

PSAC North Regional Council meeting minutes
May 12, 2020, 5:30pm MT



In attendance:

Regional Council members

Jack Bourassa, Regional Executive Vice President, PSAC North
Steve Geick, President, Yukon Employees Union (YEU)
Todd Parsons, President, Union of Northern Workers (UNW)
Bill Fennell, President, Nunavut Employees Union (NEU)
Geoff Ryan, Nunavut Territorial Director
Lisa Kirk, President, Nunavut Area Council
Brenda Weaver, Chair, Yukon Indigenous Peoples' Committee
Bruce Gudeit, Chair, Northwest Territories Access Committee
Charlene Smith, Chair, Whitehorse Women's Committee
Geraldine Penney, Chair, Northwest Territories Women's Committee
Derek Yap, Chair, Yukon Racially Visible Committee
Dianne Williams, Chair, Yukon Health and Safety Committee
Reyhan Sarikaya, Chair, Northwest Territories Health and Safety Committee

Regrets:

Elwood Chan, Alternate REVP, PSAC North
Gerard Tremblay, Chair, Yukon Access Committee

Staff:

Yusur Al-Bahrani, Regional Political Communications Officer
Theresa Baird, Assistant to the REVP North
Daniel Kinsella, Regional Coordinator North

1. **Call to order** at 5:43pm
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Adoption of agenda** – approved as presented.
4. **Adoption of previous meeting minutes**
 - January 21, 2020 – approved as presented.
5. **Activity Reports**
Steve Geick assumed Chair for the REVP North Report

Report of the REVP North

Moved by Jack Bourassa.
Seconded by Todd Parsons.
Carried.

Jack Bourassa resumed Chair for the duration of the meeting

Report of the UNW President

PSAC North Regional Council meeting minutes
May 12, 2020, 5:30pm MT



Moved by Todd Parsons.

Seconded by Dianne Williams.

- *Question - Dianne Williams – Is the diamond mine going into receivership?*

- *Answer - Todd Parsons – The owner has made application for insolvency everything is at risk right now.*

Carried.

Report of the Yukon Health & Safety Committee Chair

Moved by Dianne Williams.

Seconded by Reyhan Sarikaya.

- *Update from Dianne - During this time with the pandemic it has been great that the PSAC offices have been doing webinars for Covid-19 and we have been able to share information. I think it's great that PSAC National and the PSAC Regional Offices have been keeping us informed.*

Carried.

Report of the NWT Health & Safety Committee Chair

Moved by Reyhan Sarikaya.

Seconded by Bruce Gudeit.

Carried.

Report of the Whitehorse Women's Committee Chair

Moved by Charlene Smith.

Seconded by Derek Yap.

Carried.

Report of the NWT Women's Committee Chair

Moved by Geraldine Penney.

Seconded by Lisa Kirk.

Carried.

Report of the Nunavut Women's Committee Chair

Chair not in attendance at the meeting.

Report of the NWT Access Committee Chair

Moved by Bruce Gudeit.

Seconded by Geraldine Penney.

Carried.

Report of the NU Access Committee Chair

Chair not in attendance at the meeting.

6. Finance Report – *Report of the Standing Finance Committee* - January 1 – April 30, 2020

Moved by Derek Yap.

Seconded by Dianne Williams.

- *Question - Dianne Williams – Since convention did not happen this year, do we have all the money from convention funding?*

PSAC North Regional Council meeting minutes
May 12, 2020, 5:30pm MT



- Answer – Jack Bourassa – Since the Regional Conventions are now fully-funded we did not receive any funding from PSAC National for our Regional Convention.
Carried.

7. Old Business

- PSAC North Convention Update – Jack Bourassa
 - Due to the current Covid-19 situation all conventions have been postponed by one year.
 - The 2021 PSAC National Triennial Convention will be postponed until 2022.
 - The PSAC Regional Conventions and PSAC Component Conventions will be postponed until 2021.
 - The PSAC North Regional Convention will now take place May 28-30, 2021 at the Kwanlin Dün Convention Centre in Whitehorse, Yukon.
 - The KDCC and hotels are now booked.
 - Details on how things will unfold are still being discussed and we should have more information as to how they will unfold closer to our next meeting.
 - **Discussion on Convention Reset or Status Quo:**
 - Bill Fennell – I’d like to see a complete reset, a new callout and call for resolutions etc., I would like that to be taken forward.
 - Jack Bourassa – I think that’s the way things will go, I am assuming a complete reset might be the way we would go, including a new callout for credentials and resolutions etc.
 - Todd Parsons – Any chance the four of us could have a teleconference at this point, if we reset it doubles our work, I would like to meet, and chat about it.
 - **ACTION:** Jack Bourassa – I will setup a meeting with the component presidents to discuss the regional convention.
 - Geoff Ryan – I think you have no choice but to reset, in the next year all of your committees will have AGMs and this means new people who should be the delegates, not the people who are currently delegates; they shouldn’t retain seats because it would be inappropriate. Also, resolutions reflect what is happening in the broader labour world and so old resolutions would not serve our organization well.
 - Reyhan Sarikaya – A lot has changed since the pandemic, like how we travel, the cost of travel may even change. I think a reset is definitely the answer since so many aspects will have changed.
 - Lisa Kirk – It is very unfortunate that so many events have had to be cancelled due to Covid-19, but I agree with a reset, if new people are elected at the AGM’s there should be a new delegates and new resolutions should be accepted along with the old resolutions that were already submitted.
 - Question - Geoff Ryan – Do you have any information about what the CLC is doing with their convention?
 - ❖ Answer – Jack Bourassa – They have not met yet to set a new date for their convention.

PSAC North Regional Council meeting minutes

May 12, 2020, 5:30pm MT



- Priorities – Working Group Updates
 - **Bargaining** (Lead: Hoa Do with Geoff Ryan, Elwood Chan, Gerard Tremblay, Bruce Gudeit)
 - Geoff Ryan– The Bargaining Working Group has not yet met.
 - **Standard of Living** (No Lead, Linda Moen, Geraldine Penney, Roberta Wurtak, Lisa Kirk)
 - Geraldine Penney – The Standard of Living Group has not yet met.
 - **Health and Safety** (No Lead, Dianne Williams with Derek Yap, Derek Allerton)
 - Dianne Williams – The Health and Safety Group have been focusing on Covid-19 with PSAC National.
 - Derek Yap – We had a really successful Health and Safety conference in Montreal, Quebec, last year. It was nice to see some movement in my workplace afterwards, but since Covid-19 nothing has moved forward with the group.
 - **Covid-19 Information** – Jack Bourassa
 - ❖ Information and Webinars – Links to information and webinars for Covid-19 and work related issues during Covid-19, including options for French-speaking members, can be viewed on the PSAC North website here: <http://psacnorth.com/information-support>
 - ❖ Masks for Covid-19 - The PSAC will not be making or distributing any masks for Covid-19. It is the employer’s responsibility to provide masks and other PPE to employees if they require it for their work.

8. New Business

- Regional Council Meetings - Constitutional Requirements – Jack Bourassa
 - **Active Committee Status** – I realize that it has been very tough in the last few months to meet, but there is still a requirement to have at least four (4) committee meetings in each year in order to maintain active committee status. We can provide teleconference information and support to setup the meetings, please contact your regional representative to get your next meetings setup.
 - ❖ Geraldine Penney – We did our last meeting through Skype and it was fun, so maybe people can look at doing that for their committees.
 - **Annual Reports and Funding Requests** – I have not received Annual Reports from all the committees yet and I believe it is due to the Covid-19 situation. I will extend the deadline for Annual Reports and Funding Requests to June 1, 2021. After that date any funding requests will be proposal based for the remainder of 2020.

9. Regional Update – Daniel Kinsella

- Webinars – We did a series on Health, Safety, and Rights at Work during Covid-19 that were pretty well attended, we figure close to 300 people and recordings of the webinars have been posted online; around 170 people have listened to those. We are also posting the PowerPoints that go with the audio files, so people have Access choices. We are in process to offer training to staff to facilitate online webinars, and there are opportunities to work between the regions, i.e. BC Region has a webinar on ergonomics and there is content for francophone members in the NCR, Atlantic and Quebec regions that we can access in the North.

PSAC North Regional Council meeting minutes
May 12, 2020, 5:30pm MT



- Education – There isn't an education schedule posted online yet, because of all the unknowns in the current pandemic situation. I expect we will be doing a lot of online education, but we are not sure what that looks like just yet.
 - Internet Issues - For members in Nunavut, if you have figured out over the last few months how things could work better, because of restricted internet plans etc., if you have any input please talk to your Regional Representatives or myself or Jack Bourassa about what you would like to see.
 - Regional Education Officer – Is not yet hired, hopefully in the next few weeks they will be hired, but the position will not be in place until we are back in the office.
- Regional Women's Conference – We are working on when we can have the conference. The National Women's Conference is still not rescheduled.
- Covid-19 and Work - People are at work and people need help in this time of Covid-19. We are trying to do the best we can to make sure members are being served, the idea that 'we just have to wait until this is over', is not the case and we are getting a lot done including bargaining. Recently there was a conciliation with firefighters, and we managed to get a really good deal. Things are taking more time, but we are trying to keep up with the work that we have.
- Federal Members – We are trying to get more detailed contact information from federal members, and we are looking to improve information in Unionware (UW), we would like to see UNW join UW as well; all of this will improve our membership data.
- Discussion on Online Training
 - Geraldine Penney – When you setup the online training, it would be nice to breakup the courses into sections, which would make it easier for people to devote their time to it.
 - Daniel Kinsella – I agree with that. We are looking at training in the fall, but if you have suggestions for what you need now, like bargaining, let us know. Ill be meeting with staff this week to discuss training.
 - Geraldine Penney – Are you able to do the TUB course online? Because a lot of our members need that training.
 - Jack Bourassa – We are testing a pilot platform for online training; Steve Geick and I are in that group; mostly likely the platform won't be available until fall.
 - Dianne Williams – Geraldine Penney and I attended training on 'violence prevention for people who are being abused', did that go anywhere?
 - Daniel Kinsella – Yes, this is on our plan to deliver, National is also looking at delivering webinars on domestic violence to be delivered nationally. I am hoping this happens sooner rather than later. I'll check in to see where that is at.

10. Open Discussion

None

11. Upcoming Meeting Dates

- September 15, 2020 @ 4:30pm PT, 5:30pm MT, 7:30pm ET
- January 12, 2021 @ 5:30pm PT, 5:30pm MT, 7:30pm ET
- May 4, 2021 @ 4:30pm PT, 5:30pm MT, 7:30pm ET

12. Adjournment – Adjourned at 6:30pm.