

## North Vancouver Island Area Council

### Meeting Minutes

Date: October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes.

#### 1. Meeting Opening: 6:30pm, PST

- Richard May, began by acknowledging the unseeded territory of the Snuneymuxw First Nation and advocated for similar acknowledgments in future meetings.
- A misunderstanding with the regional office which led to delay in minutes was resolved.

#### 2. Discussion on Union Finances, Trans Issues, and LGBTQ+:

- Guest Kayla, chair of the Vancouver Island regional women's committee, was in attendance.
- The council discussed September actions, financial planning, and a potential coffee chat.

#### 3. Counter-Protesting Hate Groups in Nanaimo, BC:

- The council discussed recent counter-protests against a march for children in Nanaimo, BC, which had moments of tension and offensive language aimed at the LGBTQ community.
- Retired Cru member Christine Walker shared her experiences with anti-LGBTQ events in Nanaimo and Saltire, BC.

#### 4. Counter-Protesting Hate Groups in Canada:

- The council discussed a problematic protest event where security members were armed with weapons and bear spray.
- There was concern expressed about the rising amount of hate in the community, particularly targeting LGBTQ+ individuals.
- A speaker mentioned an event in Parksville, which featured borderline hate speech, transphobia, and homophobia.
- There was mention of counter-protesting against the upcoming Million Man March on October 21.

#### 5. Union Messaging and Counter-Protesting:

- An email was sent to the local executive and CEI folks in Nanaimo regarding an event on September 21<sup>st</sup>, which was supported by the BC Federation of Labor and VC PSAP.

- Area Council member requested assistance from the RVP regarding union messaging.

#### 6. Email Distribution and Event Planning:

- The council discussed involving local leaders in messaging to counter-protest in Victoria and other locations.
- Christine and Jamie will work on approval process for emails to membership.
- The council discussed the notification chain of command in CEIU with Deb, the district coordinator for Vancouver Island.

#### 7. Union Communication and Activism:

- The council addressed communication issues within the union, including a lack of information distribution and failure to contact members.
- Janet proposed that PSA C should be responsible for distributing emails and meeting notifications to the membership.
- A central point for routing packages was suggested to ensure everyone has the tools they need to be good activists.

#### 8. Union Strategy and Outreach:

- Ty requested help reaching out to local members for an event in Parksville.
- The council discussed plans to organize a presence at an event in Nanaimo, BC, with potential involvement from Danielle.

#### 9. Supporting LGBTQ+ Rights and Organizing Events:

- Janet stressed the importance of supporting LGBTQ+ individuals, particularly trans folks, in their fight for equity and safety.
- Council discussed plans to distribute information about an upcoming event.
- A coffee chat in Duncan in mid-November was proposed.

#### 10. Charity Project and Community Outreach:

- The council planned to purchase and distribute food to those in need using leftover budget funds.
- A proposal was made to move a meeting to the end of the month to avoid conflicting with Remembrance Day.

#### 11. Community Service Event and Cru Convention:

- The council discussed distribution of funds for a community service event and possible collaboration with Loaves and Fishes food bank.
- Deb reported on a successful Cru convention in Ottawa.
- Julie thanked the EAS staff for their activism and invited attendees to a meeting on December 10<sup>th</sup> for the women's memorial and invites those present to attend.
- Richard May mentioned that for the union protein project proposal to purchase food/peanut butter for local food banks, at the next meeting when they have proper notice they will need to do a "substantive vote for the use of that funds".