

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT
TO THE PRAIRIE REGION COUNCIL
December 2- 4, 2021**

The Education Committee has met twice since the last PRC meeting. October 14th, the committee met (online) with Prairies Education Officer Karoline Klug, for an orientation and information session. The Committee was provided with budgetary, planning, and course information, as well as a synopsis of how education is generally delivered in the Prairies Region.

We discussed setting a few strategic priorities for the committee's term and tasked ourselves with determining some of those priorities in our next committee meeting, (November 16, 2021). The Committee would like to thank Karoline for her time, and for answering questions and providing background information on the Prairies Education program to better inform our planning.

The Committee debriefed and shared reflections from the meeting prior, and discussed priorities at the November 16th meeting.

Ally-ship training was identified as not only being necessary, but also as a desirable engagement tool as enrollment for these types of courses is generally higher. The Committee discussed ways to target and attract a robust and diverse array of the membership to union learning, for example: how do we engage new members may be working remotely? How do we promote learning opportunities that might attract more seasoned activists, such advanced grievance handling course. We also discussed potential improvements and the use of new tools (webinar, podcast, video etc.) to deliver core representation education, like grievance handling and duty to accommodate, in a post (or continuing) COVID-19 pandemic workplace environment.

Promoting PSAC Prairies Education to members was discussed as a priority. In the last cycle there was discussion of a promotional pamphlet for education; the new realities of our hybrid in person/online world, create both new challenges (such as less face to face communication), as well as new opportunities for promotion, and branding of union learning (like member's increased familiarity with social media platforms, and skills gained with communication software due to the pandemic). A pamphlet may no longer be the most effective way to reach members. The Committee hopes to work collaboratively with the Communications Committee to ensure effective, innovative messaging that benefits the Prairies Education program, through increased enrollment and novel member engagement.

The Committee discussed actioning GEN 001 Diversity Mentorship, a resolution passed at the previous Prairies Region Triennial Convention. Despite the fiscal realities and limitations that may be encountered with such a mentoring program, the committee feels new tools can be creatively used, and lessons learned from past mentorship course experiences, can inform a better experience for participants and minimize costs to The Region.

Submitted in solidarity,

Neha Channan, Steve Sukhbir, Amanda Wakeford, Janette Husak and Sherry Hunt
(Chair)