s Shelter’s in Maple Ridge, seconded by Zita) Carried
 - \$50 to Atira Women’s Resources Society (Women’s Shelter’s in Surrey and White Rock, seconded by Zita) Carried

- \$50 Phoenix Society which provides transitional supportive housing for men moving to community living after experiencing federal incarceration. They are DCL 22005 which is part of the West Fraser Valley Area Council (seconded by Zita) Carried
- Request for area council flag (3' x 4') – Patrick Bragg to purchase flags (\$185 for one, \$165 for two or more); regional office is purchasing two for each area council.
- Consensus that 2 flags are sufficient, and we can see in the future if we need more flags

7. Special AGM Election

- **Delegate to 2023 PSAC BC Regional Triennial Convention and 1 Alternate (May 5-7, 2023)**
- Election done by PSAC Rep: Jason Manchester
- Nominations for Delegate: Nielene was nominated by Monique and seconded by Zita; Monique was nominated by Nielene and seconded by Celine. They were given 3 minutes to speak; **Nielene won the election.**
- Nomination done for an alternate: Suzie nominated Zita and seconded by Celine; Celine nominated Monique and seconded by Nielene; Zita did not accept the nomination, **Monique acclaimed as the alternate**

8. Roundtable

- Monique Bakker – requested childcare payment from 5:00pm to 7pm (\$20/hour) for attending the meeting; **Mike made a motion to reimburse Monique, seconded by Zita, motion adopted**
- Discussion about in-person meeting: finding a location is a challenge, restaurant requires minimum amount to spend; members were polled what they would prefer, majority prefer to continue to do virtual meetings, virtual meeting to continue for now; have to encourage members to come to the area council meeting.
- AGM on the last Monday of Feb (Tentative date: Feb 27, 2023)
- Zita, Susie and Mike to audit the financials

Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.