

Stasi L'Hirondelle
Northern Alberta Geographical Rep

Since my last report, I have attended a few meetings with the Edmonton Area Council to finalize preparations for the Operation Friendship event held on December 10. I'm very happy to report that the event was pretty successful, and we were able to provide coffee and snacks to inner city individuals, while spreading some holiday cheer.

I also participated in a Prairie wide zoom call for Area Council Reps and GEO Reps, and a Prairie Region Healthy and Safety meeting. I will be attending the PRC Bylaws committee meeting as well on February 9. I attended an Edmonton Human Rights Committee meeting to introduce myself as the GEO Rep, and offer my assistance with any issues or events they plan over the coming months.

On a more personal note, I've been reaching out to MLAs in Alberta to lobby and advocate for improved mental health treatment for our youth. I will be coordinating with the Alberta Health Critic, the Advanced Education Critic, the Children's Service Critic, and the Community and Social Services Critic in an attempt to highlight the need for improved services. The covid pandemic has not only highlighted the need, but has created longer wait times as the number of at risk teens continues to grow due. I feel that as a community, and as a Union, we need to turn some of the negatives of the pandemic into positives. More and more people are opening up with their mental health issues and governments are 'saying' that they are working to improve services and we need to hold them accountable and keep them to their word,

In closing, if anyone has any questions with regard to my report, or would like my assistance in any community events please don't hesitate to reach out to me. Stay safe and healthy and remember to take time to enjoy your families and practice self care.

In Solidarity,
Stasi L'Hirondelle