



PSAC · BC
Public Service Alliance of Canada

**Report of the Regional Executive
Vice-President, BC - Jamey Mills
for the Period May 2022 to October 2022**

PSAC BC Regional Council Meeting • November 4-6, 2022 in Burnaby



REPORT OF THE REGIONAL EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT For the Period May 2022 to October 2022

Political Action and Campaigns

Treasury Board Mobilization

Our Regional Mobilization Coordination Committee (RMCC) continues to meet regularly to discuss the Committee's role overall and the specific roles for Area Mobilization Coordinators, and to help organize for other mobilization activities they have held in the BC Region over the summer and fall.

Regional Mobilization Summit

The PSAC BC regional office staff organized a Regional Mobilization Summit under the theme "Speak up, Speak out in Support of Your Bargaining Demands." The one-day Summit was held in Richmond on June 17 for members of the EB, PA, SV and TC groups.

Participants heard from PSAC national and regional leaders and were able to interact with bargaining team members. Workshops covered many of the main themes for this round of bargaining including equity in the workplace, work/life balance, protecting the public services, and fair wages. Most importantly, there was also a workshop on having hard conversations about the possibility of strike, what striking looks like during a pandemic, and firming up our strike structures in preparation.

Esquimalt Rally, August 10

Treasury Board Executives visiting from Ottawa were welcomed to CFB Esquimalt on August 10 by over 200 members alongside PSAC National President Chris Aylward, BC Federation of Labour President Laird Cronk, Victoria Labour Council President Darlene Rochford and I. Together, we sent a message to Treasury Board that we're not willing to accept the insulting offer they currently have on the table. TB needs to provide a fair wage offer that recognizes inflation challenges and the fact the PSAC members have been – and continue to be – there for Canadians during the pandemic. It's time for TB to show us some respect!

Building Alliances and Supporting the Labour Community

BC Lions Labour Night

PSAC BC, alongside the BC Federation of Labour and affiliated unions, was proud to sponsor this year's BC Lions Labour Appreciation Night, which was the Home Opener at BC Place on June 11th against the Edmonton Elks.

As part of our sponsorship package, [PSAC BC gave away game tickets to members](#) in a random draw.



BCGEU Job Action in BC

On August 15, the BC General Employees' Union (BCGEU) began job action in BC, setting up set up picket lines at targeted BC Liquor Distribution Branch warehouses across the province to pressure government back to the table with a meaningful cost of living protections for their wages. BCGEU represents 33,000 members of who work for the provincial government in BC.

On August 18, I visited the BCGEU picket line in Richmond and brought some solidarity (and lunch) to workers on strike. Earlier that same week, PSAC BC staff and members from

the Victoria Regional Office also visited the picket line in Victoria to show their support. What's clear is that all public sector workers must stand together in pivotal moments like this. When we support each other, across sectors and across communities, when we stand in solidarity with one another, we can achieve great things — including fair compensation for workers.

I'm happy to advise that after seven months of negotiation and a historic job action that last almost two weeks, BCGEU reached a tentative agreement with the provincial government in September.

Labour Day

Canada's labour movement has a long history of fighting – and winning – battles for decent wages, better working conditions, and stronger protections that improve people's lives. It's thanks to unions and thousands of workers

and activists the we enjoy many of our workplace rights today. From minimum wages and protection against discrimination and harassment to overtime pay and vacation pay, there is no doubt unions have helped make Canada a better, safer place to live and work.

To mark these accomplishments by the labour movement and workers, we celebrate Labour Day each year. This year, we were able to gather in person at community events on September 5, which felt long overdue. [PSAC members were out in force across the province](#), attending Labour Day events in Vancouver, Surrey, Abbotsford and Prince George and at the Saanich Fair in Victoria. I was fortunate to stop by a couple of these events and share in the festivities with members.



Regional Negotiations

Commissionaires: Victoria, The Islands and Yukon

The Commissionaires bargaining team met over the summer to prioritize bargaining demands and is hoping to secure dates with the employer this fall.

Prince George Airport

After a respectful and productive round of negotiations with the Prince George Airport Authority, a new collective agreement has been ratified by members working at YXS.

The new contract, which expires March 2026, contains a fair wage increase which recognizes the increasing cost of living and a letter of understanding to explore the establishment of a defined benefit pension plan. Both these items will assist the Airport Authority in recruiting and retaining a stable and secure workforce and continuing to operate at maximum efficiency.

The new contract also includes a new provision for paid breaks and improvements to the language around travel time and call-back compensation. Per legislative changes to the Canada Labour Code, the collective agreement also contains new language around compassionate care leave, leave for workers experiencing intimate partner violence, and leave for traditional Indigenous practices.

Prince Rupert Airport

Bargaining is ongoing for this unit.

Vancouver Airport

The YVR bargaining team held their first meeting with the employer in early July and met again in September. The team is looking forward to productive discussions that will result in a fair collective agreement that aligns with the needs of members working at the airport.

Rising Sun

After being elected by the membership in January, the Local 22005 bargaining team have been meeting regularly to discuss and prioritize bargaining input provided by the membership and develop a first collective agreement, which will be presented to the employer on behalf of members of working at Rising Sun.

The team hoped to meet with the employer in June, however scheduling difficulties on the management side postponed these dates. The team is looking forward to negotiating a new contract that will result in a safer, healthier, and more respectful work environment.

Seal Cove Commissionaires

After years of inactivity, there has been some interest from the employer in beginning to negotiate again. Bargaining input has been received from the members and we hope to be able to move forward soon.

Education

Union Education Courses

This fall we returned to some in-person offerings of basic education courses in the BC Region. Virtual courses were also be offered alongside the in-person courses to ensure that members have access to union education is a way that works for them. In particular, this fall we offered a virtual Talking Union Basics (TUB) course, Grievance Handling in a number of areas across the Region as well as several sessions of the Resolutions 101 course (both virtually and in-person). With the upcoming regional conferences and Regional Convention next year, we hope the resolutions writing course will strengthen members' skills for writing effective resolutions and understanding the 'rules' around resolutions.

The Fall Schedule is a bit lighter than usual due to the anticipated national unit mobilization efforts that will be the focus and priority for the union this fall. That said, members are still able to access the PSAC's [Online Education Program](#), which offers self-paced union training in a variety of introductory subjects.

Regional Activities

PSAC BC Area Council and Regional Committee Summit, July 7-8

In July we held our annual Area Council and Regional Committee Summit with the Region's 18 Area Councils and Regional Committees along with the BC Regional Council. Fortunately, this year we were able to return to an in-person session in Richmond with over 50 in attendance. We were also able to include an additional day for Chair/President and Treasurer training in advance of the Summit, which was open to all executive positions.



The aim of the two days was to provide a refresher on Area Council and Regional Committee roles and responsibilities regarding finance and governance, to discuss how the BC Regional Council, Area Councils and Regional Committees can best work together (with assistance from PSAC staff) to support the members in their constituencies, and to collaborate on membership engagement initiatives.

The feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive. Members appreciated the opportunity to reconnect in person and share ideas and strategies for engaging others in the union. As part of our agenda, we also included a workshop on making the link between the union, social justice organization and politics, which was very well received.

We're confident that this annual Summit continues to provide good value for PSAC BC members in leadership roles and hope to build on the momentum created this past July 7-8.

PSAC BC Regional Scholarships

At last year's PSAC BC Regional Convention, a new line was included in the regional budget that allowed for the creation of annual regional scholarships for PSAC BC members or their dependents, with \$3000 allocated to each year for the three years. The REVP Office called for volunteers from the BC National Officers caucus to form a committee who were tasked with reviewing scholarship applications received this year and preparing a recommendation on which applications should be awarded the scholarships.

The intent of the scholarships budget line was to provide 2 x \$1500 scholarships for 2021, 2022 and 2023. However, in 2021 we were unable to conduct a scholarship application process given the late regional convention date and the establishment of a new Regional Council. As a result, we have an additional \$3000 available for the two remaining years of the cycle (2022 and 2023). Consequently, the Scholarship Committee recommended an additional \$1500 scholarship for this year and for 2023. I'm happy to advise that the three [scholarship winners for the 2022 PSAC BC Regional Scholarships](#) are Emma Hamilton, Isadora He and Michelle Wilson. Congratulations to this year's winners!

Site Visits on Vancouver Island and in Northern BC



For the first time in more than two years, I've had the opportunity to visit members at worksites across the Region. This outreach is extremely important to me as it allows me to connect with members and hear firsthand about the work they do and any concerns they may have.

In July, I visited the Graving Dock in Victoria with GSU National President Bruce Roy and other GSU executive members. The Graving Dock is a vital piece of infrastructure operated by PSPC where approximately 45 members work, supporting a wide variety of maritime industries and the Canadian Navy.

That same month I travelled to Pacific Rim National Park on Vancouver Island to meet with member of UNE Local 29266 and talk about Parks bargaining. About 100 members work hard every day at the Park in a variety of positions ranging for road and trail maintenance crews to First Nations liaisons and cultural connectors.

More recently, I travelled to northern BC, visiting members in Terrace and Prince Rupert along with Alternate REVP Kirsty Havard and Northwestern BC Area Council President Jill MacNeill. Together, we toured worksites and encouraged folks to get involved with the Area Council.

Vancouver & District Area Council BBQ

With the warm summer weather and eased restrictions on public gatherings, PSAC BC Area Councils and Regional Committees are once again participating in community events and organizing their own membership activities. One event I attended over the summer was the Vancouver Area District Council's annual BBQ in August, which returned after a two-year hiatus. The BBQ was attended by over 50 members and their family members. The VDAC did a great job planning the BBQ, it was enjoyed by everyone.



PSAC BC Reconciliation In Action Project

Inspired by the advocacy and writings of the Honourable Murray Sinclair, the Indigenous Caucus of the BC Region is working to put together a visual archive of reconciliation acts performed by PSAC members from coast to coast to coast. In their callout for submissions, the Caucus noted that at times the ugliness in our nation committed by very vocal and influential people of power and privilege seems to overwhelm positive actions making reconciliation seem futile. However, they recognized that there are very many PSAC members working hard to advance reconciliation and they wanted to see and share these activities because they believe it will be healing and can be inspiring, not only for PSAC members, but likely for the nations' communities as well. On September 30, the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, the Region shared a presentation of the items received.

BC Regional Convention

We are just over six months out from the next PSAC BC Regional Convention, which is taking place May 5-7, 2023 at Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel in Richmond, BC. Very shortly, the REVP Office will issue the official convention call under the theme Rebuilding Our Committees.

We look forward to the months ahead that will be busy with organizing and preparing for a return to an in-person PSAC BC Regional Convention. We hope that members of the National Board of Directors will join us this May when I call the Regional Convention to order.

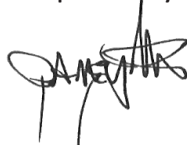
BC Regional Council Changes

In August, the REVP BC Office was advised that Young Workers Coordinator Terri D’Souza would be taking a six-month leave of absence from her position on the BC Regional Council. We reached out to Alternate Young Workers Coordinator Emily Craddock who agreed to served as the Young Workers Coordinator during Terri’s leave of absence, effective August 11-February 10. As Emily already held another Coordinator on the Regional Council, Emily had to vacant her role as the Pride (2SLGBTQIA+) Coordinator while serving as the Young Workers Coordinator. Consequently, we reached out to the First Alternate Pride (2SLGBTQIA+) Coordinator Damir Moric and asked Damir to fill in as the Pride Coordinator while Emily acting in the other Regional Council position; Damir agreed. We wish Terri D’Souza all the best while she is on leave from her position and welcome Damir to the BC Regional Council.

I want to end this report by acknowledging the tough fall that is upon us. I know we have spent the last two plus years grappling with the pandemic and the challenges it presented – both in the workplace and in our homes and communities – and it now feels as though some of that shadow is lifting. However, another daunting challenge is upon us.

We are fighting for fair wages in bargaining as record-high inflation squeezes workers and makes life less affordable. Meanwhile, wealthy corporations continue to line their pockets with record profits. These trying times remind us that now, more than ever, we need to be organized and work together to combat greedflation and austerity measures. We cannot waver in our fight for working people — not just for PSAC members, but for all Canadian workers.

Respectfully submitted,



Jamey Mills
Regional Executive Vice-President, BC

ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS - May 2022 to October 2022

Date(s)	Event	Location
MAY 2022		
May 5-6	BC Regional Council Meeting	Victoria
May 5	PSAC BC Membership Mixer with Chris Aylward	Victoria
May 9	Special NBoD Meeting	Via Zoom
May 9	NBoD OH&S Committee Meeting	Via Teams
May 9	West Fraser Valley Area Council Meeting	Via Zoom
May 10	AEC Meeting	Via Zoom
May 13	NBoD Representation Committee Meeting	Via Teams
May 16	AEC Update Meeting	Via Zoom
May 16	TB NSCC Meeting	Via Zoom
May 17	BCFED Constitution Committee Meeting	Via Zoom
May 17	TB National Panel on Striking During a Pandemic	Via Zoom
May 18	PSAC BC Membership Mixer	Vancouver
May 18	AGR Local 20044 AGM	TBD
May 24	PWD Caucus at NTC	Via Zoom
May 25	PSAC BC Regional Caucus at NTC	Via Zoom
May 26-27, 30-31	PSAC National Triennial Convention (NTC)	Via ChimeLive
JUNE 2022		
June 1-3	PSAC National Triennial Convention (NTC)	Via ChimeLive
June 3	NBoD Meeting	Via Zoom
June 8	USJE Rally	Ottawa
June 8	National OHS Conference Steering Committee Meeting	Ottawa
June 11	BC Lions Labour Appreciation Night with the BCFED	Vancouver
June 13	AEC Meeting	Ottawa
June 14-16	NBoD Meeting	Ottawa
June 14	Parks Mobilization Meeting	Via Teams
June 16	Special BCFED Executive Council Meeting	Via Zoom
June 20-30	Annual Leave	
JULY 2022		
July 7	PSAC BC Chairs/Presidents/Treasurers Training Session	Richmond
July 8	PSAC BC Area Councils and Regional Committees Summit	Richmond
July 12	Worksite Tours in Victoria: GSU Graving Docks	Victoria
July 12	Victoria Regional Office Site Tour	Victoria

REVP-B.C. Region Report

July 14	BC Regional Council Meeting	Via Zoom
July 18	AEC Meeting	Via Zoom
July 19-21	Worksite Tours and membership engagement: Pacific Rim National Park, Port Alberni Hatchery	Ucluelet
July 25	DCL 20500 – Commissionaires Bargaining Team Meeting	Victoria
July 27	AEC Meeting	Via Zoom
July 28	BCFED Constitution Committee Meeting	Via Zoom
July 28	CDA Organizing Campaign Update Meeting	Via Zoom

AUGUST 2022

August 4	Planning Meeting for PSAC BC Regional Women’s Conference	Via Zoom
August 4	PSAC BC Indigenous Peoples Caucus Meeting: NIPC Rep By-election	Via Zoom
August 6	PSAC BC Vancouver & District Area Council BBQ	Vancouver
August 9	Victoria Regional Office Site Tour and Meeting	Victoria
August 9	Northeastern BC Membership Engagement Meeting	Via Zoom
August 10	Treasury Board Membership Mobilization Action	Victoria
August 11-12	Worksite Tours and Membership Engagement	Terrace and Prince Rupert
August 17	AEC Meeting	Via Zoom
August 18	Visit to Striking BCGEU members	Richmond
August 22	AEC Meeting	Ottawa
August 23-25	CFIA Bargaining	Ottawa
August 26-29	AEC Retreat	Ottawa
August 30-31	Special NBoD Meeting	Ottawa

SEPTEMBER 2022

September 1	BCFED Constitution & Structure Committee	Via Zoom
September 3-4	Saanich Fair with the Victoria Area Council	Saanich
September 5	VDLC Labour Day w/ the Vancouver & Dist. Area Council	Vancouver
September 6	Commissionaires National Leaders Meeting	Via Zoom
September 7	NBoD OHS Standing Committee Meeting	Via MS Teams
September 7	BRUSH Committee Meeting	Via Zoom
September 8-30	Annual Leave	

OCTOBER 2022

October 5	AEC Meeting	Via Zoom
October 6	BC Regional Council Meeting	Via Zoom
October 6	USJE Rally at MP Joyce Murray's Office	Vancouver
October 6	BCFED Officers Meeting	Via Zoom
October 12	Commissionaires Meeting	Via MS Teams
October 13	BCFED Executive Council Meeting	Via Zoom
October 13	BCFED Constitution & Structure Committee Meeting	Via Zoom
October 13-15	UNDE Presidents' Conference	Parksville
October 17	AEC Meeting	Ottawa
October 17-20	CFIA Bargaining	Ottawa
October 18-21	NBoD Meeting	Ottawa
October 20	CFIA NSCC Meeting	Ottawa
October 22	Purolator Bargaining Conference	Vancouver
October 26	Union Savings Board of Director Meeting	Via Zoom
October 27-30	NBoD Retreat	Mount Tremblant

