

South Vancouver Island Area Council Meeting Jan 19, 2023

Attendees:

Trish Martin President- CEIU 20975

Ian Wiggs Treasurer- UNDE 21008

Charles Walker -DCL 20500

Leanne Hughes -Note taker/ scribe CIU 20042

Staff Representative Martha Johnson

Regrets:

Josh Peterson

Marcelo Lazaro

Meeting began at 1801 hours.

Trish welcomed attendees to the first in person meeting of the South Vancouver Island Area Council since the pandemic started.

Motion to adopt agenda.

Mover Charles Walker

Seconded Ian Wiggs

None opposed, Passed.

No previous minutes

Ian moved the financial report.

Chequing had \$3732.94 and we have equity shares of \$56.63.

Ian mentioned that we spent less than we budgeted for last year and this was partly due to in person meetings not taking place.

No Questions.

Seconded by Charles Walker

Any opposed, none opposed, Passed.

Ian sent his regrets for not being able to attend the AGM in February.

Resolutions

Moved as a package from 1-5 by Charles Walker

Seconded by Ian Wiggs

Overnight Per Diem for Dependents

Originator Victoria Area Council

WHEREAS the PSAC strives to remove barriers that prevent members from fully participating in Union Activities; and

WHEREAS at times caregivers must bring dependents to PSAC events where childcare may not be required.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT PSAC provide a \$25.00 per diem per dependent when an overnight stay is required for the dependent at a PSAC event.

Sexual Assault Evidence Kits

Originator: Victoria Area Council

WHEREAS many hospitals and urgent care facilities do not have sexual assault evidence kits (SAEK); and

WHEREAS many hospitals and urgent care facilities do not have nurses, or physicians trained in conducting SAEK:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT PSAC lobby the Provincial and Territorial Governments to ensure that all hospitals and other medical facilities that provide emergency services have Sexual Assault Evidence Kits (SAEK) and that all Hospital and other medical facilities staff are trained to administrator the kits.

Affordable housing and rent control

Originator: Victoria Area Council

WHEREAS renting housing in Canada is unaffordable and rising well ahead of wages across all jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS workers are being forced to move further from where they work in order to be able to afford to be housed.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT PSAC will lobby all levels of government to follow through on campaign promises to make housing more affordable and address the need for adequately maintained below-market public housing; and

BE IT RESOLVED THAT PSAC will lobby all levels of government to take measurable action to urgently realize the National Housing Strategy to build 125,000 units of affordable housing; and

BE IT RESOLVED THAT PSAC will endorse the concept of real rental control tied to the unit, not the tenancy agreement, and advocate for provincial and territorial registries to facilitate that.

Membership Engagement

Originator Victoria Area Council

WHEREAS members are not always aware of the efforts made by PSAC, Regional Councils, Components, Area Councils, Committees and Locals to advocate for their rights; and

WHEREAS membership engagement is key to having more members involved in union mobilization and actions; and

WHEREAS engaging members and developing a new generation of activists ensures that the union strengthens its bargaining power with the employer to effectively enforce negotiated collective agreements.

BE IT RESOLVED that PSAC nationally develop and deliver a workshop on membership engagement in the next three-year cycle which is targeted at leaders at all levels of our union.

BE IT RESOLVED that PSAC develop a membership engagement kit in the next three-year cycle and that this engagement kit will be developed in consultation with Regional Councils for distribution through the regional offices.

Government Lobby on Addiction/Overdose Crisis

Originator Victoria Area Council

WHEREAS on Thursday, April 14, 2016, the overdose crisis was declared a public health emergency in BC; and

WHEREAS the effects of the overdose crisis have had both adverse and fatal impacts on working people in Canada who have used opiates and other drugs;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT PSAC will lobby provincial and territorial governments to

- Provide a safe, regulated drug supply (“safe supply”) for those who currently rely on the illegal drug market in collaboration with evidence-based drug policy groups; and
- Continue to lobby for a decriminalization plan on the personal possession of drugs, increasing to amounts deemed appropriate by evidence-based policy groups; and
- Pardon prior convictions that no longer would be charged recognizing the disproportionate impacts of criminalization on indigenous, racialized and low-income people; and
- Advocate for harm reduction instead of abstinence model; and
- Provide additional infrastructure for access to mental and physical health supports as required.

None opposed, Passed.

Repeal of Two-Tiered Pension Plan

Originator Victoria Area Council

WHEREAS a previous Federal Government of Canada, raised the age for receipt of an unreduced pension to age sixty with thirty years of service;

WHEREAS all PSAC members should have access to the same pension plan;

Whereas PSAC members hired after 2012 must work longer to receive the same unreduced pension as workers who were in place before that date;

BE IT RESOLVED that PSAC lobby the Government of Canada to repeal changes to the Public Service Superannuation Act, to get the age modified to the prior accepted age and amount of service that was in effect before the changes in 2012.

Moved by Leanne Hughes

Seconded by Ian Wiggs

None opposed, Passed

Joining and Retention of loyalty program benefits while on union travel

WHEREAS PSAC recommends that members fly on unionized airlines while traveling on union business;

WHEREAS PSAC mandates that members stay at unionized hotels, while traveling on union business;

WHEREAS PSAC members may not have access to the benefits of their loyalty programs while traveling on union business;

BE IT RESOLVED that PSAC negotiate travel and accommodation contracts for members so that members retain the benefits afforded by loyalty programs while traveling on union business.

Moved Leanne Hughes

Seconded Charles Walker

None Opposed, Passed.

Trish reminded everyone that the next meeting will be the AGM on February 16, 2023, and will be virtual.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 1905 hours.