

East Fraser Valley Area Council Meeting Minutes

November 2, 2023

WhiteSpot Whatcom Road, Abbotsford.

Called to order 6:62pm

Quorum was met

In attendance:

Antony Paller, President AGRI Local 20044

Amanda MacKinnon, Vice President USJE Local 20015

Heidi Kay, Secretary USJE Local 20156

Alex (Vital) Stuit, PSAC Staff Advisor

Kirsty Harvard, RVP USJE

Alan Otrasina, USJE Local 20141

Julie Kelly, CIU Local 20045

Kendy Michaloski, CIU Local 20045

Laura Wildly, USJE Local 20017

Tabitha Swanson, USJE Local 20040

Trista Ororowski, Veterans Affair Local XXX

Garth Krieger, USJE Local 22011

Welcome and Indigenous Acknowledgement

Round Table Introductions

Adoption of Agenda

Antony asked if there were any additions to the agenda. As there were none, Alan motioned the agenda be adopted as presented.

Seconded by Amanda.

Motion carried.

Adoption of Previous Agenda

Heidi provided copies of previous minutes to be reviewed. As there were no changes, Alan motioned the agenda be adopted as presented.

Seconded by Laura.

Motion carried.

Business Arising

As our Treasurer has resigned we no longer have 3 signing authorities on the account. Antony will coordinate with Amanda and Heidi to go to the TD bank and make arrangements to add Amanda onto the account with signing authority.

Packaging of our community outreach hygiene bags donations will be done on Dec 10th after the proposed East Fraser Valley Pottery Painting Mixer. The scheduled plan is to do this from 1-3pm at Antony's house. An email with the time and address will be sent to those who expressed an interest in participating.

Our 2023 AGM is scheduled for February 15, 2024, at White Spot on Whatcom Road, Abbotsford. President, Secretary and Treasurer positions are up for re- election.

Financial Report

As there is currently no Treasurer no report has been completed. Nothing has been spent from the account except for the monthly banking fees. However, there are outstanding expenses; membership engagement for coffee and tea from the strike, meals for the last 2 meetings and costs for the Labour Day picnic. These will be paid once we have a 3rd signer on the account.

Full report will be prepared by Heidi for the AGM.

Standing Updates

Alex provided the following updates:

Received communication from Kristin Schnider, Political Communications Officer that EFVAC's resolution titled "Lobby on the Addiction/Overdose Crisis" has been approved for submission to the PSAC National Triennial Convention 2024.

A volunteer opportunity for participate in the Education in Action project in Guatamala is open for young PSCA members and staff, ages 18-35. A participation fee on \$625 US will be provided to subsidize travel costs. Additional information can be found on the PSAC website.

The 20th PSAC National Triennial Convention is scheduled for be held May 26th - 31st in Ottawa, Ontario. Deadline for delegate names is Nov 24, 2023.

PSAC President Chris Aylward is calling for a proper search of all residential school sites for graves.

PSAC recognizes the challenges that federal workers are experiencing with the transition to Canada Life insurance. PSAC has prepared some FAQ's that provide the latest information regarding the transition and what PSAC is doing to help. Information can be found on the PSAC website.

If you are interested in attending the 2024 CLC Winter School you can apply for one of four subsidies up to \$500.00 Deadline for Application is Friday, Nov 17, 2023, at 4:00pm. Information can be found on the PSAC website. Information on the courses and classes available can be found on the Canada Labour Congress website.

PSAC Union Fall Course schedule still has opening for upcoming classes:

- Local Officers Seminar | Vancouver | November 18
- Steward Series | Vancouver | November 18
- Intro to Duty to Accommodate | Vancouver | November 19
- Virtual Talking Union Basics | Virtual | December 5-7

Upcoming events, and regularly scheduled meetings can be found on the calendar on the PSAC website.

On November 16th Alex will be doing a Lunch & Learn at Fraser Valley Institution for Women. If this is something you would like to do at your worksite, please reach out to him to make arrangements.

Affiliate Reports

Kirsty Havard provided an update on the Presumptive Injury Campaign that she has been working on. MP Peter Julian is supporting drafting legislation on Presumptive Injury for out members. Further information is available of both the USJE and PSAC websites. Kirsty encouraged staff to reach out to their MPs to ask for legislative change and to consider who you are voting for in the next election in light of a previous governments introduction of the Phoenix pay system, Deficit Reduction Action Plan, reduction of staff so additional work falls on those left and pay freezes.

New Business

Laura And Krista provided an update on the Dec 10th activity that they have planned and have asked for \$800 in funding from the EFVAC to support this event. The plan is to have seat for 100 people from 9am -11:45 as an outreach to all members and their families within the EFVAC catchment area.

Antony proposed we donate up to \$800 for the event.

Seconded by Julie.

Motion carried.

Round Table

Antony – has been experiencing issues with the Canada Life transition and discussed that Agriculture Canada is dealing with a 15% reduction in funding. They have not lost term employees at this time as they are in the middle of the avian flu season. They are waiting for a new Collective Agreement.

Krista – let everyone know that the Access Summit for members with disabilities will be held in April.

Alex- the is information on the National PSAC website on the Canada Life take action campaign on how to notify your MP.

Laura – said that CSC is holding focus groups for the WP workers to look at what they actually do for work.

Julie – provided an update that CIU has just have elections and are at an impasse for contract negotiations, they are under a budget freeze as well and that mental health is at an all time low.

Kendy motioned for adjournment.

Seconded by Laura.

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned 8:12 pm

Next meeting scheduled for February 15, 2024 at 6:30pm.