

PSAC North Regional Council meeting minutes
April 18, 2018, 5:30pm MDT



In attendance:

Regional Council members

Jack Bourassa, Regional Executive Vice President, PSAC North
Elwood Chan, Alternate REVP, PSAC North
Steve Geick, President, Yukon Employees Union
Todd Parsons, President, Union of Northern Workers
Geoff Ryan, Nunavut Territorial Director
Samantha Moynes, President, Northwest Territories Area Council
Lisa Kirk, President, Nunavut Area Council
Gerard Tremblay, Chair, Yukon Access Committee
Bruce Gudeit, Chair, Northwest Territories Access Committee
Jackie Siegel, Chair, Northwest Territories Pride Committee
Teresa Acheson, Chair, Whitehorse Women's Committee
Hoa Do, Chair, Northwest Territories Racially Visible Committee
Stephanie Bernard, Chair, Nunavut Racially Visible Committee
Marie Buchanan, Chair, Northwest Territories Health & Safety Committee

Regrets:

Bill Fennell, President, Nunavut Employees' Union
Chase Blodgett, Chair, Yukon Pride Committee
Geraldine Penney, Chair, Northwest Territories Women's Committee
Susan Avery, Chair, Nunavut Women's Committee
Dianne Williams, Chair, Yukon Health and Safety Committee

Staff:

Holmann Richard, PSAC North Regional Coordinator
Theresa Baird, Assistant to the REVP North

1. **Call to order** at 5:35pm.
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Adoption of agenda** – Moved by Teresa, seconded by Bruce, approved as presented.
4. **Adoption of previous meeting minutes** – Moved by Hoa, seconded by Todd.
 - January 16, 2018 – approved as presented.
 - February 6, 2018 – approved as presented.
 - March 7, 2018 – approved as presented.
5. **Topics Update – Team Lead**
 - I. **Economic Insecurity** – Teresa
I did get something sent out March 31st for our committee, a survey starting with the Regional Council and then expanding to members and staff that would look at issues with economic security, the three key points; and we are looking at the one that resonates the most to the least. So far the only response I received back was from

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Jack, and he suggested the Political Communications Officer, when they started work, could help us move that forward.

Recently in Whitehorse a number of surveys have been going around called 'Smart Whitehorse', to look into what our biggest issues are and almost all the issues they recognize are the same as what our council identified at the face to face meeting. If you are interested you can participate at: www.smartwhitehorse.ca/solutions, they have chosen housing as the main topic they are addressing, this is important to us, if we can get this out to our members. March 31st was the deadline, but if you go to the website you can see what they have identified.

II. **Building Capacity** – Jack

I'm happy to report that members of the team have made a lot of suggestions and at our next meeting I'll be able to have some hardcopy ideas to present now that we have a new Political Communications Officer, Yusur Al-Bahrani, on the team.

III. **Healthy Workplaces** – Derek – Deferred

IV. **Job Security and Stability** – Bruce

Hoia and I have not talked but I did get an email from Gerard.

Gerard – we were talking about disabilities and job security; most people will not hire people who cannot speak, or deaf people, it would be nice if there were spots for employment for deaf people. The other suggestion I have is for people in the south looking for a job in the north, they want a permanent or more secure position to move to the north and have job security, then that would help them financially to move to the north confidently, I think there should be more opportunities for transfer employment.

Bruce – I'd just like to say that Gerard's comments are valid but they are getting off track with the job security, we need good representation at bargaining to assist us with job security.

Gerard – for the Yukon Government, am I able to submit my ideas for bargaining or is there not a plan in place?

Steve – Gerard is correct we are going to the membership for bargaining submissions and you have not missed out on the opportunity.

Jack – I suggest the group meet to discuss further.

V. **Childcare** – Samantha

The national campaign is coming up in June, as a territory we are working to setup a table at the Yellowknife Trade Show and have the information there from the national childcare campaign. At the Trade Show we can promote the campaign as well as provide information on the different committees. As for the other territories there isn't much going on until June. I will be there along with other committee members, to hand out information on the PSAC and committees to attendees, to provide info and childcare info.

Lisa – we are waiting for the national campaign to come out before we move – I know they are making progress; in Ontario they are making progress for the affordable childcare campaign.

Sam – the NDP platform for this year also includes affordable childcare.

Lisa – I am looking forward to that.

Marie – the CLC released their campaign as well.



VI. Bargaining – Todd

GNWT update – I can confirm that we have wrapped up the strike votes, I am scheduled to meet with the Power Corp and the largest teams. Next steps - we are pursuing mediation and the bargaining teams will work on releasing that information to members.

Jack – as a further update the City of Whitehorse and Transit Workers narrowly avoided a strike, we had a tentative agreement in hand at 5:20am Monday morning after bargaining all night.

Steve – we had to shame them into accepting some things, it was tough but they didn't bring their negotiator to the last round so we were able to make a deal.

VII. Food Insecurity – Carrie - Deferred

VIII. Reducing Services – Geoff - No update

6. Vision Committee Update – Teresa – we have not received any feedback on the vision statement except to add "*across Canada's 3 Northern Territories*" (adding #3) to the Missions statement. With that amendment, I would like to motion the adoption of this new Mission, Vision and Core Values statement.

- Teresa officially served notice to motion to be voted on at the next Regional Council meeting.
- Comments – no comments.
- On our next agenda there will be a motion for adoption of the statements.

7. National Convention Update – PSAC North Regional Caucus will be held at convention in room 202B, this info will be posted on the website, and information will be sent out to components.

8. Robyn's Gift – Jack - I am proposing the Regional Council obtain a gift for our retiring president, Robyn Benson, to be given to her at the PSAC National Convention. The gift would be something northern and up to \$500.00. I thought it was appropriate for the north to provide her with a gift and card for everyone to sign at the regional caucus, does anyone have any concerns or ideas?

- No comments or suggestions
- Jack – I will have Yusur take a picture of the present to put in the next newsletter.
- Todd –they are looking at an opportunity at convention to present a gift we would need to follow-up with that.

9. Fall Union School Update – Holmann – We are looking to have a Fall Union School the 3rd week of September. We are looking at details for location either Yellowknife or Whitehorse. Regarding courses, we are looking at a revamped leadership course, advanced duty to accommodate, advanced grievance handling, and Teaching Union Basics (TUB) course, as soon as we have all this information we will share this at the next meeting.

- Marie – are you looking at Alliance Facilitator training?
 - Jack – not at this time, we are looking at what people are wanting training for and this will have to wait until next time.
- Teresa – this is a weeklong course? Holmann – Yes. Teresa – I am excited that this will be happening in the north.

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- Jack – FYI to members we might at this time also be piloting the new Northern TUB course which will include a history of the three components in the north; I want to thank the reps in the region for identifying the need for the northern lens.
 - Holmann – I don't have the details yet; Barb is working on this to ensure that it is offered with a northern lens. For the advanced grievance course we are also looking at a northern lens.
- Sam – when will the information notice come out for people to sign up?
 - Jack – the information will come out after convention, once we have solidified dates on registration. Approximately 40 people will attend, I am looking at chairs of committees or activists doing work on the committees so that those people have the information they need to do the job they are doing.
- Bruce – good to see that the training is being updated.

10. Staffing Update – Jack

- Assistant to the REVP North – Theresa Baird was the successful candidate of the competition.
- Political Communications Officer – Yusur Al-Bahrani was the successful candidate of the competition.
 - Jack - I have high hopes and great expectations.
 - Yusur – I am very happy to join the team and am looking forward to working with everyone.
 - Jack – there are some things I have for Yusur to do, a lot of work including the Living Wage Campaign.
- Holmann – we will have the Health & Safety and Regional Negotiator position filled before the next meeting. Mark Populus is coming back and there will be a 4-6 month Regional Rep term position in Whitehorse and Yellowknife; as soon as I get confirmation I will advise on that.
- Teresa – I want the council to know with my local going through bargaining I can't say enough about thanks for our elected staff, local support from the component and PSAC staff who gave us support, and helped with fearful worried union members.

11. Upcoming Meeting Dates

- May 29, 2018 @ 4:30pm PDT, 5:30pm MDT, 7:30pm EDT (General Meeting)
Committee Reports to be provided by chairs
- September 18, 2018 @ 4:30pm PDT, 5:30pm MDT, 7:30pm EDT
Committee Reports to be provided by chairs

12. Adjournment – 6:30pm