

ALICIA ZURBA, NORTH-WEST MANITOBA GEOGRAPHICAL REP

REPORT TO THE PRAIRIE REGION COUNCIL

22 – 24 AUGUST 2025

Since the last in-person Prairie Region Council (PRC) meeting held in January 2025, Westman Area Council (WAC) were represented by two delegates at the inaugural PSAC Prairies All Committee Summit held in Calgary over the first weekend of May. Our delegates are excited to bring forth the action items stemming from the Area Council working group, focused on building capacity and engagement within the membership connected to the NW MB geographical region. It was identified at the Summit that many, if not most, Area Councils across the Prairies are in dire need of membership engagement to not only function at a basic level, but to also plan and execute political action activities effectively. Without expanded membership buy-in and meaningful engagement we are leaning heavily on those who have stepped up for years, acting as the “face” of their respective Area Council/geographical region, and who are getting close to burn-out, and frankly bitterness toward the Union, due to carrying the load that comes with these roles without tangible engagement from others. It was agreed across many conversations that the Union cannot continue to operate in the way it always has. The traditional and long-standing activists, those who have been carrying the torches are retiring or leaving due to other priorities and we do not have the next generation ready, or interested enough, to step up. They are not prepared to take those torches, and ensure the fire continues to burn. At the end of the Summit there felt to be a renewed sense of excitement and readiness to work collectively across the Prairies to initiate capacity building activities. Time will tell if the membership is supportive.

Immediately following the Summit a meeting to discuss the revitalization of the Westman Women's Regional Committee was hosted. We were able to secure a full executive and forwarded notice and a request for approval of the initiation of the committee to the National Board of Directors via our Regional Executive Vice-President (REVP). At the time of this report, submitted July 31, 2025, no confirmation has been received regarding the status of this request.

In June WAC members participated in the annual Brandon Pride March and Pride in the Park event. Coming up this fall we're looking forward to once again be supporting the annual Labour Day BBQ hosted by the Brandon & District Labour Council on September 1st and are excited to be sponsoring the Neepawa's Got Pride event on September 14th.

In Solidarity,

Alicia Zurba