

## **KRYSTY THOMAS, ALTERNATE REGIONAL EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT**

### **REPORT TO THE PRAIRIE REGION COUNCIL**

**JANUARY 31, 2025 – FEBRUARY 2, 2025**

Since our last meeting in Saskatoon in September, things have been very busy.

Just before our face-to-face meeting, I organized in Lethbridge's annual Labour Day BBQ on Monday, September 2, at downtown Galt Gardens. This flagship labour event was attended by over 1,000 community members. PSAC supported the event by providing a tent, swag, and bouncy castles for the kids, contributing significantly to its success.

In response to the government's Return to Office mandate, the Lethbridge Area Council organized a "Remote Works!" plant gate event at the Lethbridge Research Centre Picnic Grounds on September 9. We brought in pizza, encouraged attendees to sign placards, and captured photos to document the event. We also provided pre-filled grievance forms and had meaningful conversations with participants about the issue. After Saskatoon, I traveled to Moose Jaw to participate in Changemakers Rising, a five-day intensive course that brought together 60 activists from across the Prairies. During this event, I led several discussions, participated in two rallies—one supporting UNDE members in bargaining and another in solidarity with UFCW 1400 members locked out of Heritage Inn—and engaged in informative panels and strategy sessions. This experience was deeply impactful, fostering networking and relationship-building among participants.

During this reporting period, I completed the Union Leadership Development Program. My work group focused on understanding the value of care work, culminating in a "lunch and learn" presentation for participants of the PSAC Prairies Women's Voices for Health Choices workshop in Edmonton in October. Our session highlighted the importance of care work, featured a facilitated activity to raise awareness about its physical toll, and included calls to action to better value care work. I am excited about this project and look forward to integrating these ideas into my future work within the Union.

The PSAC Prairies Women's Voices for Health Choices event was an excellent platform for Prairie women to discuss health-related issues. During the event, participants brainstormed resolutions and bargaining demands to support women in the Union. A Working Women's Group emerged from these discussions, and I look forward to seeing its initiatives unfold as we approach the Regional Women's Convention in March.

Following our face-to-face meeting in Saskatoon, a Telework Working Group was formed. This group included PRC members and volunteers advocating against the Return to Office mandate introduced in September. Over this reporting period, we held four meetings to establish our mandate, prepare bargaining demands, and brainstorm creative actions to support our locals, workplaces, and communities. However, as the

reporting period progressed, additional challenges—such as pension theft and potential job cuts—arose. Consequently, the group decided to expand its focus in 2025 to address these broader issues. To begin this work, Geo Reps held a call on January 9 to discuss effective strategies as we prepare for federal election planning and the next face-to-face PRC meeting in Edmonton.

There have been changes within the Alberta Federation of Labour (AFL). Karen Kuprys, Secretary-Treasurer, stepped down to join the United Nurses of Alberta, and Cori Longo, former CLC Alberta representative, was elected into the role. The AFL Executive Council and committees met twice during this reporting period, with meetings now following a hybrid format. I attended these sessions via Zoom but aim to participate in person this year. The AFL continues to focus on supporting affiliates in challenging bargaining situations, including those engaged in job action. As part of the Finance Committee, we approved the 2025 budget and began preparations for the AFL Convention, scheduled for April 25–27 in Edmonton. I encourage locals to send delegates to this vital event, as it helps shape the Federation's future and supports Union activists across the labour movement.

Locally, the Lethbridge Area Council demonstrated solidarity with the Canadian Union of Postal Workers on their strike line, delivering a pizza lunch on a particularly cold day. In December, the Area Council also supported the Lethbridge Soup Kitchen and the Sage Clan by donating food and socks. In conjunction with the Lethbridge Labour Council, members of the Area Council help to organize the Canadian Labour International Film Festival (CLiFF). This film festival tells the stories of workers – unionised and non-unionised. CLiFF is the stage and the voice of those who seek justice on the job and dignity in their workplace.

Should you have any questions about my report, please contact me directly at [thomask@psac-afpc.com](mailto:thomask@psac-afpc.com) or phone 403.393.2688.

### **Activities:**

Aug 28: Agriculture Union National Human Rights Committee – via Zoom  
Aug 30: Lethbridge Labour History Walking tour with Lethbridge Historical Society  
Sept 2: Lethbridge Labour Day BBQ  
Sept 9: “Remote Works!” – return to office mandate action, Lethbridge AB  
Sept 11: Lethbridge and District Labour Council – General Meeting  
Sept 13-15: PRC Face-to-Face meeting, Saskatoon, SK  
Sept 16-20: Changemakers Rising, Moose Jaw, SK  
Sept 24: All Area Council/Geo Rep Call – via Zoom  
Sept 25-26: Alberta Federation of Labour Executive Council and Committee Meetings – via Zoom  
Sept 25: Alberta Federation of Labour Finance Committee – via Zoom  
Oct 2: Official PRC Conference call – via Zoom  
Oct 9: Lethbridge and District Labour Council – Annual General Meeting  
Oct 16-19: PSAC Prairies Women's Voices for Health Choices, Edmonton AB

Oct 21: Agriculture Union Local 30048 – General Meeting  
 Oct 23: Telework Working Group #1 – via Zoom  
 Oct 24: Lethbridge Regional Women's Committee Meeting #4 – via Zoom  
 Oct 28: Special Alberta Federation of Labour Executive Council meeting – via Zoom  
 Nov 4: Alberta Federation of Labour Constitution & Bylaw Committee, via Zoom  
 Nov 7: Telework Working Group Meeting #2 – via Zoom  
 Nov 8-10: Agriculture Union Alberta Regional Seminar, Red Deer AB  
 Nov 14: Official PRC Call - via Zoom  
 Nov 20: ULDP Webinar–“Strong Leaders, Strong Union: “A Community Conversation” via Zoom  
 Nov 21: All Committee Townhall – via Zoom  
 Nov 21: Telework Working Group #3 – via Zoom  
 Nov 25: Agriculture Union Local 30048 – Annual General Meeting  
 Nov 28: CUPW Strike line support – Lethbridge AB  
 Nov 28: Canadian Labour International Film Festival – Lethbridge AB  
 Dec 1-6: ULDP Final Step and Graduation, Edmonton AB  
 Dec 2: Alberta Federation of Labour Finance Committee – via Zoom  
 Dec 4: Telework Working Group #4 – via Zoom  
 Dec 4: CUPW Strike line support – Edmonton AB  
 Dec 9-12: Agriculture Union National Human Rights Committee, Ottawa ON  
 Dec 10: ULDP Webinar: Navigating the Workplace: Challenges and Triumphs of the Trans Community” - via Zoom  
 Dec 11-12: Alberta Federation of Labour Executive Council and Committee Meetings – (hybrid) via Zoom  
 Jan 8: Lethbridge and District Labour Council – General Meeting  
 Jan 9: Geo Reps – Political Action Call – via zoom