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REPORT TO THE PRAIRIE REGION COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 2 - 4, 2024

Another year is upon us, and I hope everyone was able to enjoy some fun, relaxation and family time during 2023. As we enter 2024, I continue to maintain my actions towards replacing Phoenix and holding Treasury Board accountable for swift actions on Canada Life Issues.

Since my last report, there have been continued issues surrounding the transition to Canada Life. Many members are facing denial for coverage, increased financial burden and stress. Edmonton Area Council has attempted to schedule a meeting with Liberal MP Randy Boissonnault to discuss the issues members are facing with Canada Life and press for his support to pressure Treasury Board to make these fixes a priority. On December 5, myself and a group of members took up PSAC's call for action and taped numerous member stories to the door and surrounding wall of the ministers office. We taped up banners of stories across the door, as well as spread as many stories under the door as we could. Ironically, the regional office received a phone call for a meeting with the minister the next day. Unfortunately, due to medical issues, the meeting had to be postponed and hasn't happened yet. But follow up on the meeting will happen and if we can't get a meeting, perhaps more action will need to transpire. We can't afford to let these issues slide as more and more members will suffer until Treasury Board makes it right.

Edmonton Area Council has also meet to discuss action plans for the year, hold election for delegate to PSAC National Convention, as well as host a member movie night. In September we held a meeting where we reviewed 4 resolutions to submit to PSAC National convention being held in May. In November we held the election for Area Council Delegate where we elected a delegate, and 2 alternates. We also motioned and approved purchasing 2 wreaths for Remembrance Day Ceremonies in Cold Lake and Wainwright. Both of these area's have very large military bases in which many PSAC – UNDE members live and work. It was agreed having wreaths laid on behalf of PSAC would be covered by Area Council as it is in Edmonton. In December we held a member movie night, that was planned as an option to introduce new members to Area Council in an informal venue. Of course we planned a union friendly movie, and had pizza and watched Pride. That's a movie that truly showcases what solidarity can do. We are also hoping to plan a bowling night for an even in the spring.

Meetings/Events:

Sept 20, 2023: Edmonton Area Council Meeting

Sept 30, 2023: Truth and Reconciliation Sweat

Oct 3, 2023: PRC/GEO/AC Conference Call

Oct 12, 2023: Prairie Region H&S Conference Call
Nov 1, 2023: Edmonton Area Council Meeting
Nov 7, 2023: All Committee/PRC Call
Nov 9, 2023: Prairie Region Council Meeting Conference Call
Nov 14, 2023: Phoenix Working Group Conference Call
Dec 5, 2023: Action at Ministers Office
Dec 12, 2023: Edmonton Area Council Meeting/Movie night
Dec 15-17, 2023: National Leadership Training
Jan 4, 2024: Phoenix Working Group Conference Call
Jan 18, 2024: Phoenix Working Group Conference Call
Feb 1, 2024: Committee Reporting Information Session

On a personal note, I was very fortunate to attend the Truth and Reconciliation Sweat that was organized by Edmonton Women's Committee. Attending a sweat is an important part of Indigenous culture as they are very spiritual ceremonies used for prayer and healing. I hope many people have an opportunity to attend a sweat and open themselves to understanding and healing of past traumas that were imposed upon our Indigenous brothers and sisters.

I'd like to remind everyone that PSAC Prairies has posted the list of upcoming educational courses. These courses help you understand what the union is about, collective bargaining, systemic racism, and many many other issues facing employees today. I encourage registering and attending these sessions whenever possible. The union is as strong as our members, and we must continue to show solidarity and comradery with each other. Together we are strong. I think of what was said by one of the panelist at the National Leadership training, our solidarity is our greatest strength. That resonates with me as I do believe it to be true.

As I write this, our brother in sisters working in NPF are facing the possibility of a strike. Lets all show them the same support we were shown during our strike. These employees deserve fair wages that are in line with the core public service, as the work they do is just as important. And everyone deserves a living wage.

If anyone has any questions regarding my report, or the events and activities I've attended, please reach out to me anytime.

In Solidarity,
Stasi L'Hirondelle