Okanagan Area Council
November 18, 2025

Attended: Jeanne Olineck - Chair (CEIU 20914), Ajay Athwal (UTE 20026), Kelly Megyesi (CEIU 20972), Nadia Sokal (AGR 20043) , Ashley-Rae Snape (UTE 20026), Jacob (B) Omagali (UHEW 20147)
Staff: Varinder Johal Regrets: Brigitte Willman (USJE 20069)

Welcome & Land Acknowledgement – Jeanne Olineck. Special warm welcome to Jacob. It is exciting for our area council to have new members representing different components. Jacob attended the PSAC BC regional conference for Racialized members and Ajay extended an invitation. Attendees introduced themselves and gave a bit of an overview of their activism.

Previous minutes – September 23, 2025, minutes accepted as presented **m/AS s/NS** – all in favour

Treasurer report .

Opening balance September 1, 2025,	$3909.84
Less: Service charges	$4.00
Strike support Penticton	$114.32
Strike support Kelowna Vernon	$92.56
Closing balance October 31, 2025	$3698.96

m/KM, s/BW – all in favour

Motions
Donation to Workers History Museum $100.00
m/KM, s/NS– all in favour

Payment to PSAC BC – Activism in the ARTS contribution /invoice $1018.31 –
m/KM, s/AS– all in favour

Budget 2026
The executive finalized a proposed budget for 2026 and sent for review by the REVP. Budget in order and shared at this meeting. Everyone was comfortable with it to be presented at the upcoming AGM.

Events / Political Action
Discussion on events for our council for 2026. Everyone is encouraged to think about ideas and bring forward to our next **AGM** meeting on January 13th, 2025 . We will include a discussion on upcoming BC convention – time permitting.

Major events such as Activism in the Arts – tentative planning for every 2 years. Ashley has an idea for a **Mental Health day** event for Saturday October 10, 2026. Kelly suggested we tie training to the event and Nadia suggested we look at courses that would work well with mental health. Location Penticton or Osoyoos. Kelly asked Varinder to bring our suggestions forward. Varinder responded that training for the spring has almost been finalized and that the fall planning would be later. The group got excited about this potential event and talk about it being a joint committee event between our three groups – Women's, Human Rights, & Area Council.

Events / Political Action (cont'd)

Nadia suggested that we form a **Resolutions Working Group**. This was also well received by the group. She will take lead and will start by setting up a WhatsApp group. We will try and schedule a meeting in February prior to the February 20, 2026, resolution deadline.

Roundtable

Kelly – Participated in the first time PSAC Lobbying day in Ottawa which was a successful few days. She met with members of Parliament and observed question period. As a seasoned activists she felt she contributed greatly to the session and the initial training sessions. There were opportunities within the National Capital Region, and she followed up with discussions with Jamey (BC REVP), Ruth (NCR REVP), feedback (PSAC National organizers) and CEIU (NCR Women's Rep) Connections were made, and she highlighted the importance of these types of events.

Ajay – Was really pleased that Jacob had joined the area council meeting. They met at the PSAC BC racialized conference and hit it off. Just so good to have him join us.

Jacob – Jacob talked about meeting Ajay. He had some questions about the area council, and we were able to provide him with an overview. He is
looking forward to participating

Nadia – Nadia talked about supporting members on the BC GEU strike line. Thank you to Sarah and Ashley for their work and to those that were able to support. BCGEU were grateful for our participation, and it was great to be there.

Jeanne – On bylaws committee / reviewing in preparation for convention.

Varinder – The federal budget was just passed, and we will need to increase our work on advocacy. A reminder (and chat link) of our campaign **For you Canada** https://www.foryoucanada.ca
He emphasized how important our campaigning will be. The government is introducing alternation or the alternate form of retirement without consultation - now is the time to hold our politicians accountable. It will be a lot of work but nothing that we haven't done before.

PSAC triennial call out is out - May 22-26, 2026, Victoria. Overview of dates deadlines for registration resolutions, etc.

Education schedule will be coming out. Calendars are available. Further discussion on Workforce Adjustment (WFA).

Motion to Adjourn

m/NS, s/JBO– all in favour

Next Meeting

AGM – January 13th, 2025 7pm via zoom.

Prior to the official meeting starting the group had informal discussions about the meeting notice, links, registrations etc. Kelly will follow-up as we try and make the process more open and welcoming for members.