Public Service Alliance of Canada
Edmonton Human Rights Committee Meeting
September 5th, 2023, 6:00PM-7:00PM PSAC Edmonton Office and Zoom

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In Attendance:
Charmaine Nelson – CEIU 30851, Committee Chair.
Kim Cardinal –USJE 30168 - Committee Treasurer
Julia Burke
Joe Hildebrand- UNDE 30908
Cathy Kohar
Surekha Jarugumalli
Amanda Jorgensen- AGR 30054
Sherley Perest
Bella Whiskeyjack
Jenn Beatie – CIU 30036
Kathleen Crowe
Jacqueline Fayant
Emily Guthrie-Plouffe
Madeline Lee – CEIU 30851
Bernard ____ - UTE
Sreyasa Mainali – CEIU 30872

Regrets:
Jessica Burylo – Committee Co-Chair
Omar Ahmed – Committee Secretary

Guests:
Janette Husak – Prairies Regional Council Indigenous Circle Representative.
Steve Taylor – Prairies Regional Council Pride Representative

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1) **Call to Order**: Charmaine called the meeting at 6:02PM Charmaine gave a land acknowledgement and recited the PSAC Anti-Harassment Statement.

2) **Approval of the Agenda:** Consensus reached.

3) **Review and approval of the previous meeting's Agenda:** Consensus reached.

4) **Reports**

-Chair Report:
Charmaine reported that the committee is now in "good standing" and we have access to the funds already in the committee. We did not receive additional funding for the year. We must ask permission to

hold any activity, even if it does not cost anything. We have permission to spend what we agreed to as a committee (voted) which was submitted as a financial request.

We did not receive any volunteers for the Edmonton Pride event. Charmaine and Jessica would have been available and interested in participating in this event; however, both were selected to the PSAC course "Unionism on Turtle Island" in Winnipeg, during the same weekend.

-Treasurer's Report: Kim reported that there were no expenditures and that the committee account has 1697.86 with 84.49 common shares

-Report on attending PSAC Unionism on Turtle Island:
Jessica sent her regrets for this meeting as she had prior engagement. Charmaine spoke on the course, advising that it was deeply impactful and memorable, with discussions about the tradition of The Water Keepers, Unconscious bias, What is an ally, sharing circles, Residential Schools impact, Just to name a few. Charmaine suggested that any member who can take this course, should do so as it is very worthwhile.

-**Report on Autism Edmonton Zoo Event:**
Omar was not in attendance to speak on this event, which he led. Jenn Beatie shared that the event was well received with 3 PSAC members joining Autism Edmonton at the Edmonton Valley Zoo. Members provided supportive services in a sensory tent and interacted with attendees of the event. The attendees enjoyed a nice time at the zoo.

5) **Previous Business: None to report.**

6) **New Business:**

Committee discussion on next priorities
Kim spoke about Sept 30th Truth and Reconciliation activity for the committee – "what is a Sweat?" opportunity for the committee and members to experience a traditional sweat and feast ceremony on Cooking Lake, Alberta. Would require a 200.00 honorarium for the elder. The committee reached consensus reached by all in attendance on requesting to expend 200,.00 for this purpose. Kim talked about pouch tobacco offering, Bring prayer ribbons if u wish. Bring a potluck style dish for the feast ceremony.
Charmaine added that there is a Kairos Blanket Exercise being offered free of charge. She gave the details for anyone interested in participating.
Committee discussed about now we now have permission to expend existing committee funds on previously requested budget and will need to move our timeline as some dates for activities had come and gone prior to budget approval. Will discuss rearranging/foregoing missed committee plans and potentially making new requests for activities.

7) **Actions:**
-Kim to request to expend 200.00 for an Elder honorarium for Sweat and Feast Ceremony and will obtain pouch tobacco.
-Carm to put a call out for the event

8) **Round table**

Bernard Spoke on ageism. UTE component membership is aging out at a rapid rate. He mentioned “If you discriminate against aging, you are discriminating against your future self.” Age discrimination is protected under human rights yet is abused. 65 yrs old cut off for WBC. No disability insurance. We mut stand against ageism and call it out when it occurs. Carm suggested the committee consider a speaker on ageism. And/or possible committee mobilization on the issue.

Suneka spoke on seeing issues with disabilities and this committee is a good place to hold discussions about how to advocate in this respect.

Steve (Prairie Region Council Pride Rep) spoke on the National Equity Conference and a resolution being put forth to do with creating separate equity conferences – please consider supporting this resolution, if you are attending the PSAC National Equity Conference. They also spoke about the importance of self-identifying in equity seeking groups with PSAC. He advised on how to self-identify. Steve welcomed members to reach out to him about any concerns he could bring to PSAC Prairie Region Council. He gave his contact information. He mentioned the benefit of attending PSAC JLP (Joint Learning Program) courses. These are courses facilitated thru a collaboration of both the union and the employer.

Charmaine thanked everyone for attending, and participating in the issues that matter to the Human Rights Committee and equity seeking groups. They asked that anyone reach out to them for any concerns/ideas that our committee can address.

9) **Next meeting: October 17th, 2023 @ 53PM**

10) **Meeting Adjourned:** 6:04PM.