

PSAC North Regional Council meeting minutes  
September 18, 2018, 5:30pm MDT



**In attendance:**

**Regional Council members**

Jack Bourassa, Regional Executive Vice President, PSAC North  
Elwood Chan, Alternate REVP, PSAC North  
Steve Geick, President, Yukon Employees Union  
Gayla Thunstrom, First Vice President, Union of Northern Workers  
Geoff Ryan, Nunavut Territorial Director  
Linda Moen, President, Yukon Area Council  
Samantha Cosentino, President, Northwest Territories Area Council  
Lisa Kirk, President, Nunavut Area Council  
Gerard Tremblay, Chair, Yukon Access Committee  
Bruce Gudeit, Chair, Northwest Territories Access Committee  
Roberta Wurtak, Chair, Yukon Pride Committee  
Teresa Acheson, Chair, Whitehorse Women's Committee  
Geraldine Penney, Chair, Northwest Territories Women's Committee  
Derek Yap, Chair, Yukon Racially Visible Committee  
Hoa Do, Chair, Northwest Territories Racially Visible Committee  
Dianne Williams, Chair, Yukon Health and Safety Committee

**Regrets:**

Susan Avery, Chair, Nunavut Women's Committee  
Jackie Siegel, Chair, Northwest Territories Pride Committee  
Todd Parsons, President, Union of Northern Workers

**Staff:**

Holmann Richard, PSAC North Regional Coordinator  
Yusur Al-Bahrani, Political Communications Officer  
Theresa Baird, Assistant to the REVP North

1. **Call to order** at 5:35pm.
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Adoption of agenda** – approved as presented with revision from REVP Jack Bourassa as follows:
  - #9 will now read 'Open Discussion' if we have time for anything additional that needs to be discussed.
    - Geoff would like to add a discussion on Municipal Elections to the Open Discussion #9.
4. **Adoption of previous meeting minutes** – Moved by Samantha, seconded by Bruce.
  - April 18, 2018 – approved as presented.
5. **Activity Reports and Finance Report**  
*\*Elwood Chan assumed Chair for the REVP North Report\**

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***Report of the REVP North***

Moved by Jack Bourassa.

Seconded by Steve.

- Update from Jack
  - The Here for Canada campaign will go public on Monday, in support of federal workers and the ongoing Phoenix problems.
  - The PSAC north union school is next week, it is the first one that is this comprehensive and the first in 9 years. To plan for the next union school, the Standing Education Committee will meet in November. Funds for this are available once for every 3-year budget cycle, so in the latter part of 2021 we can have another school.
    - Gayla – Question – for members that have dropped out, what happened to their seats?
    - Jack - as some people dropped out we filled their seats with other people from their region.
    - Gayla – we are not aware who those new people are, and we would like to know. I did try to speak to someone in the PSAC RO.
    - Jack – I do have the list and can provide it.
  - Dianne – I’m looking at all the travel you’ve been doing, thanks for working very hard for us and taking the PSAC President around the Yukon for us.

Carried.

*\*Jack Bourassa resumed Chair for the duration of the meeting\**

***Report of the YEU President***

Moved by Steve Geick.

Seconded by Bruce.

Carried.

***Report of the UNW President***

Moved by Gayla Thunstrom.

Seconded by Samantha.

Carried.

***Report of the NWT Area Council President***

Moved by Samantha Cosentino.

Seconded by Bruce.

Carried.

***Report of the Yukon Health & Safety Committee Chair***

Moved by Dianne Williams.

Seconded by Steve.

- Update from Dianne
  - With Cannabis legislation coming in, PSAC does not have any education programs yet, PSAC does not approve for non-PSAC education to be paid for by PSAC. Hopefully PSAC doesn’t wait too long to get education for us for it to be subsidized.

Carried.

***Report of the Whitehorse Women’s Committee Chair***

Moved by Teresa Acheson.

Seconded by Dianne.

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- Update from Teresa
  - The first part of the year started out with lots of involvement but as we got into the summer we really dropped off, one person stepped down, we are looking for a secretary, we will be looking for new people in the Yukon, it says Whitehorse but it really is the Yukon, if anyone knows anyone who is interested please send them my way.

Carried.

***Report of the NWT Women's Committee Chair***

Moved by Geraldine Penney.

Seconded by Teresa.

Carried.

***Report of the NWT Access Committee Chair***

Moved by Bruce Gudeit.

Seconded by Samantha.

- Update from Bruce
  - Just to add update on the person we were helping at the hospital, they have moved into special care with the government, so we are backing away from that now as they are safe and healthy. We are about to take on the GNWT to bring dialysis back to the community of Fort Smith, my father in law must stay in Yellowknife to stay on dialysis. We recently had a person in Smith on dialysis who passed away, when you are in that condition travel is an extra tax on the body. Our support for this is outrageous, everyone is supporting this, we are going to get this done.

Carried.

***Report of the Yukon Youth Committee Chair***

Chair not in attendance – Report is deferred to the next meeting.

***Report of the Nunavut Area Council President***

Verbal Report

- The Nunavut Area Council has been reaching out to the Women's Shelter alongside with the Regional Women's Committee in Iqaluit. As a part of the National Women's Day, NAC sponsored money for Women's Shelter in Apex. Sue Avery and I (Chair-RWC) delivered bags filled with much needed items such as shampoos, conditioners, soaps and many other personal items and some chocolate treats as well. Would also like to thank the Royal Purple for donating \$1000 toward the Women's Day project, and all who came out to help fill these bags!
- In April we delivered fishing rods and taxi vouchers to the Women's shelter with RWC President Sue Avery and Lili Weemenn NAC Secretary. The ladies at the shelter were very excited and appreciated these items very much!!
- On April 28, I had the honour to Emcee the Northern Territories Federation of Labour National Day of Mourning Ceremony in Iqaluit. There were a few speakers, *Councilor Simon Nattaq to present this year's proclamation on behalf of City of Iqaluit. Also, Minister Responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, David Akeegok to address us on behalf of the WSCC. In addition, Janet Brewster, Nunavut Worker Representative to say a few words on behalf of the WSCC Governance Council.*
- Nunavut Day July 9<sup>th</sup>, I, Jason Rochon and Sue Avery set a NAC table up at the Nunavut Day Celebrations handing out pins and collecting signatures for the Red Dress Campaign. We handed out chips, juice boxes and bubbles. It was a great turnout!
- Challenges we face is volunteers, but we did manage, would have been better if there was more participation.

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- Future events - Labour day BBQ, to be held at Cadet Hall. Hotdogs, chips, juice boxes and coffee. Sisters in Action Vigil for October 4. Registration has been sent in and awaiting the kit from the Organizers of Sisters in Action. Flyers to go out soon.

Moved by Lisa Kirk.

Carried.

*Report of the Yukon Pride Committee Chair*

Verbal Report

- Chase Blodgett resigned from the position of Chair and I was appointed into the Chair position at the July 31, 2018 meeting.
- We are working on member engagement and have been looking into doing a dinner movie and dance night in September or October and also looking into a drag show in the new year while teaming up with other pride organizations; we could raise some money for the youth here.
- We would like to get more people actively involved, we hope to have an AGM and if I am reelected as chair I will keep moving on these plans.

Moved by Roberta Wurtak.

Carried.

*Report of the Standing Finance Committee Chair*

Moved by Elwood Chan.

Seconded by Geraldine.

Carried.

6. **Topics Update – Team Lead**

- I. **Economic Insecurity** – Teresa – No further update, I haven't had any input from anyone on what I sent out. If I can get some support from Yusr on putting out a survey that would be helpful, I will resend the information and hope to get a response this time.
  
- II. **Building Capacity** – Jack – We have made some progress including:
  - We have 3ftx7ft pop-up posters being made for each territory; we already have NWT done and are waiting to get some good quality photos from the Yukon and Nunavut, we'd like to get some younger members maybe in the photos to get more involvement from youth. These posters will be used for events we are having such as tradeshows or Labour Day BBQ's.
  - We are working on the PSAC North website: posting upcoming activities that committees are doing along with more information on the committees.
  - Community of the month, we pick a community from all territories and highlight information about that community so members can learn more about the regions in which we work; along with a draw / contest that would encourage people to find information on the site by posing a question and when they answer they could win a prize, hat, or something.
  - We are also now posting approved minutes of the Regional Council meetings on the PSAC North website. Elected persons' names on the committees', chairs and presidents can be posted, members can then see what is being discussed at the meetings and this may generate extra ideas and involvement for members.
  - I created a closed Facebook group for this team, so we can share ideas there first, and from there I bring it to Regional Council.

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- Teresa – the link I got for the FB group didn't work for me, Jack will resend to Teresa.
  - I sent out the orientation toolkit to get some feedback from council. The toolkit is intended for new members to give them some information about the PSAC and the Regional Council, committees, and the different components of the PSAC in the north. Hopefully we can get this finalized by the May meeting. This will be accessible online by downloadable PDF and in the office to pick up.
  - Discussion on the toolkit and how new members would get the orientation toolkit:
    - It would be distributed in a variety of ways including by the employer, by the local, it could be mailed out in the new employee package, it could be emailed to all new members, and it would be downloadable from the PSAC North website.
    - Gayla – I really like it but I think the components will have to take it and add their own information to it in order to be able to take it to members; information would include the contact information for each component as information changes constantly due to executives changing.
    - Bruce – orientation has been an issue for years for example bargaining for the Fort Smith collective agreement is starting up now, and what I put in was for a paid hour for orientation for union information for members.
    - Hoa – the contact information is really important, so people know who to contact.
    - Jack – Information from the component presidents needs to be in the document, I'm looking for this information to be included in the packages, including the federal members and who they should contact.
    - Gayla – a lot of times our members don't understand that they are part of the PSAC, I think that it's really important when you are giving this out that there is some kind of structure, like that PSAC is the mother union and that UNW and the other components are below that; they need to understand that the components are all under the same branch but that we are different components.
    - Gerard – it's good to have a flow chart, when you have a good visual aid it is easy to understand.
    - Jack – asked council members to look at the document and send in any suggestions and comments to Yusur.
- III. **Healthy Workplaces** – Derek – We are looking at the respectful workplace issue; employers need to take this seriously.
- IV. **Job Security and Stability** – Bruce – We really haven't had any further progress, communications seem to be the problem, having no internet access at my home or work is really limiting, but next week we will all be in Whitehorse, so I hope we can all get together for a working lunch meeting.
- V. **Childcare** – Samantha – I set up a Facebook closed group for us as well it makes things so much easier. Lisa was going to reach out to get a petition copy from national for the campaign but was not able to get a copy of the National Childcare Campaign petition. I was not able to find a PDF online for that. Marija Babic gave us some printed copies for the Labour Day BBQ and Geraldine may have a copy. Geraldine will follow up with Lisa.
- VI. **Bargaining** – Todd - Deferred

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VII. **Food Insecurity** – Carrie - Deferred

VIII. **Reducing Services** – Geoff – nothing to report.

7. **Old Business**

I. Adoption of the Mission, Vision, and Core Values Statement – Teresa

Moved by Teresa.

Seconded by Samantha.

Opposed by Bruce Gudeit

Carried.

II. Resolution Updates – Jack

G9 stated that the mid-term report would be provided to the Area Council Executive, I now also include the Regional Council on this report as follows, and this is now complete.

G1 completed.

G6 completed.

G8 was put to the AEC, to do a research paper on the territories, President Chris Aylward will be doing a paper on this, which should have gone to National.

G10 has now become a Living Wage Campaign which is now an ongoing petition and will be introduced to the houses after the December holidays.

8. **Regional Office Update** – Holmann

- Evert Ryland is the successful candidate for the Regional Representative-Health and Safety position, he started on September 4, 2018.
- Martin Rioux is the successful candidate for the Regional Negotiator-North position, he will be starting on September 24, 2018.
- Interviews for the term Regional Representative positions for Whitehorse and Iqaluit are in progress.

9. **Open Discussion**

- Municipal Elections
  - Geoff – Will we publish any questions in newspapers for candidates or take an official stand on issues as a Regional Council? In particular there is one individual who is running in Whitehorse who has said the first thing he would do is contract out all the snow removal, so if there is any appetite for that I would take this on. Also, in Watson Lake – they are talking about shutting down the recreation centre to save funds.
  - Jack – Alternatives North will be holding a meeting / forum for Yellowknife elections, to ask specific questions to candidates. I'm also a member so once I find out what questions they are going to ask I could send to Geoff.
  - Teresa – we can look at the 7 priorities of the Regional Council and we can draw questions from those.
- Union School
  - Dianne – for Union School training, is there any opportunity for people who aren't attending the school to attend a meet and greet to try to get some more people out to committees?
  - Holmann – We are just finalizing the schedule and there will be an email send to the Yukon committees to invite members to attend events on Wednesday and Thursday nights.

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- Teresa - for the survey that I had sent out, if I resend what I sent back in March is there a way to get this out next week for the union school to get some feedback? I will resend the information.
  - Topic Updates
    - Dianne – are the Topic groups something that will go on forever? What is the plan?
    - Jack – the Topic groups came from the January Regional Council Face-to-Face workshop and were identified as the 7 priority topics for the Regional Council to work on; the idea was to investigate the issues within your groups and bring back suggestions or proposals to the council to discuss and move forward with putting money towards or pass motions on getting things done as Action Items. It will end at the next Face-to-Face meeting where we will have another strategy session to determine what priorities are at that point.
10. **Upcoming Meeting Dates** – the following dates were selected in following our bylaws which mandate that our meetings occur one month prior to NBoD meetings.
- January 22, 2019 @ 4:30pm PDT, 5:30pm MDT, 7:30pm EDT
  - May 14, 2019 @ 4:30pm PDT, 5:30pm MDT, 7:30pm EDT
  - September 17, 2019 @ 4:30pm PDT, 5:30pm MDT, 7:30pm EDT
11. **Adjournment** – Motion – Gayla, 6:44pm