

WINNIPEG REGIONAL WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

Monday April 7, 2025 @ 7 pm virtual

IN ATTENDANCE –

Chair – Teresa Tremblay CEIU 50772

Vice-Chair – Kristin Bowler AGR 50073

Secretary – Cristina Esposito UNDE 50705

Treasurer – Sam Therrien UNE 50262

Debbie Leaman AGR 50073

Erin Glover DCL UofW 55600

Gelina Alton UNDE 50704

Mona Simcoe UNDE 50705

Hannah Morris USJE 50057

Rita Thompson UNE 50040

Shirleen MacMurphy CEIU 50770

Erin Myskiw USJE 50015

Hannah Peters CEIU 50769

Cheryl Dubree UNE 50235

Vanessa Erickson UTE 50031

Erin McNally AGR 50073

Angelique Parajas AGR 50073

Wanda Duffy UTE 50031

Ashley Sullivan CEIU 50767

Tracy Thor, PSAC Staff Rep

1. **Call to order @**
2. **Land Acknowledgment** - Read by Samanth Therrien
3. **PSAC Statement of Harassment** - Read by Teresa Tremblay, Tracy Thor anti-harassment person
4. **Introductions** - Introduction of executive of the newly elected WRWC, Chair Theresa Tremblay, Vice-Chair Kristin Bowler, Treasurer- Samantha Therrien, Secretary- Cristina
5. **Adoption of Agenda** - Motion to approve agenda made by Teresa Tremblay, Seconded by Rita Thompson
6. **Approval of Previous Minutes** - Motion to approve Minutes from February 3, 2025 meeting, made by Teresa Tremblay, Seconded by Kristin Bowler
7. **Treasurer Report** - Samantha Therrien - reported that currently everything has cleared up from last year. Having 2 signers prevented cheque issuance. The committee had to wait until after the AGM and the newly elected obtained cheque signing authority. Fundraising activity at the 2025 Women's conference was deposited and immediately disbursed. This resulted in no change in balance, which is currently \$800.58. No action to accept the report was made.

8. Recap of PSAC Regional Women's Conference in Winnipeg (March 5-9, 2025)

attended by Kristin, Samantha and Cristina

The PSAC Regional Women's Conference was held in Winnipeg (March 5-9, 2025).

Kristin Bowler, Samantha Therrien provided a report

Theme: Caring for Change: Women Shaping the Future. Care work is integral in strengthening communities to build and empower women. Women from Alberta Saskatchewan and Manitoba gathered in Winnipeg for an intense 5 days.

The conference was a build on the foundation of the Fall 2024 union voices for Health Choices retreat.

Host committee was led by RWC and provided pins Winnipeg tourism guide and a map of downtown and various locations in Winnipeg. Included was a survival kit to remind women that we had each other's back, and we were there to support each other. Each participant received a beautiful PSAC Prairie region scarf with the new Women's prairie region logo.

Sharon DeSouza gave a powerful speech about our rights, and we can't sit still. We need to be vigilant and pay attention to what is happening.

Topics covered

Understanding care - Care work paid and unpaid was discussed and how women as the predominant group face systemic barriers in terms of pay equity, gender-based pricing. Rural women and access to healthcare.

Self care and living library – women leaders shared their knowledge and wisdom and answered questions.

Advocacy, strategic planning and political activism workshops, emphasizing the important role union women have in the politics of care.

RWC connecting with community organization- each region broke out to hear presentation from community leaders. In Manitoba Momma Bear Clan and Brandon Resource Centre

International Women's Day on March 8 – how far we have come, but not far enough and the fight continues. South of the border discussion of how easy women's rights can be affected and to pay attention to the political parties and what they stand for. Take note of those *that push agendas to promote inequality, weaken labour protections, and take away services or access to childcare, eldercare and healthcare and go out and vote.*

Fundraising activity: Women attending the conference were asked to bring an item for a mystery auction. The WRC prepared and ran the auction raising a total of \$1,175, a motion was passed for the regional office to match the amount. In total \$2,350 was donated to the Mamma bear Clan.

Care and wellness: Heart and stroke. The signs are different for women, often dismissed and missed. Become aware and be your own advocate.

Art and process of making in the form of crafting, offers a powerful avenue for self-expression, stress relief, and mental well-being, fostering creativity, focus, and a sense of accomplishment

9. **Recap of National Women's Forum** - Kristin Bowler and Cristina Esposito attended the PSAC Women's Leadership Forum – March 1-2, 2025, The forum offered a unique opportunity to connect with fellow women leaders and emerging leaders nationwide from across our union. The forum laid the groundwork for a future Women's leadership program. The forum featured panel discussions with union and healthcare leaders, workshops that focused on tangible union leadership skills. There was networking session to help foster connections among current and aspiring leaders which included a feedback session on how to shape leadership program.
10. **Mama Bear Clan** –March 11, 2025 – Executives Teresa Trembly, Kristen Bowler and Cristina Esposito, Along with REVP for the PSAC Prairie Region, Marianne Hladun met at the North Point Douglas Women's Centre. Home for the Mama Bear Clan. This small but mighty group that includes mothers, grandmothers, sisters and aunts that came together in 2016 to address safety concerns by reaching out and fostering relationships to build trust in the community We were welcomed and provided with a tour and an rundown of the services the centre provides: Drop in, support to those healing from intimate partner violence, Sacred Nest parenting, Women's Warrior Circle, Counselling, community oven. We presented a Cheque for \$2035 to The Mama Bear Clan to support in their commitment in promoting safety and reducing violence. They patrol North Douglas and Main Street every Friday and assist in walking people home or to the bus stop. Picking up sharps, calling for emergency services, smudging or just provide simple hug. They also provide basic first aid, hygiene kits, harm reduction kits to people in need.
11. **New Business Arising**

The WRWC was impacted by the strength and drive of the North Point Douglas Women's Centre. The WRC has made a commitment to work together and stay active to support the Mama Bear Clan. It is alignment with the responsibility to

focus on marginalized women from other equality-seeking groups in our communities.

12. Plan to prepare hygiene kits for the Mama Bear Clan.

Call out for volunteers -VP Chair will send out a poll through the Women's committee members WhatsApp group and a meeting date at the Regional Office will be announced at the next meeting.

Marianne Hladun graciously donated toiletries from her travels. Anyone wishing to volunteer can contribute to the donations. Suggestions for ways to package the hygiene products included water bottles, socks, paper bags, Ziplock bags)- Call out for donations - idea to generate donations: solicit your local union or workplace

All items can be dropped off at the regional office

13. Patrol with the Mama Bear Clan more to follow- there will be a call out for volunteers once dates and times are coordinated with the Mama Bear Clan

14. WRWC is looking into participating in the United Way Period Power Campaign - May 2025

The campaign raises awareness around menstrual health and period poverty: a reality many students, workers and community members in Manitoba face. Over 22 % of people that menstruate have to miss work do to lack of hygiene products. Mona Simcoe raised awareness that MB passed legislation for **Access For All. Period.** Free pads and tampons are now available throughout Manitoba as part of the Access for All Period program, led by the Manitoba government. This program is focused on ending period poverty by providing equal access to menstrual products for all. The Manitoba government, in partnership with Shoppers Drug Mart, is providing readily available pads and tampons free to those in need. WRC exec will review this activity as there may not be a need to participate.

15. The WRC would like to present a proposal to obtain funding for Habitat for Humanity Woman's Build (May or June 2025) The goal of Habitat for Humanity Manitoba's Women Build program is to empower women to help families build strength, stability and independence through affordable homeownership. The Execs felt this aligned with the roles and responsibility of the WRC.

Free to participate in a building at the end of April or in May. The cost for a group of 10 is \$3500.00 to participate in a build in June, July and August.

Committee would have to propose a business plan because it was not a budgeted item. Cristina and Kristin commit to volunteer

16. Pride Parade - June 2, 2025 - Tracy

Tracy spoke on the parade

Registrations are through the Human rights committee

17. Next meeting

Next meeting date April 22, 2025 (Virtual)