

WESTMAN AND AREA REGIONAL WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

October 2, 2025

MEETING MINUTES

In Attendance: Alicia Zurba CEIU 50754

Gelina Alton UNDE 50704

Jen Chelkowski UNDE 50704 (V)

Leifa Misko UNE 50140 (V)

Hannah Morris USJE 50057 (V)

Tracy Thor, PSAC Staff (V)

Tracy Thor left at 5:58 pm after sharing host link with Alicia.

Alicia Zurba, Chair of the meeting, called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

Alicia made a Land Acknowledgement, and hoped we are able to partake in a Truth and Reconciliation activity, were able to have own reflection, etc. Alicia reviewed the harassment statement.

Hannah Morris agreed to be the Harassment Coordinator.

Meeting minutes from Sept. 9th, Tracy has linked and posted on the website.

Motion: Adoption of previous Meeting Minutes: Meeting minutes from Sept 9th, 2025 were accepted as presented. Motion to accept by Jenifer Chelkowski, seconded by Gelina Alton.

Bank Account: Gelina Alton reported the account is up and running. Gelina has received a card access code which enables online banking access so we are active and can accept money. Gelina provided the \$5.00 membership fee required by Westoba Credit Union to open the account. Marianne Hladun has confirmed Gelina can be reimbursed for this charge. Once funds have been deposited into the account she will be reimbursed. Cheques need to be ordered. There is a 0.50/cheque charge when writing a cheque. No other banking information to report yet.

2025 Budget Allocation: Discussion regarding upcoming events. There was discussion around the possibility of expanding our reach beyond Brandon.

Calendar Budget:

- Reviewed dropping the food budget. Discussed the possibility of have a Christmas gathering where we could all come together to meet and have fellowship along with

a meeting. Committee is required to have 4 meetings/year, but because started so late, should be ok. Decided to leave the food budget for this year at \$120.00, in case can arrange a gathering in December.

- Reviewed the banking fees – \$0.50/cheque, bank statements - \$2.00/mth; the statements are mailed by the bank straight to Regional Office, cheque printing fee – not sure of the cost. Decided to put the bank fees at \$100.00 to be safe as not sure of the cheque printing fee.
- Reviewed the two events with a cost: Call Out Challenge and Strength in Me events. The cost will be \$500 per event.

Total Budget: \$500.00 x 2, \$100.00, \$120.00 = \$1,220.00

Motion: Gelina Alton to forward the budget of \$1,220.00 to the Regional Office for approval.

Moved: Gelina Alton Seconded: Hannah Morris

Upcoming Events: See Previous Minutes

Take Back The Night! October 9, 2025 at 6:00 pm. Princess Park. The event is a gathering with some speeches, leaves Princess Park and march to Brandon University. Please let Alicia know if can attend. She has a couple PSAC flags, and if we have component flags, please bring them.

Strength In Me Conference hosted by YMCA. November 14, 2025. The event is for youth ages 10-13 years of age. There is a sponsorship event where we could go serve bagged lunches for kids and possibly donate \$500 to their cause. There are also 4 breakout sessions where each child chooses 2 sessions in the morning and 2 sessions in the afternoon. Volunteers are also needed to escort the children between sessions. Need at least three volunteers to help hand out lunches. Would have to volunteer the time as do not have ability to hand out Union Leave letters so understand that anybody outside of Brandon might have a difficult time.

Call-out Challenge to all locals in the Westman Area: Discussion around the idea to donate hygiene items (ex. Shampoo, Conditioner, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, underwear, socks, gloves) going into the winter months to. Locals would gather items, weigh them, make the donation of the items to their identified location, and a \$ donation per pound would be donated by the Westman and Area Regional Women's Committee to the United Way or other Women's organizations within their local areas. The maximum total budget would be \$500.00, with a consideration of \$100.00 per local maximum. Discussion around the enormity of some of our locals (from north to USA border, from SK/MB border to Portage la Prairie), and how to divide up funds in those communities. Agreed that locals within Brandon, the Westman and Area Regional Women's donation could go to the Brandon Women's Center, while outside either to the Women's Center in Brandon or United Way to be used towards focused women supports in those communities. Agreed to donate \$1.00/lb of product collected.

Need a catch phrase for the event so posters could be made. Hannah suggested the title could be “Tip the Scales”. If anyone has any other suggestions, suggest via WhatsApp.

Timeline: After discussion, it was agreed to run the event from Nov 1 to Dec 1, 2025, with the donation given a week later. If our budget is not approved in time, the alternate event dates would be Nov 15 – Dec 15, 2025, with the donation before Christmas.

NEW EVENT: Women’s Resource Center 50/50 at the Apple and Pine Craft Show in Brandon November 15 – 16th, 2025.

Alica reported that the co-chair of the show stated that the Women’s Resource Center has no volunteers to work this event. Usually, event attendees have to go to the registration desk out front if they want to buy a 50/50 ticket. Asking if our group would be willing to work a few hours at the event, walking around, selling 50/50 tickets. Alicia has “PSAC in community” t-shirts that could be worn. It is an opportunity for exposure. Both days, one day, afternoons only, whatever is decided by the volunteers could be accommodated. Gelina agreed to reach out to the Women’s Resource Center to make sure they are comfortable with the committee supporting this drive. Committee agreed to reach out to our locals to see if there are people who are not at tonight’s meeting to see if there are people willing to go to the craft show and help out. Maybe able to get more women interested in the committee this way also. Will determine shifts/days when the number of volunteers is known.

Terms of Reference Alicia committed to going through the document, review, update and send to Leifa to attach to the meeting minutes or send it directly to Marrienne Hladun. Alicia would find out what should be done.

Individual Reports:

Gelina attended the Building Solidarity with Indigenous Communities, along with Hannah. Highly recommend. It is heavy. Thought knew more, but learned only knew a fraction. Recommends to anyone who wants to expand their learning.

Hannah also said it was a very good workshop. Have more ideas of reconciliation action and ways to work with the communities; do not assume know direction should travel, have to ask and be willing to follow their lead.

Alicia attended the PRC Women’s Committee townhall. The ask: Sherry Hunt, Regional Women’s Rep, asked each Women’s committee explore the possibility of having a member become a representative on Child Care Now to attend their meetings and report back, with PSAC support. Questions: Is there a membership opportunity for us? What is the meeting

commitment? Recommendation: Table it for the next meeting so some research on what is actually happening in Manitoba. Leifa agreed to research Child Care Now and bring a report for next meeting for consideration for late October or November.

Leifa also attended the PRC women's townhall and reported on the "Activist Map" that Krysty Thomas, PRC Alt REVP spoke about. Alicia said she would send a link that we could add ourselves to the map if we wished.

Jen no report at this time.

Future Meeting Date: none set

Adjorn: 7:08 pm