

Prairie Region Council Rep Reports September 2021

KRYSTY THOMAS ALTERNATE REGIONAL EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

I was sworn in at the 8th Prairie Region Triennial Virtual Convention in June as the Alternate REVP.

Over the summer, my main focus was to work with the Lethbridge and District Labour Council on their efforts to elect progressive labour friendly candidates in the upcoming municipal election to be held here in Alberta October 18th. As a council, we have spent time getting to know mayoral, councillor and school board trustee candidates and their platforms in anticipation of endorsing those that reflect working people's values.

Since June, I have attended three anti-UCP rallies joining community members protesting against changes to the coal policy, rollbacks for nurses, attacks to unions, cuts to post-secondary education, and a botched pandemic response. Jason Kenney made a visit to Lethbridge to speak to the chamber of commerce where he was met with an angry, frustrated crowd outside the venue. It is these rallies that help to cement the solidarity among people in our common disappointment and anger with our current provincial government.

In May the Alberta Federation of Labour held their bi-annual convention and I was re-elected Vice-President for the PSAC at Executive Committee and Council. This term I will serve on the Human Resource and Governance Committee. This committee works to provide recommendations to AFL Council related to decisions around the elected officers and AFL staff's salaries and conditions of employment. I was elected as the recording secretary of this committee.

In August, I attended my component convention which was held virtually. At that convention I was elected second alternate Director for the Agriculture National Human Rights Committee. I also serve on this committee as the Alberta representative.

In September the Lethbridge and District Area Council met to discuss resolutions that we would like to submit to the National PSAC Convention. We also discussed non-partisan ways we can be involved in the Federal Election knowing that we are unable to spend money or contribute in-kind donations or time due to changes related to election financing.

I am excited for a new cycle of the Prairie Region Council and look forward to re-connecting with past members and welcoming new members as we continue the important work of the PSAC within the Prairies. On a personal note, shortly after the Prairie Region Triennial Convention, my husband, Kole, and I welcomed our second child, Koen on June 29th. Like his sister, he too arrived a few weeks early, and helped to contribute to one of the best summers ever as a family of four.

Should you have any questions about my report, please contact me directly at thomask@psac-afpc.com or phone 403.393.2688.

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Activities:

- June 24-27 8th Prairie Region Triennial Virtual Convention – via Encore
- July 7 Municipal Election Planning meeting with the Lethbridge and District Labour Council – via Zoom
- July 14 Lethbridge and District Labour Council July Meeting – via Zoom
- July 16 Human Resource & Governance Committee Meeting – Alberta Federation of Labour – via Zoom
- July 24 CLC Election Readiness Training – via Zoom
- July 28 Anti-Jason Kenney Rally, Lethbridge
- Aug 11 Alberta Nurses Picket, Chinook Regional Hospital, Lethbridge
- Aug 11 Lethbridge and District Labour Council August Meeting – via Zoom
- Aug 13 Anti-UCP Rally, Lethbridge Provincial Building, Lethbridge
- Aug 16-20 Agriculture Union National Triennial Convention – via Encore
- Aug 23 Human Resource & Governance Committee Meeting – Alberta Federation of Labour – via Zoom
- Aug 23 National Area Council Call RE: Federal Election – via Zoom
- Aug 26 Alberta Federation of Labour Executive Council Meeting – via Zoom
- Sept 1 Lethbridge and District Area Council Meeting – via Zoom