

WESTMAN AND AREA REGIONAL WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

September 9, 2026

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Type: Hybrid

In person

Alicia Zurba CEIU 50754

Gelina Alton UNDE 50704

Jen Chelkowski UNDE 50704

Leifa Misko UNE 50140

Hannah Morris USJE 50057

Stella Akomolafe USJE 50057

Loni Powell, AAFC Brandon local 50055

Tracy Thor, PSAC Staff

Alicia Zurba, Chair of the meeting, called the meeting to order at 4:39 pm.

Alicia made a Land Acknowledgement, acknowledging the land we were on, learn and respect in a meaningful way all the treaties in this province and country that we are working and playing in.

Tracy Thor agreed to be the Harassment Intervener.

Adoption of Agenda – no changes

Motion: Move to accept the agenda: Hannah Morris, seconded by Stella Akomolafe. Passed unanimously.

Meeting minutes from February 17, 2026 reviewed. No questions

Motion: Meeting minutes from February 17, 2026 be adopted as presented. Motion to accept by Leifa Misko, seconded by Hannah Morris. Passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: No report at this time. Cannot access the website at this time. Scheduled to receive \$1,450.00 from PSAC for funding for 2026 projects. They did not approve all of our budget requests.

Reviewed budget request and the accompanying feedback from PSAC:

Can only spend \$90/meeting on food and cannot combine expenses; need to seek approval beforehand – Christmas supper for members was over the \$90 allowance

Administrative Expenses of \$100 was not approved. This was to be used for bank fees; maybe on future budget application need to state bank fees.

Approved \$750 for Together We Thrive Drive: this was earmarked for earlier in the year, however we did not receive the funds until late summer. Discussion to keep the title, but the activity may change; will be an evergreen activity, as needs in community arises.

Take Back the Night: no cash cost, just attendance required

Approved \$500 for the YWCA Strength In Me conference: lunch sponsorship; for age 9–14-year-olds; hosted at BU campus Nov 27th; attend the event and hand out lunches however no loss of salary, need to use personal leave and an updated vulnerable sector check, which the Westman Women's Committee will pay for; we will also have some items to put in the care package given to the children – color changing pencils, stickers, tattoos, colouring pages, chalk crayons

Not approved: \$3,000 for the United Holiday Tree Event; Westman Area Council is already involved and can only have one committee per event; we wanted to sponsor more than one family but will have to explore other options

We can explore other events within the communities as we expand our membership. If we do not spend the money in 2026 it will sit there until 2027. Discussion if there were any other ideas that the committee could consider participating in.

Together We Thrive ideas: Christmas hamper or Food Bank Donation Drives – it was felt that both these drives would be an overload to members around Christmas as they can be involved with the same type of drive with another organization at the same time. Discussion around supporting the Friendship Center Free Tutoring Program or After School Program: different programs that support parents, what would be needed. Discussion around what the Women's Center may need. Suggestion that we combine Together We Thrive with Take Back the Night to get more people to attend – for every PSAC woman who attends the Take Back the Night and connects with the Women's Committee, we would give \$50.00/person to the Women's Resource Center, capped at \$500. Meeting in the parking lot at 5:30 with snacks, hot chocolate, on Take Back the Night night, 6:00 greetings from the organizers and then participate in the walk. It will be a recruitment for the RWC and donation to the Women's Center.

Round table: Gelina has accepted a new job with a Crown Corp, so is no longer a unionized member; needs to step away on Sept 26th; discussion on holding a quick election for a treasurer at the Oct meeting. Hannah discussed the Prairie Regional Convention Women's Caucus not allowing observers. Needed to attend 2 regional women's meetings within the last 3 years, with at least 1 within the last year. Need to identify what we would like to see changed, come up with a plan, how we want to approach it and hold our women's PRC rep accountable. Need to explore how to get it passed; does it have to go to convention?

Upcoming Events: Take Back the Night – Date to be announced, Strength In Me – Nov 27th

Next Meeting Date: Oct: night of the Take Back the Night walk

Adjourn: 6:15 pm