

**REPORT OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
ATLANTIC REGIONAL COUNCIL
MAY 6, 2015**

In attendance: Chris Di Liberatore, Chris Lansdell, Mike LeBlanc, Bill Bennett, Shanny Doucet, Jody LaPierre (Chair), Regional Executive Vice-President Jeannie Baldwin

Staff: Lesley Thompson, REO

Regrets: Stephanie Jones

1. Review of Education Statistics

The REO circulated the last the two reports on Education provided to the National Board of Directors. They give a global view of provincial basic course offerings and participation rates during the fall of 2014 and winter of 2015. Overall, the reports show a robust education program with good rates of participation.

Regional Representatives responsible for Basic Education Programming are currently putting together Fall Education Schedules. They will be consulting with members of the Education Committee of Council once tentative schedules are established.

The provincial distribution of funds for basic programming is earmarked as something to contemplate as the committee begins thinking about Education priorities for the next regional plan. The committee will also discuss the method of course delivery as something to be explored. Some formats that could be explored are provincially based schools with concurrent basic and advanced courses and short webinar-based training.

Jody expressed that when courses are canceled in PEI, in particular, we must consider many contributing factors like the demographic of members, their previous training. And when putting schedules together, it is important to be mindful of other union activities, including Atlantic Council meetings.

2. Atlantic School

General Update

The REO gave a brief update on the number of applications received and the number of participants selected for the Atlantic School. We received 86 applications and 63 participants were selected.

The Atlantic School invited applications based on a school that would fill four classes, three in English and one in French. Typically, the school only offers three courses. Because of the cancellation of the 2013 School, we had budgeted for a larger school than usual with some 90 participants.

Unfortunately, we didn't receive enough applicants for the French offering of the Worker Educator Training. We remain committed to offering this training in French, but will have to do so in the fall in New Brunswick. Applicants throughout the region will be invited to apply. Committee members asked that participation in the 2015 school be considered when making the selections.

The Chair asked for a budget outlining the cost of the school. The REO committed to providing the actual spending on the school in June conference call and a full budget update.

Facilitators and course content

Committee members received an overview of each course's objectives. The course titles and the facilitators are as follows:

Organizing for a Fair Contract and Union Renewal: Anna Goguen and Sean Glavine

Fighting to Win in 2015 and Beyond: Mark Rogers and Corina Harding

Worker Educator Training: Mary MacNeil and Nancy MacLean.

Agenda walk thru

The committee walked through the School agenda and some final decisions were made with regards to entertainment. The committee opted not to have a dj or karaoke.

Roles of Council members

The committee will ask Rhonda Doyle-LeBlanc to join Mike LeBlanc in being School emcees. The REO will assist them

Tables and displays

The Halifax Area Council will have a display at the school. The RWC will hold a raffle to funds for Chrysalis House, a transition house whose workers PSAC represents. The REVPs office will also have a regular video booth for members who want to send messages support to their bargaining team. The Young Workers' survey will also be available for participants to take throughout the school. Jeannie raised the possibility of doing a 50/50 draw in support of Betty Bannon's campaign.

Review of the School

A full review of the 2015 school and of the value of the school generally will be conducted in June. To cover all bases, Lesley will look into dates for a possible 2016 Atlantic School at St. FX.

3. Update on Union Development Program

The REO announced that the 2016 English East UDP will be hosted by the Atlantic Region.

4. Update on summer and fall course programming

A one-day election training course will be delivered in each of the targeted ridings this summer.

A new course called *Violence Prevention in the Workplace: Part 20 under the Canadian Occupational Health and Safety Regulations* will be offered in each province this fall. The funds will be provided nationally.

5. Developing the next Regional Education Plan

Jeannie notified the committee that there is money in the Atlantic Council budget to bring the Education Committee together for a day and a half to start work on the next three year plan. The committee will discuss dates on our next conference call.