

**Prairie Region Council Meeting**  
**February 9-11, 2022**  
**via Zoom**

**PRESENT :**

Marianne Hladun, REVP Prairies  
Neha Channan, Young Workers Rep  
Jennifer Chieh Ho, Racially Visible Person Rep  
Tim Hubick, Persons with Disability Rep  
Sherry Hunt, Regional Womens Committees Rep  
Janette Husak, Indigenous Peoples Rep (Excused Feb 9<sup>th</sup> pm session)  
Michelle Lang, Directly Chartered Local Rep  
Stasi L'Hirondelle, Northern Alberta Geographical Rep  
Gus Mardli, South-East Manitoba Geographical Rep  
Dawn Montgrant, Northern Saskatchewan Geographical Rep  
Danielle Poissant, Southern Alberta Geographical Rep  
Steve Sukhbir, LGBTQ2+ Persons Rep  
Krysty Thomas, Alternate REVP-Prairies  
Amanda Wakeford, Separate Employers Rep  
Michael Weisgerber, North-West Manitoba Geographical Rep  
Vanessa Hruska, Interim Executive Assistant to REVP Prairies  
Lisa Garnier, Regional Coordinator – Prairies  
Brienne Goertzen, Regional Political Communication Officer-Prairies  
Shelley Jamieson, Term Executive Assistant to REVP Prairies

**Observer :**

Mona Simcoe, UNDE VP MB SK

1. The meeting was called to order by Marianne Hladun at 10:00 am MB/SK Time.

2. Oath of Office (Standing Item) – none required

3. Adoption of Agenda

Add item (g) Roundtable to agenda if time permits

4. Hours of Session

10:00 am – 12:00 pm MB/SK

9:00 am – 11:00 am AB

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm MB/SK

12:00 pm – 3:00 pm AB

m/s Sherry Hunt / Gus Mardli

**Motion CARRIED.**

5. Land Acknowledgement – Janette Husak
6. PSAC Statement on Harassment  
(<https://prairies.pvac.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/ANTI.pdf>)

Lisa Garnier is the Anti-Harassment Coordinator

7. Minute of Silence observed.
8. Opening Remarks – Marianne Hladun

Marianne welcomed everyone including Vanessa Hruska who has just started this past Monday in the term position of EA to REVP Prairies. Sincere thanks to Shelley Jamieson for her work in the REVP Office. PRC should send emails to Shelley and Vanessa for now. Vanessa's email is [hruksav@pvac-afpc.com](mailto:hruksav@pvac-afpc.com). Marianne recognized Observer Mona Simcoe, UNDE VP MB & SK.

Marianne advises that there is no set date for office reopening but indicates that there will be a 30-day notice given for when the PSAC Offices will re-open.

9. Approval of Council Member Reports (Appendix B)

Krysty Thomas took the Chair.

Marianne Hladun

m/s Marianne Hladun / Gus Mardli

There will be more conversations about the Banner Campaign. 1:1 conversations went well and will be continued. Covid restrictions in Saskatchewan have lifted and Alberta will likely lift everything today. Even though restrictions are lifted, it doesn't mean it's necessarily safe to do things. We will have to work through that with a shift on how we go forward.

On organizing, currently we are in Service Agreements with University of Lethbridge Grad Students, University of Calgary, and University of Alberta Student Academic Workers. As an action item from the last meeting, we will be having an update from our term Regional Organizer Friday morning on general organizing and how it works.

No decisions have been made about National Convention. The Convention Committees will be held virtually. Next week is NBOD and it is possible we may have more discussions.

Discussion:

Question: Update on Labour College – Are we sending members?

Marianne advised that we have been sending members but not soliciting applications on the website. There is an exhaustive screening process. Labour College looks through the applications to make sure applicants meet the minimum requirements and then myself and Craig Reynolds, who is REVP Ontario and the other Co-Chair for Education, along with a staff member from HQ Education Branch, bring in a third party. Barb Byers has been our contact. We go through a strict scoring process and then do selections. When it is face to face, the investment per member could be 15K to 20K dollars for in residence, tuition, and travel. It is a program you need to have a fair amount of experience before you go into it to get the most out of it. We have been trying to target those who are already in leadership positions. This is something that the NBOD Standing Education Committee has flagged for more review.

Krysty Thomas returned the Chair to Marianne.

Neha Channan

m/s Neha Channan / Gus Mardli

Addition:

We have been meeting to finalize dates for the Young Workers Conference. It looks like the last weekend in June in Edmonton. It looks like an in-person conference could change.

Our Young Worker Trivia Night is rescheduled to March 9. We hope to find people who are interested in being more active and perhaps relaunch our committees. If you know anyone who is a young worker who might be interested in becoming more involved, give them my email address. It's a little challenging to restart committees but we are hoping the March 9<sup>th</sup> event will trigger networking and more interest.

**Report CARRIED.**

Jennifer Chieh Ho

m/s Jennifer Chieh Ho / Steve Sukhbir

Addition:

Jennifer acknowledges February is Black History Month and there is a virtual celebration on Facebook live at 7:00 pm EST highlighting this year's theme performances, tributes, interviews, and much more.

Question: Virtual tour of the Canadian Human Rights Museum was a great event. How well was it attended? 25 people RSVP'd prior to but may not have all attended. Likely more than twenty-five people that joined. Ian Martens (PSAC/UNE member) led the tour and customized the presentation to our members.

**Report CARRIED.**

Tim Hubick

m/s Tim Hubick / Jennifer Chieh Ho

Addition:

Add in two communication meetings that I attended. I also noticed on my report for December, 75% of my report on the website is missing. (REVP office will correct report online).

Tim attended the virtual Equity Conference and reported on the Persons with Disability caucus. Staff did their best to accommodate individuals. We need to make members aware that if they are not asking for accommodation then it's hard for the staff to accommodate.

**Report CARRIED.**

Sherry Hunt

m/s Sherry Hunt / Steve Sukhbir

Addition:

Attended the Saskatoon RWC AGM in December. They have elected a new president and new executive. Edmonton AGM is tonight.

Question: Can you expand on the planning of the Womens Retreat? Call out for organizing committee posted on the PSAC Prairie's page. We want a diverse table. We are looking at locations in Alberta but not many places in Alberta are unionized. We are looking for places where women can get away from the city and get some fresh air in nature. This will have both a wellness and education

component. Working with Carm Chan on planning and also Karoline Klug, Education Officer who is developing education on waves of feminism and prairie feminism so we can offer something interesting to the women

Thanks to the Regional Women's Committee from Regina for their roundtable event. One thing identified was that there are no real laws with any strength that prevent Coercive Control. That is the type of abuse that might not include any physical or financial abuse, but it's still abuse. It's controlling people by limiting access to pets or controlling all the finances in the house, so the person has no money to get away. It's a huge problem and it's not illegal in Canada. There is federal legislation on Coercive Control introduced in November which will require a change in the Criminal Code of Canada. Human Rights and Justice Committee of Parliament put a report out on Coercive Control and have listed five recommendations. One of them is changing the law. We can lobby to get this passed and we can make that type of control illegal in Canada.

**Report CARRIED.**

Janette Husak

m/s Sherry Hunt / Michelle Lang

Addition:

Attend the Women's Zoom Caucus meeting on February 2nd, and I had another Human Rights Committee meeting.

Regarding committee bank statements, RIPC is still trying to get the bank statements for the reporting package. If there is no activity, the bank won't send bank statements.

Marianne:

If there is no activity on an account, most banks won't issue bank statements. If there is a charge at the bank to issue a statement or to run a full transaction report for 2021, no approval is required.

**Report CARRIED.**

Michelle Lang

m/s Michelle Lang / Gus Mardli

Addition:

Update on my workplace, SK dropped all the mandates except for the masks effective on the 14<sup>th</sup>. I'm aware of five people out with COVID in my workplace. We have an emergency OH&S meeting tomorrow afternoon. We have received two estoppel notices. One circumvents the collective agreement. I attended a pop-up protest for the cuts in Saskatchewan on Monday and was asked to speak.

Question: What are some of the issues that you are bringing to the table? I have felt nothing but support from PSAC and all the components. Not all DCL's feel the same so we have to show solidarity. Numbers show strength.

**Report CARRIED.**

Stasi L'Hirondelle

m/s Stasi L'Hirondelle / Gus Mardli

**Report CARRIED.**

Gus Mardli

m/s Gus Mardli / Jennifer Chie Ho

Additional:

Our Area Councils had two or three meetings in this region with no quorum. We have an AGM coming up on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February.

**Report CARRIED.**

Danielle Poissant

m/s Danielle Poissant / Jennifer Chieh Ho

Additional:

University of Lethbridge Faculty Association is moving forward with a strike.

ULFA has been without a contract for 600 days and the university has not budged whatsoever. They had a 92% strike vote. No movement in negotiations since so will start a strike as of Thursday at 11:00 am. There will be a lot of support required from PSAC and the broader labour movement to make sure we stand with the Faculty Association. In Alberta, this is not the first Faculty

Association to go on strike. Concordia just went on strike, the first faculty association in Alberta to ever strike. It was a nasty divisive strike that did lead to a few days on the line. The students are in support, it's their semester, their money, their education, it's good to see that they are on board

**Action Item:**

Federation of Labour updates will be added as a standing agenda item to be able to update from provincial perspectives.

**Report CARRIED.**

Steven Sukhbir

m/s Steven Sukhbir / Michelle Lang

Addition:

No longer the chair for the Human Rights Committee in Edmonton. I do have new committee members helping in getting it organized and running.

Marianne:

Sometimes we get requests to distribute Equity events from Employer groups like Employer Diversity Committee and we won't distribute those. We don't have the capacity to send out and plus it's not open. If it is something being done in a government department in Canada Place, it's meant for government which excludes a lot of our members and it's related to government so we do not share.

**Report CARRIED.**

Krysty Thomas

m/s Krysty Thomas / Michelle Lang

Addition:

There is a call out specific for Alberta, but I want everyone to be cognizant of it. The AFL is pursuing or considering pursuing legal action against the use of PPE regarding "open for summer" no restrictions. If we had kept in par with the rest of the country, we could have probably prevented up to 900 deaths. The AFL is doing a call out to individuals to share their story. There will be some protection and well as anonymity when it comes to this type of lawsuit. They haven't set the actual lawsuit in motion but are gathering personal stories for that effect.

Question: What does Bill 32 mean for those of us especially those not in Alberta? Bill 32 came into legislation last May and there were no regulations associated with this Bill. It is an attack on Labour. The recent regulations suggest that unions identify what their core activities are, which would be representation for our members, advocating for better workplaces, work and compensation provisions, etc. Non-core activities in the regulation would be Social Justice Advocacy, advancing Pay Equity, Women's Rights, charitable donations and making our communities stronger. For our unions to put union dues towards non-core activities, we would be required to have a membership vote to identify funding for non-core activities. We would have to be talking with members, signing payroll deductions with them and making sure this money goes to that activity. It trickles down to bigger things beyond the union including Labour Councils, CLC etc. For us as federal union, this does not apply to us. The regulations go into effect August 1<sup>st</sup> this year. There is also the question of enforcement, what happens if we don't proceed? Will you see government checking the books? It's a lot to follow and we will see how this unfolds going forward

**Report CARRIED.**

Amanda Wakeford

m/s Amanda Wakeford / Jennifer Chieh Ho

Comment:

Employers are not doing the consultation process. With Covid restrictions lessening in Alberta, don't know what our employers are going to do to react to that yet. They have always been on the conservative side, a higher level of protection as possible. Recent update from my local employer a couple of weeks ago saying it is starting to rapidly move through the organization. We are seeing a lot more of our front-line workers contracting COVID. They are bringing up implementing mandatory rapid testing for those that do have to report to work. No information from the rest of the separate employers but continue to try to reach out to get them more involved.

**Report CARRIED.**

Late Report:

Dawn Montgrant

Dawn Montgrant / Amanda Wakeford

**Report CARRIED.**



10. Committee Reports and Business (Standing item)

a. Finance Committee Report

m/s Krysty Thomas / Michael Weisgerber

**MOTION CARRIED.**

The Finance Committee recommends approval of:

- 2021 Quarter 4 Financial Statement  
m/s Krysty Thomas / Michael Weisgerber  
RECORDED VOTE – APPENDIX C  
**MOTIONED CARRIED.**
  
- That the PRC approve \$100,000.00 expenditure for the Prairie Region Banner Campaign from Deferred Revenue.  
m/s Krysty Thomas / Michael Weisgerber  
RECORDED VOTE – APPENDIX C  
**MOTIONED CARRIED.**
  
- That the PRC approve \$28,000.00 expenditure for CCPA PSAC Research Project from Deferred Revenue.  
m/s by the PRC Committee  
RECORDED VOTE – APPENDIX C  
**REPORT CARRIED.**

**Action Item**

Finance Committee hopes to tentatively meet April 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> to go through financial packages of all the committees which are due by the 15<sup>th</sup> of April in order to get allocation out in a timely manner.

b. Education Committee Report

m/s Sherry Hunt / Neha Channan

**Addition:**

Chair had a call with Karoline Klug, Regional Education Officer last week and we are looking at possibly putting together an educational for International Women's Day.

Discussion:

There are two courses available on “Making Sense of Collective Bargaining” being held on February 16<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. They are being offered region wide virtually in the afternoon with loss of salary being paid. The focus of the workshop is collective bargaining process and why we need to get involved. Regional Reps during the course will be using examples from all locals whether it be the DCL, Separate Employers or members working for the CRA. Registration so far is quite low so PRC is encouraged to register and encourage others.

We should make a note of saying that this is open to all members or if it something specific to Treasury Board and/or Agencies identify that.

**Report CARRIED.**

c. Communications Committee Report

m/s Tim Hubick / Steve Sukhbir

Discussion:

The brochure on PRC will go out as a specific design newsletter. Brianne gave an overview of the brochure “What is Prairie Region Council”. The brochure includes your photograph, profiles, hyperlinks to your email, and to the website. There will be boundary maps for the Geographical Reps to make it easier to see boundary lines. The intention is to feature PRC members throughout the weeks after brochure goes out in order for members to get introduced to you via social media. A new way for people to interact with you as PRC. Also, a plan to film videos on you are in the works when we can meet in person adding more deliverables for the shareable piece on our social media platform. Links will be provided for members to go directly to PRC member’s reports.

There will be instructions to come out for all committees with a CC to Council. Policy will go into PRC handbook. Brianne discussed analytics on social media with regards to increases, likes, views, and followers on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. We have been increasing our reach, mention, and shares boosting our exposure. Brianne is working with Lisa and the Reps to promote educational courses and events on social media. Brianne was thanked for her enthusiasm and engagement really listening to our needs.

**Report CARRIED.**

d. Bylaws Committee

Would like to remind or suggest Equity PRC Reps and Geographical Reps to look at roles and responsibilities in the handbook. If you would like to add, amend, or make changes do let us know before our meeting in March. Resolutions to be discussed in the fall.

**Action Item:**

PRC committee members to advise Bylaw Committee if they do not have any changes to the Bylaws.

e. Health & Safety Committee

m/s Gus Mardli / Tim Hubick

Comment:

Selection for the Co-Chair is Michelle Lang and for the Secretary/Treasurer, Karine Drobko. We are meeting in April.

**Report CARRIED.**

Comment:

Please send email to EA if you must step in/out of this meeting. We will have to amend your union leave letter as you can only claim when you're in session. When your away, you will have to request leave from your employer or make other arrangements.

11. **Agenda Items:**

a) Bargaining Update (Marianne Hladun)

Discussion:

Sherry Hunt - PA Group - There has been delays with getting together with the employer due to illness, but we do have a session at the end of this month to catch up. We have tabled reasonable demands, but Treasury Board is not interested in anything we have to say. They are looking at changing the hours of work for our IS groups thinking that those people want to work shiftwork in which our members don't. We have talked a lot about WPs workload at Parole. Call centers have a very inhumane situation with limited breaks and rude callers. We are talking about things to make their jobs humane.

Danielle Poissant – TC Group - Common Issues: they came back with a Work Force Adjustment response this time. We are waiting to see what comes back from 699 policy grievance before tabling other paid leave proposals. TC victory from the previous round of arbitration for the EG members. They came back with more questions for our pay proposal. They are starting to think about coming back with a response and will when all pay proposals are received from all groups. We are analyzing single words because it could be a huge difference in someone's life. "Common Law"

Mona Simcoe - SV Group (PRC Observer) - Met in mid-January. Labour Market comparability study. 17 jobs with significant wage gaps below 15 to 27% below standard. We are asking for those percentage increases to bring us back into the market to compete and keep members. Agree with other team members that housekeeping items seem to be hidden agendas. Monetary demands put forward in January. We will meet again Feb 28<sup>th</sup>.

Question: Can you give an example of housekeeping language? Common law vs. co-habiting. Also work force adjustment is 120 days currently and they want to shorten it to 90 days. They claim it's better for you to get into the pool quicker but really it shortens your time to get a job

The negotiator has no concept what SV members do. The negotiator is talking about teleworking, working from home. The workforce she is talking about are fire fighters, electricians, heating plant guys, cleaners, food service who cannot work from home.

Marianne:

There are 4 webinars coming up. The next webinar is Feb 24 on Work life Balance you can register online. There was a backgrounder posted yesterday. Each month there will be a webinar with a backgrounder that is on the website. If anyone knows any Treasury Board members who have personal stories around Work Life Balance whether it be hours of work, wages, etc., please let us know. Our communications branch wants to profile those issues to support our positions. Call out for Regional Strategy Committee. Still waiting for many locals to identify reps.

Office of the Auditor General is currently on a strategic strike. CRA not started bargaining yet, CFIA is exchanging demands this month, Parks bargaining has begun and there was a bulletin posted today on key issues. r

On a regional note, many airports have expired or about to expire. Inconsistencies in things like layoff language gives employers a way out. Royal Canadian Mint is going into bargaining. Working on first Collective Agreement

for firefighters at Calgary Airport. Canadian Museum for Human Rights have been without a contract for a very long time. We were in negotiations with them when allegations of racism, harassment, and discrimination from the former CEO and management were raised. They are having an action on Tuesday; members will show visible support to the bargaining team in anticipation of the employer trying to cancel the week after. CAHRD is negotiating. All their funding is from grants and they say they can't convert money into wage increases. There is an action 1) is a letter of support to Brianne email undated, 2) Support on Valentine's Day "Show some love to CAHRD". Shareables on Valentine's Day to show solidarity to CAHRD. Casino going into negotiations soon. University of Saskatchewan post docs ready to start bargaining. We have organized a new unit, Research Associates at the University of Saskatchewan. We are waiting an arbitration decision for their first collective agreement.

Reminder to send bargaining team photos to Brianne for showcasing on social media . We want to showcase our diversity of members and post congratulations when collective agreements are ratified.

b) Review of Action items from Dec. 2021 PRC meeting (Marianne Hladun)

All PRC Reps - Intro paragraph to Communications Committee by Jan 3.  
**Completed.**

All PRC Reps – Bylaws changes to Bylaws Committee by end of Jan. **Will be ongoing because it will have to go to convention.**

PRC Equity Reps – written report of NEC to REVP – **Steve submitted. Others to be send in.**

PRC Geo Reps – updated MP contact list on OneDrive – Lobbying in March.  
**Looking for address and phone numbers for local constituency. It will be appreciated to be completed by end of month.**

Equity/Young Worker Rep(s) – List of Commemorative Dates to Brianne by end of 2021. **Get it in ASAP.**

All PRC Reps – any high-quality photos 2017 and onward downloaded to OneDrive or sent to Brianne. **Please submit if you have something.**

**We couldn't get Phase 2 of Anti Oppression Training for Council organized this week. We will look at this as an action item.**

c) Equity Caucus at Convention (Tim Hubick)

Currently, to attend the regional womens committee caucus at Prairie Region Conference, members have to attend at least 2 RWC meetings prior to convention. Would like to see it applied to Equity members having to attend HRC meetings to increase accountability.

Response:

This should be a resolution to convention. Draft a resolution and send it to By-Laws Committee for assistance.

**Action Item:**

Send out Equity List to Equity Reps. Vanessa Hruska will do by March 8, 2022.

## **ORDER OF THE DAY - USJE PRESENTATION – KEEP RCMP IN ALBERTA CAMPAIGN**

David Neufeld – USJE National President

UCP government in Alberta is looking at going to a Provincial Police Force instead of RCMP. A final decision could be made in the spring. We are looking to receive your help and solidarity. This could result in potential job loss of over 700 members who work in these public service jobs, mostly women. We have launched a letter writing campaign to Jason Kenny, Rachel Notley, the Minister of Justice, and the Solicitor General to voice our concerns ([www.usje.sesj.com](http://www.usje.sesj.com)). We are working with allies at the National Police Federation to discuss the strategy. We know we can count on PSAC to help support us in our campaign. We are mobilizing USJE members have a meeting tonight with members to hear their concerns and listen how they envision their union to protect their jobs. With the data, we will be preparing a policy paper, campaign website, radio ads, mail drops and presentations at various town council meetings targeting municipalities. We will keep you updated and ask PRC to support USJE members by communicating about the campaign with members in Alberta and beyond. We have until the end of April to build public support for the RCMP in Alberta.

Valda Behrens – USJE RVP Alberta

I attended 3 of the community tours organized by the National Police Federation. The NPF Reps shared information currently presented by the government and the concerns and questions this information has raised. They have billboards

across Alberta stating there will be a taxpayer cost of approximately \$185 million. The federal government currently subsidizes 30% of the costs for the RCMP in the community. The NPF would like to see a feasibility study done before decisions are made. <https://usje-sesj.com/en/protect-jobs-in-alberta-tell-premier-jason-kenny-to-keep-the-rcmp/>

**Action Item:**

Geographical Reps take this information forward to your Area Council, locals, and town hall meetings coming up. Please circulate to members. We will include this in our newsletters. District Labour Councils could help provide information.

Krysty will bring this to AFL to engage Labour movement more broadly. Information will be shared at townhalls. AFL to share in their newsletter. Brianne, Valda, and others at USJE are working on a one-page backgrounder with links. They will provide this to Krysty to share with the AFL, Geographical Reps for Area Councils, distribute to locals, and send to District Councils. <https://www.keepalbertarcmp.ca/communityengagementtour>

d) PSAC Anti-Racism Plan for Members (Marianne Hladun)

Information has not been widely shared yet. National Human Rights Committee will be convening a meeting end of Feb/March. The National Human Rights Committee is a subcommittee of the NBOD. The structure of this committee is made up of the 5 equity reps on Regional Councils for the 7 regions that sit as part of the National Human Rights Committee in a working group for the equity group they represent. There is also one rep per component. There is a Component Caucus and a National Working Group for each specific equity group. They meet face to face once a year and sometimes meet virtually with working groups meeting more often.

Marianne shared the plan adopted by National Board of Directors in early 2021 in response to issues that were being raised in our communities around racism of all equity members. Marianne would like to encourage our representatives to impart the message that we need this, and we need this now. She has not received updates. There is training we would be able to deliver in the region. Based on those objectives what can you do in the Prairies to address them in the Prairies. Equity reps should have a discussion and come back with ideas and suggestions so we can move forward to get some concrete actions in the region.

e) Gender Equity Task Force Report (Marianne Hladun)

Background information was given on how the task force came to be. The report was very long with a lot of information and commitments that were presented at National Women's Conference. We need to operationalize some of these commitments and put timelines to them and say when they are going to get done.

Question to PRC RWC Rep: are there things we can operationalize in the Prairies to provide support and build a level of activism for women? Need to raise the profile. There were 12 members at the Edmonton RWC last night with a full executive. Winnipeg RWC has been revitalized. Presentations and guest speakers are a part of their meetings. There will be a Non-Violent Physical Crisis Intervention training in May.

There is a commitment from the NBOD to move forward on some of the things we are planning and looking at. If there are suggestions on things, we can do in the Prairies that support the objectives of the task force and move some of those recommendations, bring them forward.

The retreat will bring women together. The retreat will help to address some of those issues and give us a path forward to reach those women who might not have been identified by us for activism.

f) Memorial Walk (Sherry Hunt)

On February 14<sup>th</sup>, Lethbridge has set up a Nature Walk. Placards with information about missing/murdered women placed along the Helen Schuler Coulee Nature Center Walk. There are red dresses in the trees which is effective and sobering sad walk to be on but very important and gives a visual. Lethbridge has put a lot of effort into Reconciliation. On February 14<sup>th</sup>, the city will be hosting a Lethbridge Reconciliation Event at city hall with placards and lights. PSAC through the RWC is supporting this event to make placards. We are at the forefront of the issue of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women. Many of our communities have missing women. This is a great way to memorize these women and safely get together during COVID times.

Women's Memorial March Story Walk Lethbridge Event Page

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1266812600480948>

Feb 14 – Women's Memorial Walk page:

<https://womensmemorialmarch.wordpress.com/about/?fbclid=IwAR2UGXGkwQpWcsxuk>



Footage of last year's story walk:

<https://www.facebook.com/lethbridgesistersinspirit/videos/4995822430490097>

Reconciliation Lethbridge Virtual Memorial:

<https://www.lethbridge.ca/newscentre/pages/virtual-memorial-to-take-place-honouring-missing-and-murdered-indigenous-women-and-girls>

g) Roundtable (if time permits)

Krysty Thomas

University Faculty Association is on strike in about 30 minutes and tomorrow at 11:00. I will be at the line on my break.

Marianne:

We have a statement of solidarity ready to send to the president of the Univ. of Lethbridge Faculty Association. We have a Service Agreement with academic workers at the University of Lethbridge. Their work may be terminated. The statement will be on our social media and website as soon as I send it to the president.

Michelle Lang

Reminds each PRC member to write a letter of support to CAHRD members out of Winnipeg. They are back in bargaining Monday.

Marianne:

February 28<sup>th</sup> is the 6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Phoenix. There will be actions nationally coming forward to flag that it is still an issue. We may want to think about Prairie Action around it. From January 2021 to January 2022, the tickets have increased 211%. We are not making any progress. We have to re-communicate this to members. Departments are sending out letters for overpayments asking members to sign to say, "yes I agree, I owe this money". There is an expiry date to collect this money. Members must respond,. There is wording on the website that members should be aware of. New members or incumbent MPs of parliament may think its fixed because they don't hear from us. I am looking to the Area Councils to help. If you have some ideas let me know

## **ORDER OF THE DAY - PRAIRIES ORGANIZING – NINA BABCOOK**

Marianne introduced Nina Babcook, Term Regional Organizer for the Prairies.

### Nina Babcook

Nina introduced herself as a former UNDE member and gave an overview of Organizing in the Prairies. We organize for the greater good. Union Density in Alberta is low and could improve in other areas in the Prairies. Largest growing sector in Prairies is Academic Sector. We have Service Agreements with three Universities in Alberta. We have had several additions to our union family in the last decade. Nina provided info on what happens to leads on an organizing drive, how we generate them, and step by step process. We do not RAID anyone's members. When we begin an organizing drive, we want to make sure we can service the membership. and don't make promises to potential members we can't fulfil.

### Marianne:

Sometimes we don't have the structure to be able to support the group that came forward to us. In those cases, I will call another union to see if they are interested in representing. We have room for a diverse membership, there is a place for everyone in our union, but we need to be able to service them. If we can't, I will never leave workers hanging. We will connect them with someone, and we will give them options. We are really excited about some of the things we have been doing and where we are going. This fits into the campaign we have been talking about. We want our members to show pride in being a PSAC member. That pride will show in their communities. I want you to be aware we do a lot of analysis to make sure it's good for the workers and it's good for us. Organizing also includes internal organizing to maintain current members.

## **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

m/s Michelle Lang / Sherry Hunt

## **MOTION CARRIED**