

ALICIA ZURBA, NORTH-WEST MANITOBA GEOGRAPHICAL REP

REPORT TO THE PRAIRIE REGION COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 2 - 4, 2024

The fall kicked off with the annual Brandon & District Labour Council Labour Day BBQ, supported by the Westman Area Council, on September 4, 2023. The event was a huge success with many members and their families in attendance to show support and solidarity for the Labour Council and all the work they do for the labour movement in the region.

I have been able to connect with a few Component/Local executive members to (re)introduce them to the PRC and start to gain a greater understanding of both the challenges and successes our region faces in regard to the labour movement, as well as the unique experiences our members face within their specific workplaces and communities. I was invited to attend the USJE Local 50057 annual general meeting on October 18, 2023 to share information about the PRC and assist with their executive elections. They had a great group of women attend the meeting, who I look forward to connecting with again this year to further explore opportunities to collaborate and support one another. I will continue to attempt to connect with members across the region so we can start to work together to bridge gaps and encourage greater engagement within our memberships.

There were many opportunities to partake in educational courses and workshops over the fall season, of which I took advantage as best I could. I encourage any and all PSAC members to participate in these educational opportunities to not only gain a better understanding of PSAC and our individual roles within the labour movement as PSAC members, but to also expand your network and understanding of the unique challenges and successes experienced by members from other Local's and Components across the region.

I attended the PSAC Strike Debrief session virtually on October 25, 2023 which, sadly, was not as well attended as expected. However, I was provided feedback that some folks had expected to attend a second session that was originally scheduled but was unfortunately cancelled. Although the session that did go forward did not have as much representation as I had hoped and expected, there was great discussion and feedback provided amongst the group and I sincerely hope it is taken into consideration if/when a strike is called in the future.

The Brandon & District United Way hosted their 28th annual Holiday Magic Tree Trimming and Auction November 30, 2023 in which the Westman Area Council participated, helping to raise over \$20,000 for the United Way's three youth programs, Tools for Schools, Coats for Kids, and FEYA (Financially Empowering Young Adults).

I was honored to be able to attend the National PSAC Leadership Conference in Ottawa in December 2023. The conference agenda was packed with moving keynote speakers, thought-provoking panel discussions, inspiring group discussions, and invaluable networking opportunities. I highly encourage anyone even slightly interested in attending in the future to put their name forward when the call-out is advertised. This is a triannual event, with the next one expected to be hosted in 2026.

Moving into 2024, we still have much work to do to connect with our component representatives and fellow labour movement activists in our region, but I am optimistic that we will see an uptake of engagement as we get closer to the PSAC National Convention at the end of May 2024.

In Solidarity,
Alicia Zurba