Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC)

Edmonton Human Rights Committee

Annual General Meeting

January 24, 2025, @ 6:30 pm In-Person/Hybrid Meeting

In attendance:

Charmaine Nelson, Chair
Julia Burke, UNE 30070
Joel Hildebrand, Vice Chair
Natasha Cheff, UNDE 30905
Kim Cardinal, Treasurer
Melissa Lumbala, UNE 30071
Nicole Akhenak, USJE 30125
Olumayowa Odesina CEIU 30851
Jen Beattie, CIU 30036
Adedayo Ojeleye UTE 30025
Madeline Lee, CEIU 30851
Manoja Gangodage CEIU 30851
Cathy Kohar, UNDE 30905
Stasi L'Hirondelle UTE 30025
Anita Savaphet, UCTE 30313

PSAC Staff:

Carm Chan, PSAC Representative

Welcome to all / Call to Order / Land Acknowledgement / Harassment Statement:

1. Charmaine called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm and read the Land acknowledgement; Joel read the PSAC Harassment Statement.

2. Approval to this Agenda - Consensus established.

3. Approval of the November 19, 2024, Minutes (by those who were in attendance of that meeting): Consensus established

4. Introduction of the HR Committee execs and attending members – each person introduced themselves and stated their component and where they work.

5.Report of the Chair: It has been a successful year of Human Rights

advocacy and activities. We have had several successful activities this year, which included: **Pride Booth** - Rainbow Corner at Churchill Square, in August, where our committee handed out pride swag and informational pamphlets on Gender Neutral Washrooms. Amanda created a beautiful painting with a pride theme. We raffled off this painting and raised approximately 58$ which we will be donating to a Pride Community, once the participating members decide on an appropriate charity. Many people stopped by our booth to ask questions, take photos and choose swag items. I would like to thank Joel for taking the lead on this event.

2nd Annual Indigenous Sweat Lodge and Teachings: This event was held on Little Cooking Lake in Alberta, on Sept 30th , 2024, in honour of Truth and Reconciliation Day. Activities featured an Indigenous Sweat inside a traditional Sweat lodge. For a second year in a row, this activity has been well received by our members, some of which had profound experiences. The teachings held deep meaning, and we can take this new knowledge and use it in our daily journey. We also had a traditional feast at the end of the sweat lodge and teachings. The feast featured traditional stew, Bannock, berries, and mint tea. I would like to thank Kim for taking lead on this activity.

Workshop on Resolution writing: Due to a need to select a different date for this activity, the Chair was not able to attend due to being out of province for a component conference. This Resolution Writing Workshop was focussed specifically on the National Truth and Reconciliation 94 Calls to Action: Specifically, sections 13-16: The Preservation of Indigenous Languages. Members signed up to learn about the key aspects of resolution writing, and brainstorming ideas for resolutions under section 13-16 of the 94 Calls to Action. At this point we have not completed any resolution; however, we hope to make this activity a static part of our committee's activities. One idea that we are looking at, is to re- name all the PSAC office boardrooms in the Prairie Region, to Indigenous Language names. We are looking into whom we would consult, what type on consultation is appropriate as a collaborative, inclusive endeavor. I would really like to thank Joel for facilitating this activity on very short notice, whilst I was out of the province on a component National Conference.

I would like to thank our members for making Human rights a priority in their lives, and for attending and participating in our committee activities. Without you, we would not be able to advocate as effectively and raise awareness for Human Rights issues. I would like to also express my appreciation to this executive team: Joel: Co-Chair, Kim; Treasurer, and Dawn: Secretary, for their dedication to Human rights and this committee.

6.Co-Chair Report- Joel: The book I would like to share today is called "A Long Way Gone" Written by Ishmael Beah: This book links what is going on in Palestine with the West African Sierra Leone Civil War in the 1990s. The book is a firsthand account of Beah's time as a child soldier. It delves into the change of being an innocent child, to being corrupted by war and its effects. The book suggests "Reconciling History." I highly recommend this book.

For our idea of re-naming the boardrooms one part of it would be writing a resolution about it, passing it at one of our Human Rights Committee meetings. And getting the resolution to Regional Human rights Conference. Part of our collaborative process must take into consideration is that the prairie Region has 12 distinct Indigenous linguistic groups, and we would need to form consensus on which languages we may choose for the room naming, and which indigenous knowledge keepers we would want to partner with in the decision- making process.

It has been a great year and i would like to say thank you to Charmaine and Kim for a great year.

7.Treasury Report: Kim - As of Dec 2024, we have a balance of 2365.18; however, from 2025 we will need to reflect on a 2024 cheque of 1475.18 for the orange shirts the committee purchased but only got the bill a week ago. Once this cheque processes, we will have a carry-over of $700.18.

8.Resolution: Proposal to update out Terms of Reference (TOR) to do with the length of term for our committee positions: - Joel

This piece must be postposed to later in the year as the Office of the REVP is updating the TOR Regionally. We would need to have copies of the current TOR to conduct a vote on what it is that we are wanting to change. (Chaired to upcoming meetings.)

9. Elections

For purposes of voting, 2 components have more than 1 representative and had to choose who was to represent for voting.

UTE – Stasi, Folasade, Dawn – chose Stasi to vote.
CEIU – Madeline, Richelle, Debbie, Charmaine (Richelle abstained from voted) By ballot, Charmaine was elected to vote.

1st Position – Chair
Charmaine nominated by Stasi, Seconded by Kim
No other nominations. Acclaimed

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2nd Position – Vice Chair
Joel nominated by Kim, Seconded by Madeline
No other nominations. Acclaimed

3rd Position – Treasurer
Kim nominated by Stasi, Seconded by Madeline
No other nominations. Acclaimed

4th Position – Secretary
Jen nominated by Stasi, Seconded by Charmaine
Nicole nominated by Kim, Seconded by Madeline
A vote took place Jen was elected for Secretary.

***** Servus Credit Union - Signing Authority*****

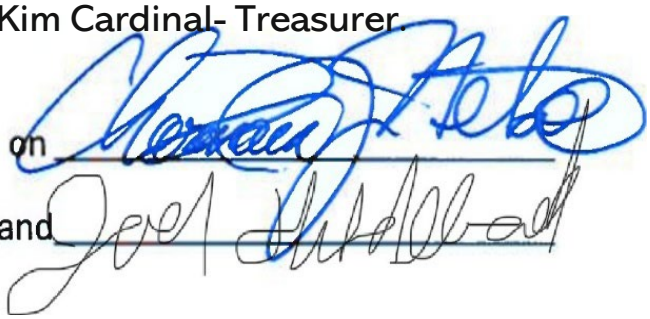
We request and authorize Servus Credit Union to REMOVE the current Name(s) who held signing authority in 2024. They are as follows:

Dawn St Luis.

We request and authorize the Servus Credit Union to ADD the following names who have been elected and approved by this committee to hold Signing Authority. The newly elected executives for 2025 are as follows:

Charmaine Nelson – Chair; Joel Hildebrand - Co-Chair, Jennifer Beatie - Secretary Kim Cardinal- Treasurer.

Chair- Charmaine Nels on



Co-Chair- Joel Hildebrand

10. Round Table

Joel - There is an Area Council/PRC Meet and greet this Friday. Marianne Hladun and Sharon Desousa will be there. There will be food and prizes. It is an excellent opportunity to meet your union representatives in the prairie Region.

Also, this year we are looking to form a couple sub-committees. One for Labour for Palestine, and another for Trans rights pronouns legislation etc. sub-committee. More info to come this year.

Kim - There is a Women's Committee AGM on January 28th at 530PM in person and virtual.

Madeline - I will be attending the national Human rights Conf Feb 12-14th • Please bring any concerns to me prior to my departure, so that I may be able to bring them forward.

Stasi - The Edmonton Area Council event this Friday will have 3x 100.00 gift cards for Superstore, other swag, games. Meet your union reps in the region.

Also, there is a rally on January 26th from 12- 4pm at the Edmonton General Hospital- commemoration of the anniversary of the 1988 Nurse's Strike.

Also, Servus Credit Union allows for all signatories to register to have view access privileges. This can help when the bank statements are not coming in.

11. Meeting adjourned at

8:10PM Next meeting :

TBD