

PSAC North Regional Council meeting minutes
January 21, 2020, 5:30pm MT



In attendance:

Regional Council members

Jack Bourassa, Regional Executive Vice President, PSAC North
Steve Geick, President, Yukon Employees Union (YEU)
Gayla Thunstrom, 1st Vice-President, Union of Northern Workers (UNW)
Geoff Ryan, Nunavut Territorial Director
Lisa Kirk, President, Nunavut Area Council
Gerard Tremblay, Chair, Yukon Access Committee
Lili Weemen, Chair, Nunavut Access Committee
Roberta Wurtak, Chair, Yukon Pride Committee
Charlene Smith, Chair, Whitehorse Women's Committee
Geraldine Penney, Chair, Northwest Territories Women's Committee
Susan Avery, Chair, Nunavut Women's Committee
Hoa Do, Chair, Northwest Territories Racially Visible Committee
Ranbir Hundal, Chair, Nunavut Racially Visible Committee
Dianne Williams, Chair, Yukon Health and Safety Committee
Reyhan Sarikaya, Chair, Northwest Territories Health and Safety Committee
Derek Allerton, Chair, Nunavut Health and Safety Committee

Regrets:

Elwood Chan, Alternate REVP, PSAC North

Staff:

Theresa Baird, Assistant to the REVP North
Daniel Kinsella, Regional Coordinator North

1. **Call to order** at 5:39pm
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Adoption of agenda** – approved as presented.
4. **Adoption of previous meeting minutes**
 - November 12, 2019 – moved by Roberta Wurtak, seconded by Charlene Smith, approved as presented.
5. **Activity Reports and Finance Report**
Gayla Thunstrom assumed Chair for the REVP North Report

Report of the REVP North

Moved by Jack Bourassa.
Seconded by Reyhan Sarikaya.
Carried.

PSAC North Regional Council meeting minutes
January 21, 2020, 5:30pm MT



Jack Bourassa resumed Chair for the duration of the meeting

Report of the YEU President

Moved by Steve Geick.
Seconded by Charlene Smith.
Carried.

Report of the UNW President

Moved by Gayla Thunstrom.
Seconded by Hoa Do.
Carried.

Report of the NU Area Council President

Moved by Lisa Kirk.
Seconded by Geraldine Penney.
Carried.

Report of the Yukon Health & Safety Committee Chair

Moved by Dianne Williams.
Seconded by Roberta Wurtak.

- Update from Dianne
 - I attended the National and Regional Health and Safety Conference where we had a great presentation from Denis St-Jean and Andrea Pert, who we have invited to come to the Yukon in April and do a workshop.

Carried.

Report of the Nunavut Health & Safety Committee Chair

Moved by Derek Allerton.
Seconded by Lisa Kirk.
Carried.

Report of the Whitehorse Women's Committee Chair

Moved by Charlene Smith.
Seconded by Roberta Wurtak.
Carried.

Report of the NWT Women's Committee Chair

Moved by Geraldine Penney.
Seconded by Reyhan Sarikaya.
Carried.

Report of the Yukon Pride Committee Chair

Moved by Roberta Wurtak.
Seconded by Charlene Smith.
Carried.

PSAC North Regional Council meeting minutes
January 21, 2020, 5:30pm MT



Report of the NWT Access Committee Chair

Chair not in attendance – Report is deferred to the next meeting.

Report of the NU Access Committee Chair

Moved by Lili Weemen.

Seconded by Ranbir Hundal.

Carried.

Report of the NWT Health and Safety Committee Chair

Verbal Report by Reyhan Sarikaya

- We elected a new executive at our AGM.
- We held three events with the ‘Take Time for Safety’ campaign; two in conjunction with YK Farmers Market and one during the YK Labour Day BBQ and Psychosocial information session during Nov AGM.
- Two of our committee members went to the National and Regional PSAC Health and Safety Conference in Montreal.
- PSAC NWT Health and Safety Facebook page was established and is now active.
- We sponsored the We Matter event screening of the movie “Grizzlies” and Mental Health Panel Discussion.
- Challenges that we are facing include promoting Mental Health education to the youth within NWT communities and finding economical ways to engage with NWT youth outside of Yellowknife.
- We plan to collaborate with other two territories on a possible joint outreach project and create pamphlets/brochures/badges with helpline numbers or support resources printed on them to hand out at events such as winter carnivals, music festivals, and sporting events.
- Significant Days or events for possible outreach opportunities include:
 - January UNW Conference: Committee will provide \$300 of food and drink
 - February Pink Shirt Day
 - March International Women’s Day
 - April National Day of Mourning
 - May NAOSH week and Trade Show
 - June Convention and Indigenous Peoples’ Day
 - September Labour Day BBQ

Report of the Yukon Access Committee Chair

Verbal Report by Gerard Tremblay

- I attended the Health and Safety Conference in Montreal. The opioid crisis and fentanyl crisis were presented by a doctor and the information was really shocking. Workers are on these drugs, prescribed by doctors and they don’t realize the medication they are taking could cause accidents at work, as they are sometimes impaired. It would be nice to do some education on this, it is a learning thing for all of us and I think workers need to have that information because they may be unaware of the risks and effects of this medication, they may also be unaware of the interaction of these medications with alcohol.

PSAC North Regional Council meeting minutes
January 21, 2020, 5:30pm MT



Report of the Standing Finance Committee

Moved by Geraldine Penney.

Seconded by Hoa Do.

- Question – Dianne Williams – The assets of \$700,000.00 what could that be used for?
 - Answer – Jack Bourassa – It could be used to cover expenses like the Pan Territorial Union School, extra delegates to conferences & union schools, special guest speakers, social functions during special events etc.
- Question – Roberta Wurtak – When will funds for convention arrive? It would be good to know o that we can get started in planning.
 - Answer – Jack Bourassa – I will let you know as soon as possible when the money arrives. This is a fully funded convention so extras will not be funded though such as event in the event or extra swag.

Carried.

6. **New Business**

- Northern Anti-Privatization Campaign – Jack presented the campaign to the Regional Council; originally this idea came from Geoff Ryan and Linda Moen and their project on P3's in the North.
 - Jack - Last year Regional Council approved a budget for this project of \$10,000. I went a step further with the campaign and brought it to Ottawa. It is a big campaign to be spread across the north, a hearts and minds campaign, and people will be up next week to start filming. This is an FYI so you can see where the project has now gone. For this project we will contribute \$10,000 from the Regional Council, the REVP's office will contribute \$10,000 and Ottawa will contribute \$200,000 for this campaign. This will go out between March and April 2020.
- Electoral Reform Campaign – During Trudeau's last campaign he promised to bring forth Electoral Reform then he reneged on his promise. This campaign he did not promise Electoral Reform but there is a move to engage the government to move forward with this again. The previous PSAC North campaign was 'keep your promises' and now with Regional Council approval we will move forward with a new postcard campaign.
 - Dianne – Could this campaign go anywhere else in the PSAC world? Do any of the other regions want this as well?
 - Jack – Anyone is welcome to join in the campaign. Mail can be sent for free to the government, so we can print off many of them. I will report on this to the AEC as well, so they will hear about it, and they have heard about it, they are welcome to do this in their own regions.
 - Lisa – Is there a Q&A that will go out with it? It would be good to have something to go with the campaign for those who wouldn't know what it's about for those who ask questions.
 - Jack – I could have Yusur put together a sheet with information on what electoral reform is about.
 - **ACTION:** Yusur will create a Q&A information sheet to go out with the postcard campaign for Electoral Reform.
 - Geraldine – Did we get any feedback on the last campaign as to the success of the last campaign? Or are we just wasting our time and resources? What effect does it have? I also agree that there should be a Q&A.

PSAC North Regional Council meeting minutes
January 21, 2020, 5:30pm MT



- Jack – When you get a whole bunch of people pushing the issue the aggregate value becomes what you are looking for, it is doing something as opposed to doing nothing. There are other organizations that are pushing this, and the idea was that we jump onboard and move forward with this.
- Daniel – Other organizations moving forward with this: www.Fairvote.ca
- Jack – I would entertain a motion to proceed with the new postcard campaign. Moved by Reyhan Sarikaya, Seconded by Lisa Kirk, Opposed by Geraldine Penney – Carried.
- Regional Committee and Council Funding Documents – This was requested by Regional Council to provide for information and to take back to their committees, any questions you can bring to your Rep in your Regional Office to work with on this.
 - Jack – **Deadline for your Committee or Council’s 2020 funding request is March 15, 2020;** but the earlier the better. Special projects funding is for something that comes up and you want to fund a project over and above the funding for the year.
- Priorities – Working Groups as decided at the face to face meeting have changed as some council members have stepped down, groups have not yet had a chance to meet.
 - Bargaining – Lead – Hoa Do with Geoff Ryan, Elwood Chan, Gerard Tremblay, Bruce Gudeit.
 - Standard of Living – Lead (not decided), Linda Moen, Roberta Wurtak, Geraldine Penney, Lisa Kirk.
 - Health & Safety – Lead (not decided), Dianne Williams, Derek Yap, Lili Weemen, Derek Allerton.
 - **ACTION:** Jack will send a list of the members on the working groups to each of the groups in an email. Jack will include the priority and a brief intention of each group, as was decided on at the Face to Face meeting.

7. **PSAC North Convention June 5-7, 2020 in Whitehorse, YT**

- Credentials Committee Callout – Jack asked for a volunteer from Regional Council to be on the committee; this person would, when asked, report to the convention floor how many guests, observers, and delegates are on the floor. The report for this will be generated by staff and the person would read.
 - Reyhan Sarikaya volunteered to be on the committee.
 - **ACTION:** Include Reyhan Sarikaya on the Credentials Committee for Convention.

8. **Regional Update – Daniel Kinsella**

- Federal Mobilization – We are trying to get as much updated information on members as we can, the way we are approaching this is to contact locals and give them access to Ulink, which is connected to our Unionware database, so they can then update the information of their own members themselves. Unionware is for everybody, with exception of UNW, we are hoping this will get us the most up to date and information in our database, I suspect we will take a similar approach with the Government of Nunavut, for the next couple weeks this is a big preoccupation for Regional Office staff as this is a huge national priority.
- Women’s Conference – Regional Office Staff are starting planning for the Regional Women’s Conference which is attached to the National Women’s Conference in April 2020.

PSAC North Regional Council meeting minutes
January 21, 2020, 5:30pm MT



- Regional Convention – You will see a lot of things coming along soon including booking delegate travel and important information, please watch for it. Yesterday the callout for nominations for REVP and Alternate came out. Travel for example, you will deal with your own Regional Office Administrative Assistant to book travel, do not book your own travel until you hear from us.
- Staffing – The Regional Education Officer should be in place soon, one of the priorities will be working better with the components in regard to planning education and meeting the needs of member education. The position is currently a year term. There is a lot going on in education, we are working on somethings by request, but you will see some things come up, although there is not a schedule posted. If there are certain requests by components, we will look at those.
 - Charlene – Is there only one position for the North region?
 - Daniel – Yes, one position for the North region.
 - Jack – There is only 1 Education Officer for each region. But to date we have not had one before and I’ve been fighting for this.
- Submission for Yukon Safety Act Changes – YEU has a submission and we have a submission; Evert Ryland has been working on. It is a good initiative.
- Bargaining – We are getting some decent agreements in some places, but the big ones are not going so well. The Government of Nunavut put some money on the table then they took it off, so it’s not going great. We will also be continuing with the City of Yellowknife, which is in conciliation in April.
 - Geoff – Given that bargaining is not going well for the Government of Nunavut and that the Treasury Board will be heading towards a strike, will there be strike training happening soon?
 - Daniel – Yes, we are finalizing mobilization plans across the Territories and we will be having lots of activities next month related to Phoenix, the 4th anniversary of Phoenix, I hope we will get support from non-federal members, we want to make sure that they have support and don’t make this privatization mistake again like they did with Phoenix.

9. **Upcoming Meeting Dates**

- May 12, 2020 @ 4:30pm PT, 5:30pm MT, 7:30pm ET Via Teleconference
- June 5-7, 2020 in Whitehorse, YT – PSAC North Regional Triennial Convention
 - Regional Council will meet on Thursday June 4th at 7:00pm, prior to convention beginning on Friday June 5th, then we will be in session until convention closes Sunday June 7th at noon.

10. **Adjournment** – Motion - Gayla Thunstrom, Seconded - Reyhan Sarikaya, Adjourned at 7:07pm.