

May 15, 2025 Edmonton and Area Human Rights Committee Hybrid Meeting. 530PM-630PM

Attendance

Charmaine Nelson- Chair

Joel Hildebrand – Co-chair

Jen Beattie – Secretary

Tim Hubick – Prairies ORC Rep for Members with Disabilities

Nicole Frandsen – UTE 30025

Jeff Wong – UCTE 30314

Deana Fields- UNDE 30905

Meeting called to order at 5:31PM

Lank Acknowledgement – Charmaine

Antiharassment statement – Joel

The committee discussed the Annual sweat lodge planned for Sept 30, 2025.

Kim described the dress protocol for entering the sweat. The Cost for Traditional feast would be 150.00 provided by Heather Poitras, an Indigenous knowledge keeper in Edmonton. Darcy Wolfspirit to conduct the sweat ceremony. He conducted the ceremony the year before. Sweat to take place at 1PM at Little Cooking Lake, Alberta.

Joel made a motion for the committee to order 100 orange shirts for TRC event. 2nd by Jen , and motion carried unanimously.

Joel- Co-Chair Report

Joel presented a reading program called “ Human Rights Metis Nation of Alberta Young Readers Programme.” And introduced the meeting attendees to books he recommends: “We are the Water Warriors”

“If I Could Hold Your Heart”

They then presented on the Accessibility Canada Act and Accessibility Duty to Accommodate in the workplace. They spoke about DTA’s being not just for physical disabilities but also include Environmental disabilities- Communication and Service

Design of offices, including procurement and ergonomics. They also touched on psychological injuries requiring accommodations. They spoke about if a member is obstructed from trying to create a barrier free workplace, one can engage in the grievance process and the Human Rights Complaint process. Consultation is required when endeavoring to update buildings to current required specifications for access etc.

Report from Tim Hubik – PRC Council Rep for Members with Disabilities

Tim introduced himself and explained his role on PSAC Prairies Region Council.

He mentioned that the “Return to Work in the office/RTW” issue is not part of the Regional PRC portfolio.

He posed a question to attending participants: “ What kind of communication would you like to see from the PRC?” and a discussion followed.

Tim Mentioned possibility of creating Mental Health Committees, and collecting regional success stories to present in quarterly newsletters.

Tim touched on barriers to attending committee meetings. Childcare onsite during in person meetings, having meetings at various times and alternating days for more reach/accessibility. Possibility of including an accommodation needs section in committee meeting registration forms.

New Business

September 30th is National Truth and Reconciliation Day in Canada.

The committee will create a list with links to various TRC events happening throughout Edmonton and Area, for distribution to members.

October 4th – Sisters in Spirit walk in Edmonton

Boyle Street Round Dance – Edmonton

Healing Medicine – Sept 27/28, 2025, at the Edmonton Aviation Museum

Metro Cinema featuring TRC films

Committee came up with the idea of showing how members participate in TRC events by submitting photos. These could be sent to communications to PRC.

Nicole mentioned a petition in Alberta to recognize Sept 30th Truth and Reconciliation Day as a Statutory Holiday in Alberta. She provided the link for viewing/signing/sharing.

The committee discussed some general ideas about having a Diwali Celebration with members. More discourse to occur and possibly plan.

The committee discussed holding a movie night for “The History of Human Rights” at the PSAC Office, pending the approval of our 2024 Year end Package/Budget approval.

Round table: no one had anything to add.

Next meeting: TBD

Meeting adjourned at 6:32PM