

Report of the Atlantic Council Women's Committee

February 18, 2016

Present:

Angela Decker, Rhonda Doyle LeBlanc, Colleen Hodder, Shanny Doucet, Debi Buell, Allyson Garrison

Staff Advisor: Mary MacNeil

Guest: Corina Harding, PSAC Representative St. John's

Rhonda assumed the role of chair for the meeting. Corina Harding, PSAC representative from St. John's, NL was welcomed.

Atlantic Women's Conference update

The Atlantic Women's Conference will be held June 3-5 at St FX, in Antigonish. A Domestic Violence forum took place in December of 2016. A domestic violence workshop is being developed and will be a big part of Women's Conference.

Robyn Benson, Maria Fitzpatrick, MLA, is two of the suggested speakers. A panel will be organized as well. Andree cote will be invited to facilitate the workshop on domestic violence. We are hoping to have the "Park Bench Players" provide entertainment on Saturday night. A discussion followed on our theme. Suggestions were provided.

We are hoping to have 100-120 participants with a budget of \$96,652.

Domestic Violence Forum

An update was provided on the forum that was held in Ottawa December 10-13, 2015.

Child Care

PSAC is still actively involved with CLC and the Child Care Advocacy Association to promote an affordable non profit child care program. We need to continue to lobby our governments.

Regional Women's Committees (RWC):

Regional women's committees continue to serve an important role of educating women activists, increasing participation of women activists and leaders and working on the important issues that matter. Some of the Women's Committees are struggling. Ideas

were shared on encouraging sisters to be involved. Updates were provided on activities of current RWC's.

International Women's Day

Updates were provided on RWC activities for this year's IWD. Colleen provided info on the IWD at base in Greenwood. Rhonda provided an update on the Halifax RWC and their involvement in the IWD all day women's conference event at the Holiday Inn in Dartmouth on March 8 with workshops, and guest speakers.

Angela provided details on the St John's RWC event. Sister Robyn Benson will be keynote speaker. A luncheon will be provided by the Rocky Harbour RWC will also be hosting a lunch time event with Sister Robyn in attendance on March 9th. Gander RWC will be joining forces with Gander Women's Resource Centre and hosting a breakfast. The Labrador RWC will host an event as well at the Native Friendship Centre. Allyson provided information on the St John's CRA Component IWD event.

Debi informed the committee that the Charlottetown RWC will partner with Status of Women to host the event. Syrian refugees will be invited this year. A PSAC table will be set up in Summerside & Charlottetown.

Shanny provided details on the Moncton event.

Atlantic Chairs Forum

Angela gave a brief report on the Atlantic Chairs forum that was held in Halifax on January 29-30. The Political Action Committee of Council along with Chairpersons of the Atlantic Regional Committees (Human Rights, RWC's & Area Councils) met in Halifax for two days to review goals & objectives of committees, committee structures, committee bylaw reviews, budgets, and a lobbying training workshop.

CLC Rise up Conference

The CLC Equity Conference will be held in Ottawa October 20-23, 2016. Equity Representatives on Regional Council & Women Directors attended last time. Angela informed Committee that the REVP has advised her that it will be cost shared with National Office & the Regions.

CLC Women's School

In 2017, an Atlantic week long Women's school will be held at St Fx.

Roundtable

Sisters were given an opportunity to add anything in round table.

Other important dates:

Atlantic Health & Safety Conference – April 22-24, 2016 in Halifax

Atlantic School – May 11 to 15, 2016

Atlantic Women's Conference- June 3-6, 2016

Atlantic Racially Visible Conference – September 23 to 25, 2016 in Halifax

PSAC National Health & Safety Conference – November 18-20, 2016, Montreal

PSAC National Equity Conference- March 24-28, 2017

Respectfully Submitted,

Angela Decker and Rhonda Doyle LeBlanc
Co-Chairs, Atlantic Council Women's Committee