

November 12-15, 2015  
Delta Halifax, Halifax, NS

**Present:**

Jeannie Baldwin, REVP Atlantic  
Katie Murphy-Langille, EA to the REVP  
Sébastien Bezeau, Political Communications Officer  
Bill Bennett, Director for Non-Treasury Board/Separate Employer – NL  
Angela Decker, Director for Women – NL  
Steve Johnson, Provincial Director – NL  
Chris Lansdell, Provincial Director – NL  
Darlene Bembridge, Provincial Director – NB  
Mike LeBlanc, Provincial Director – NB  
Chris Di Liberatore, Provincial Director – NS  
Brian Oldford, Director for Non-Treasury Board/Separate Employer – Maritimes  
Shanny Doucet, Director for Francophone Members  
Rhonda Doyle–LeBlanc, Director for Women – Maritimes  
Joey Dunphy, Director for Aboriginal Members  
Neville David, Director for Racially Visible Members  
Wayne Kelley, Director for GLBT Members  
Allyson Garrison, Director for Young Workers  
Jody LaPierre, Provincial Director – PE  
Debi Buell, Provincial Director – PE

**Regrets:**

Nathalie Paulin, Director for Members with Disabilities  
Colleen Hodder, Provincial Director – NS / Alternate REVP

**Guests:**

Lori Walton, GSU – National Vice President, Equity  
Doug Gaetz, UTE – RVP Atlantic  
Dan Frost, UNDE – NVP NL & NB  
Tony Tracy, CLC Atlantic Representative  
Danny Cavanagh, Nova Scotia Federation of Labour President  
George Nickerson, CUPW Representative

**1. Hours of the Atlantic Regional Council Meeting**

Meeting of the Atlantic Council November 12-15, 2015  
November 12, Committee Meetings 2 pm – 5 pm  
November 13, Committee Meetings 9 am – 5 pm  
November 14, Council Business 9 am – 4:30 pm  
November 15, Council Business 9 am – 12 Noon

November 12-15, 2015  
Delta Halifax, Halifax, NS

## **2. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am with the REVP in the chair.

## **3. Moment of Silence**

A moment of silence was held in memory of our union brothers and sisters who passed away since the last Council Meeting. The following names were read into the minutes:

Geraldine “Gerry” Elizabeth Rollings, UNDE Local 80403

Sister Baldwin read aloud the statement circulated by Hassan Yussuff, CLC President in extending sympathy to those families of individuals whose lives were lost in the horrific terrorist attacks that took place in Paris on November 14, 2015.

## **4. Harassment Statement**

Sister Shanny Doucet and Brother Chris Di Liberatore read aloud the PSAC Statement on Harassment.

Sister Lori Walton is identified as the harassment coordinator.

## **5. Adoption of Agenda**

The agenda was reviewed and adopted.

Sister Bembridge requested the following item be added to the agenda under “other items”:

- Role of the Alternate REVP under “other items”

Sister Decker/Brother LeBlanc

***Carried***

## **6. Opening Remarks**

Sister Baldwin took a few minutes to recognize our newest Council Director. Sister Allyson Garrison has replaced Sister Stephanie McDonald as Director for Young Workers.

Sister Baldwin also advised the Council that Sister Nathalie Paulin is unable to be with us as she is currently on sick leave and in the hospital. As such, a card will be circulated wishing her a speedy recovery.

Sister Colleen Hodder is not present at the Council Meeting as she is at the NL Federation of Labour Policy Convention speaking on a panel in her capacity as the Alternate REVP.

A card for former President of the NS Federation of Labour, Brother Rick Clarke is also being circulated for well wishes in retirement.

November 12-15, 2015  
Delta Halifax, Halifax, NS

Sister Baldwin expressed her happiness that the Conservative government has been defeated and exclaimed that we cannot take credit for electing the Liberals to government but we can certainly take credit for the work we have done as a union. Consequently, it is clear that the National advertising campaign also proved to be extremely successful.

- Two campaign videos received 5.3 million views
- Over 370,000 people visited VoteToStopTheCuts.ca
- Campaign content got 1.3 million Tweets, Facebook likes and shares
- Canadians sent 5,339 letters to candidates
- PSAC's Facebook following grew from 9,000 followers, to 28,000, making us one of the most influential Canadian unions on social media

On that note, sister Baldwin thanked everyone for their support while she ran for the NDP in Avalon, NL. Sister Baldwin also acknowledged that a PSAC member, Ginette Petitpas Taylor, in the Atlantic Region was elected into the House of Commons and defeated the Conservative incumbent, Robert Goguen.

Sister Baldwin advised that congratulatory letters were sent to all MP's who defeated Conservative incumbents in our Region.

Mark Eyking has confirmed that the Sydney Veterans Affairs office will re-open as will the Search & Rescue Stations in St. John's NL & Kitsilano BC.

Sister Baldwin recently attended a CLC Executive Meeting following the Federal Election. Prime Minister Trudeau attended this meeting; this was the first time in more than fifty years a Prime Minister attended a CLC Executive Meeting. Sister Benson had the honour of asking one question, which was regarding Veterans Affairs. PM Trudeau advised that their government will repeal Bill C-377 and Bill C-525. He exclaimed the government will look at other bills that were temperamental to the labour movement and Canadians. Sister Baldwin hopes those "other" Bills are C-4 and C-51.

Sister Baldwin saw the new Treasury Board Minister Scott Brison in the airport and congratulated him. Sister Baldwin advised he was very respectful and is looking forward to the work and negotiating sick leave. At the table, Minister Brison exclaimed he will respect Public Service employees and will not take hot shots as it is not his style.

The bargaining teams are scheduled to meet for bargaining in December, however with a new government it will be postponed until the New Year and in the meantime the teams will be meeting to discuss a new strategy.

November 12-15, 2015  
Delta Halifax, Halifax, NS

With regards to our UTE members, we are hopeful that CRA will start the process of returning to the table to have meaningful negotiations in the hopes of coming to a fair and reasonable settlement for the UTE members.

### **7. Review/Adoption of Previous Minutes**

Review of the previous minutes of May 6-9, 2015.

Amendment to item #14. Brother Joey Dunphy presented the report of the Human Rights Committee, not Brother Jody LaPierre.

Brother Kelley/Brother Dunphy

#### ***Carried***

Review of the Teleconference Minutes, September 3, 2015.

Sister Decker/Brother Lansdell

#### ***Carried***

### **8. Meeting of the Next Atlantic Regional Council**

Sister Baldwin asked Council to mark their calendars for February 17-21, 2016 as the next Regional Council Meeting. This meeting will take place in Halifax, NS and include safe spaces training.

Sister Baldwin then asked if Council would have any objection to holding the safe spaces training separately from the Council Meeting as to avoid extended periods of time away from family, as five days is a lengthy time frame. Sister Baldwin advised that her Executive Assistant will check availability of a facilitator for the training and hotel space following the Council Meeting.

### **9. Directors Reports**

Reports of the Council Directors were adopted as a whole.

Sister Decker/Sister Doyle-LeBlanc

#### ***Carried***

### **10. Committee Reports**

#### **Human Rights Committee**

Brothers Kelley, David & Dunphy read aloud the report of the committee. Four recommendations were voted on separately.

Motion to accept the report and the mandate of the committee.

November 12-15, 2015  
Delta Halifax, Halifax, NS

Brother Kelley/Brother Dunphy

***Carried***

Recommendations, as per the committee's report:

1. Carried
2. Carried
3. Carried
4. Refer to Education committee as a high priority. Carried.

**Political Action Committee**

Brother Di Liberatore read aloud the committee's report.

Brother Di Liberatore/Brother LeBlanc

***Carried***

**Women's Committee**

Sister Doyle LeBlanc read aloud the committees report. One recommendation was voted on separately.

Motion to accept the report.

Sisters Doyle-LeBlanc/Decker

***Carried***

Recommendation, as per committee's report:

1. Carried

**Health, Safety & Environment Committee**

Brother Oldford & Brother Johnson read aloud the committee's report. One recommendation was voted on separately.

Motion to accept the report.

Brother Oldford/Brother Johnson

***Carried***

Recommendation, as per committee's report:

1. Carried

November 12-15, 2015  
Delta Halifax, Halifax, NS

**Education Committee**

Brother Jody LaPierre read aloud the committee's report.

Sister Baldwin advised that any surplus from the Region in the Education budget, is not allowed to be carried over into the next cycle. 50% of the surplus goes into strike fund and 50% into General investments within PSAC. This is a decision that was made by the NBoD.

Sister Baldwin has asked that the Regional Education Officer put forth a rationale for the surplus in the Education budget so that the Education Committee will receive their regular distribution and will not be cut back as a result of the surplus. Sister Baldwin advised that when the REO provides this rationale it can be brought forward to the AEC.

Brother LaPierre has requested that when changes are made to the education plan that the Education committee of council be consulted and involved in this process. Sister Baldwin reassured council that this process will be brought forward to the Regional Coordinator and REO.

Motion to accept the report

Brother LaPierre/Sister Doucet

***Carried***

**Finance Committee**

Sister Bembridge read aloud the committee's report. Recommendations were voted on separately.

Motion to accept report

Sister Bembridge/Brother Oldford

***Carried***

Brother Lansdell has asked if it is possible to set up email money transfer as opposed to issuing cheques. Sister Baldwin advised we will contact the finance branch to explore our options.

Sister Baldwin had provided clarification regarding Directors budgets in that Directors may have access to their full 3 year allotment, but in order to access funds, a request must go to the REVP. The finance committee will be drafting a regulation in this regard for further clarification.

Recommendations, as per committee's report:

1. Carried
2. Carried
3. Out of Order

November 12-15, 2015  
Delta Halifax, Halifax, NS

### **11. Remarks from Brother Danny Cavanagh, President of the NS Federation of Labour**

Brother Cavanagh was elected as President to the NS Federation of Labour on October 28, 2015. Brother Cavanagh exclaimed that one of his priorities is to sit down with all federal sector unions and discuss how we can work together. He will also be making contact with the bodies at the Provincial level as well.

Brother Cavanagh advised that the NSFL's lobbying efforts will be around:

- Affordable childcare
- Doubling Canada Pension Plan
- \$15/hour min wage for commissionaires has been denied again. This is a direct attack on veterans. 60% of the commissionaires are designated veterans.
- Action Plan, which will have a new budget by year end.

Brother Cavanagh's closing remarks were "This isn't my federation, this is your federation, and we must work together!"

### **12. Update from Brother Tony Tracy, CLC Atlantic Representative**

Brother Tracy echoed some of the sentiments put forth by Brother Cavanagh.

The CLC has been looking closely at the Provincial government as they appear to be taking on very similar characteristics that were demonstrated by the Harper Conservative's. Brother Tracy said there is a renewed initiative to have the Federation of Labour in the Atlantic work much closer together, particularly with respect to the regressive EI changes.

Brother Tracy exclaimed that Prime Minister Trudeau intends to meet with all of the Premiers which is something that former PM Harper has never done, so this is positive, but we still must be cautious.

There was discussion regarding P3's (Public – Private Partnerships), whereby the private sector will assume a major share of the risks as these buildings are not gov't owned properties. There ends up being a cost directly back to the communities.

Brother Tracy exclaimed that as individuals we need to pressure the government – your MP's to get rid of the crown corporation and to have the federal government taking ownership and in turn benefiting from them as investments. We also need to make sure public/private partnerships are part of the debate at municipal meetings, especially considering municipal elections will take place in 2016. Furthermore, an argument can be made to the province that if they build a hospital for example, then why not own it? The profit from that hospital could then in turn be used towards building a highway for example – keeping it in the community.

November 12-15, 2015  
Delta Halifax, Halifax, NS

Upcoming CLC Conferences:

Young workers Rise Up Conference will be held in Ottawa on October 20-23, 2016

**13. PSAC Atlantic Triennial Convention 2017**

The next Regional Convention will be held at the Saint John Trade & Convention Centre in Saint John, NB June 22-25, 2017.

**14. Federal Election Debrief**

Sister Baldwin exclaimed that this information was outlined in the opening remarks, as well as by our guests, Brother Danny Cavanagh and Brother Tony Tracy.

**15. Videos**

Brother Bezeau played the following 2 bilingual videos:

- REVP Video "I'm Back!"

Sister Baldwin thanks the membership for their support while she was on leave as she ran for the federal NDP in Avalon, NL.

- Blair Doucet Youth Camp Video.

This video highlights the labour camp for youth that PSAC sponsors on an annual basis.

Sebastien Bezeau, Atlantic Regional Communications officer, attended this Camp as a youth camp leader.

**16. Managed Health Care Services Inc. (MHCSI)**

Sister Bembridge asked if we could ensure the Lawton's discount card information is circulated/and or provided on the PSAC website. Brother Bezeau confirmed that the information is posted in both languages on the PSAC Atlantic website.

**17. Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) Campaign Update**

Brother George Nickerson, CUPW Representative provided an update on their Five point plan and what is happening within their union. Brother Nickerson was pleased when Prime Minister Trudeau announced there was a halt to the community mailbox initiative that was being pushed quickly by the Conservative Government.

Postal Banking is a plan that Canada Post is hoping to be successful in carrying out. Canada Post already has the infrastructure and they feel that this would certainly resonate with many Canadian rural communities.

Brother Nickerson explained they have already been contacting MP's and will remain doing so. They will be heading into negotiations soon and want their sick leave back and are prepared to fight for it. Brother Nickerson urges the Council not to give up sick leave and to fight hard for it.



November 12-15, 2015  
Delta Halifax, Halifax, NS

## **18. Other Items**

### Role of the Alternate REVP

Sister Bembridge exclaimed that if the National President, or the Alternate takes on duties of the REVP, than a report indicating those events should be submitted to the Regional Council.

Sister Baldwin advised that the alternate does not replace the REVP when on leave but replaces REVP for other meetings/events as the designate.

Sister Baldwin addressed the feedback received from Council requesting rationale as to why the Alternate REVP did not replace the REVP while on leave. Sister Baldwin explained that going forward the role of the alternate will be utilised. Consequently, the Alternate is currently the designate for the REVP on a panel speaking on Bill C-4 at the NL Federation of Labour Policy Convention.

Brother Johnson suggests the By-Laws are not clear with regards to the role of the Alternate and when they should assume the duties of the REVP if she/he is to take leave for an extended period of time. Brother Johnson suggested that perhaps the language in this regard should be tidied up and brought forward at the 2017 Regional Convention.

## **19. Roundtable**

Roundtable discussion was held. Sister Baldwin noted that if Directors do not submit a written report, then consequently, a verbal report is not allowed, nor will one be posted on the website.

A hospitality room during a Council Meeting will only be utilised if the hotel provides one at no expense. Sister Baldwin advised that social nights are not organized by the REVP's office, however it is a good idea if some Directors would like to collaborate and organize something.

In regards to staffing in the Atlantic Region, Sister Baldwin informed Council that if a Rep is out of the office the REVP's office is not always informed. However, when a Rep is on leave for a lengthy amount of time a notice will be circulated. The administrative assistant position in the Charlottetown Office is presently vacant and will not be staffed until the New Year as the board has not yet taken place.

MEETING OF THE ATLANTIC REGIONAL COUNCIL

November 12-15, 2015  
Delta Halifax, Halifax, NS

Sister Baldwin informed Council that the Airport Taxi drivers, represented by Unifor Local 1688, are presently locked out of the taxi stand at the Ottawa International Airport. Sister Baldwin asked that Council supports the drivers by finding another form of ground transportation to their destinations after landing in Ottawa.

Brother Bezeau will be providing list of MPs and their contact information to all Director's following the meeting.

Sister Baldwin thanked the Regional Council Directors, translators, technician and staff for their time and wished all a safe journey home.

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 am