

PSAC North Regional Council meeting minutes  
January 16, 2018, 9:00am MST



**In attendance:**

**Regional Council members**

Jack Bourassa, Regional Executive Vice President, PSAC North  
Elwood Chan, Alternate Regional Executive Vice President, PSAC North  
Todd Parsons, President, Union of Northern Workers  
Steve Geick, President, Yukon Employees' Union  
Geoff Ryan, Territorial Director, Nunavut  
Lisa Kirk, President, Nunavut Area Council  
Linda Moen, President, Yukon Area Council  
Samantha Moynes, President, Northwest Territories Area Council  
Teresa Acheson, Chair, Whitehorse Women's Committee  
Geraldine Penney, Chair Northwest Territories Women's Committee  
Carrie Robinson, Chair, Yukon Aboriginal People's Committee  
Kathy Brown, Chair, Northwest Territories Aboriginal People's Committee  
Bruce Gudeit, Chair, Northwest Territories Access Committee  
Gerard Tremblay, Chair, Yukon Access Committee  
Jackie Siegel, Chair, Northwest Territories Pride Committee  
Stephanie Bernard, Chair, Nunavut Racially Visible Committee  
Derek Yap, Chair, Yukon Racially Visible Committee  
Hoa Do, Chair, Northwest Territories Racially Visible Committee  
Dianne Williams, Chair, Yukon Health and Safety Committee  
Sue Christianson, Chair, Yukon Alliance Facilitator Network

**Regrets:**

Bill Fennell, President, Nunavut Employees' Union  
Nautasha Morehouse, Chair, Yukon Youth Committee  
Chase Blodgett, Chair, Yukon Pride Committee  
Marie Buchanan, Chair, Northwest Territories Health and Safety Committee

**Staff:**

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

1. **Call to order** at 9:02am.
2. **Adoption of agenda**  
Agenda approved as presented after short discussion:
3. **Adoption of previous meeting minutes (September 19, 2017).**  
Moved by Todd Parsons.  
Seconded by Derek Yap.  
Carried.

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4. **Activity reports**

*Elwood Chan assumed Chair for the REVP North Report*

*Report of the REVP North*

Moved by Jack Bourassa.

Seconded by Bruce Gudeit.

Carried.

*Jack Bourassa resumed Chair for the duration of the meeting*

*Report of the YEU President*

Moved by Steve Geick.

Seconded by Todd Parsons.

Carried.

*Report of the UNW President*

Moved by Todd Parsons.

Seconded by Steve Geick.

Carried.

*Report of the Yukon Area Council President*

Moved by Linda Moen.

Seconded by Derek Yap.

- Phoenix is still a huge issue, I will attend the advocate meeting and will bring information back to the workplace.

Carried.

*Report of the Yukon Health and Safety Committee Chair*

Moved by Dianne Williams.

Seconded by Carrie Robinson.

- Committees are not sharing information, we discovered that the H&S committee was doing a mental health initiative at the same time as the Access committee. Sharing draft minutes from the committees or having a strategic call with the chairs can be setup, to share information would be very helpful and stop us from doubling work.

Carried.

*Report of the Yukon Access Committee Chair*

Moved by Gerard Tremblay.

Seconded by Sue Christianson.

Carried.

*Report of the Whitehorse Women's Committee Chair*

Moved by Teresa Acheson.

Seconded by Geraldine Penney.

Carried.

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*Report of the Yukon Aboriginal Peoples' Committee Chair*

Moved by Carrie Robinson.

Seconded by Linda Moen.

- We are still struggling with getting new members involved, we can't do it alone, I really appreciate the personal and community support. Our focus over the last ½ year has been getting our name and purpose out into the community, I've also been able to travel to different places to see how things are done.

Carried.

*Report of the Yukon Alliance Facilitators Network Committee Chair*

Moved by Sue Christianson.

Seconded by Steve Geick.

- Our frustration is new members; the problem is that we are not an equity group by a trained facilitator group. If there was training offered, we could get members. We have to turn down opportunities since people have left. I understood there would be training in 2018, but we really need it.
- Comment from Holmann Richard – There will be training this summer or fall after national convention and there will be union school this fall. I want people to be facilitators.

Carried.

*Report of the Northwest Territories Area Council President*

Moved by Samantha Moynes.

Seconded by Bruce.

- Since meeting last week we have put the strategic plan together and have set our priorities for kids with disabilities in schools, childcare; we want to tackle this for the fall.
- \*Note – the secretary is Marie Buchanan, not Holly Ferris.

Carried.

*Reports 1&2 of the NWT Regional Women's Committee Chair*

Moved by Geraldine Penney

Seconded by Teresa Acheson

- \*Note – The first meeting is January 23<sup>rd</sup>, not the 16<sup>th</sup>.

Carried.

*Report of the Nunavut Area Council President*

Moved by Lisa Kirk

Seconded by Geraldine Penney

Carried.

*Report of the Nunavut Racially Visible Committee Chair*

Moved by Stephanie Bernard

Seconded by Derek Yap

Carried.

*Report of the Standing Finance Committee Chair*

Moved by Elwood Chan

Seconded by Bruce Gudeit

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- Under the current assets, the line item for Regional Council is what we should focus on as it is what is available to us as a council.
- \*Note change the date to 2018 from 2017

Carried.

*Report of the Northwest Territories Access Committee Chair*

- Report was created and sent but not received by the REVP Office.
- Bruce Gudeit gave an oral report for information only – I was able to raise a package for the NWT Disabilities Society and got about \$4,000.00 for them. Taking care of a friend suffering from dementia has opened my eyes to a whole bunch of problems that people face. We want to make sure that we have information out there for the Arctic Winter Games in Hay River and Fort Smith.

5. **Order of the Day** – Employee Success Booklet (Chair YTRHSC)

Regional Council discussed the presentation.

- Geoff – this was implemented in our workplace and it went over really well.
- Jack – suggestion - every workplace should have a H&S committee and this booklet can be passed on to them.
- Dianne – is available to present at other events if needed.

6. **Old Business**

- a) Privacy / Human Rights Commission / ATIPP – Jack – I took this issue to Ottawa and by our next meeting in May, they should have some feedback for us. It is my understanding that as a non-profit organization there is nothing that would force us to release information.
- b) Convention General Resolutions – passed at our regional convention in the spring, Jack will give regular updates at RC meetings on the status of the resolutions, in addition to providing a mid-term report.
  - **Resolution G-1**, pg.32 – Jack – I have been working with Chase on this resolution to lobby the Yukon Government. The biggest piece is the health component, getting people covered for the medications they need, I've been talking to Kate White from the Yukon NDP.
    - Steve – I met with the minister to inform him that lobbying on this issue can happen, specific to two policies relating to trans people.
    - CPAP and WPAP are two organizations for transgender health, they provide education for health care professionals and for anyone going through the process.
    - YEU is onboard.
    - Yukon Registered Nurses, the Hospital and the Minister of Health – we will have a meeting next week to get the government onboard.
  - **Resolution G-6**, pg.39 – We have implemented this resolution for this meeting by providing compostable paper cups and reusable PSAC North water bottles to RC members.
  - **Resolution G-10**, pg.39-40 – A good chunk of the legwork has been done for the Minimum Wage campaign. The next step is to flesh out with the components the final campaign before sending all of that out. We may move forward with a Fight for \$15+ instead of a Fight for \$15/hour.
    - Todd - Canada is moving forward with this and the other provinces are moving forward with 15\$/hour already. If you look at all the data about the NWT minimum wage, all the data is done relative to the south. We need to talk about a living wage, and set our objectives higher. It is the GNWT objective to review minimum wage every year and we

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need to shift the message. At convention there was an attempt to amend the message to a living wage. But no one moved the amendment. Minimum wage is not good enough.

- Samantha – Living wage is \$22.26/hour in Yellowknife, but alternatives North is the committee that is moving on this, I suggest we talk to Alt North since they've done a lot of the leg work, Jack – I also sit with Alt North, there is a lack of data about the north, there are stats for the larger communities but not in the smaller communities.
- Geoff – It should be a living wage, Jack sent out the letter to the media and the next day the GNWT released the min wage increase, it was the shortest campaign ever. Within the federal government there is a program for hiring summer student in Canada, EFSWEP, we can't hire students in Nunavut (NU) because the minimum wage is higher than what we can get with that program, so we have to hire them as casuals. We need to look at a federal minimum wage in this country. Messaging should be if you don't have minimum wage, the people that are doing those jobs are being subsidized by other things like government services or benefits that they are unable to afford, so the corporation is getting the discount and the tax payers are subsidizing the minimum wage workers.
- **Resolution G-9**, pg.45-46 – Jack – I will complete a mid-term report and in addition to this I will provide ongoing updates to our resolutions at Regional Council meetings.
- **Resolution G-8**, pg.40 – Jack – I will take homelessness in the north recommendations to the next AEC meeting.

c) Postcards – Deferred.

## 7. New Business

d) PSAC Health and Safety Brochure (Chair YTRHSC)

This is an education tool to give out when you are talking to a coworker or to post in the workplace; it was created to simplify information so that people don't need to read an entire policy book. PSAC National has developed in French and English but if there is a large need for another language you could get funding for translation. There is an e-version online as well.

- Teresa – I work for the City of Whitehorse in a recreation area and we developed a campaign with Dalhousie University for Public Areas. I will share this information with the Regional Council.

e) Upcoming Meeting Dates – Always 1-month prior to NBoD meetings, in order to allow concerns and valuable information to be brought forward. The meetings will be via teleconference.

- May 22, 2018 @ 5:30pm MDT
- September 18, 2018 @ 5:30pm MD

f) Resolutions for PSAC National Convention (from PSAC North Convention)

The resolutions have been sent to National and will be included in the National Convention.

- Jack received positive comments, people were impressed by our resolutions, they thought they were very reflective of the greater good.

g) Standing Committees – volunteers as follows:

- Education: Samantha Moynes (Chair), Bruce Gudeit, Lisa Kirk, Carrie Robinson
- Finance: Elwood Chan (Chair), Geraldine Penney, Derek Yap
- Political Action: Stephanie Bernard (Chair)

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8. **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn – Lisa Kirk

Seconded by Bruce Gudeit

Meeting adjourned at 11:00am.