

KRYSTY THOMAS, ALTERNATE REGIONAL EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
REPORT TO THE PRAIRIE REGION COUNCIL
December 2 – 4, 2021

Since our last meeting of the PRC I have been involved locally with the Lethbridge Regional Women's Committee, the Lethbridge and District Area Council, the Lethbridge and District Labour Council and the Alberta Federation of Labour.

I attended the first PRC Communication Committee meeting and chaired the Finance Committee meeting and orientation.

In my community I volunteered that Lethbridge Soup Kitchen as part of the Lethbridge Area Council's Labour Day action. The LDAC purchased high quality protein in the form of meat, eggs and cheese to be used for Sunday's brunch. We served 157 guests at the Soup Kitchen that chilly Sunday morning. I also helped to organize an anti-UCP rally outside UCP MLA Nathan Neudorf's office as part of a province wide day of action protesting in response to the UCP government's lack of COVID response leading to thousands of cancelled surgeries and our hospitals at over capacity. That event was very successful and the Lethbridge Herald published my interview on the front page of Tuesday's newspaper. (<https://tinyurl.com/4rw9vk>).

For the federal election I attended three online forums asking the same question at each *"If their [Liberal or Conservative] party forms government will they cut public service jobs in order to recover from pandemic spending and balance the budget."* With guidance from Child Care Now Alberta, I wrote to each federal candidate asking them their position on Universal Early Learning and Childcare and asked them to build a publicly funded and managed Canada-wide system of universally accessible high-quality, affordable, inclusive early learning and child care. I only received a response from two candidates, the independent who was in agreement with my asks and the Christian Heritage Party candidate who was not.

The Alberta Federation of Labour met three times since our last PRC meeting. One of our meetings was a three day strategic planning session that was facilitated by an outside facilitator. During these sessions we brainstormed ideas on how we can ensure that we elect a labour friendly party in 2023. We also went steps further to develop an ideal labour platform we'd like to see in place after the next provincial election. Of pressing concern, Bill 81: *Election Statutes Amendment Act*, was introduced during this session of the legislature and is the UCP's direct attack on civil society. Once proclaimed, this omnibus bill would do many things to try to silence the voice of civil society – our ability to advocate relies heavily on our campaigns. Bill 81 will limit contribution amounts which would negatively affect our resources.

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

Activities:

Sept 8: Lethbridge and District Labour Council September Meeting – via Zoom

Sept 10-12: PRC meetings – via Zoom
 Sept 14: PSAC Federal Election Webinar
 Sept 14: Lethbridge and District Area Council - Resolution debate meeting – via Zoom
 Sept 15: Agriculture local 30048 meeting – via zoom
 Sept 19: Volunteer at Lethbridge Soup Kitchen with Area Council in support of Labour Day
 Sept 21: All Women’s Committee Conference Call
 Sept 23: Human Resource & Governance Committee Meeting – Alberta Federation of Labour – via Zoom
 Sept 22-26: PSAC National Women’s Conference, via Encore
 Sept 27-28: Alberta Federation of Labour Executive Committee and Council meetings – via Zoom
 Sept 29: All Area Council Call – via Zoom
 Oct 4: Lethbridge Sisters in Spirit Walk and Vigil
 Oct 7: Regional call with National Leaders, via Zoom
 Oct 9: #NoThanksGiventotheUCP Rally, Lethbridge Alberta
 Oct 13: Lethbridge and District Labour Council October Meeting – via Zoom
 Oct 25-27: Alberta Federation of Labour Retreat – via Zoom
 Nov 1: Lethbridge Regional Women’s Committee meeting – via Zoom
 Nov 8: PRC Communications meeting – via Zoom
 Nov 10: Calgary Area Council reconstitution meeting – via Zoom
 Nov 10: Lethbridge and District Labour Council November Meeting – via Zoom
 Nov 15-16: Alberta Federation of Labour Executive Committee and Council meetings – via Zoom
 Nov 16: Lethbridge and District Area Council Meeting – via Zoom
 Nov 17: University of Lethbridge Faculty Association Rally – University of Lethbridge
 Nov 17: Agriculture local 30048 Annual General Meeting – via zoom
 Nov 23: PRC Finance Committee meeting and orientation – via Zoom