

# Report of the Human Rights Committee

February 4, 2016

Teleconference

**Present:** Chris Lansdell, Rhonda Doyle LeBlanc, Joey Dunphy, Neville David, Wayne Kelley (chairperson), Monique LaPlante (staff advisor)

**Regrets:** Allyson Garrison, Nathalie Paulin

- 1) Brother Wayne opened the teleconference at 6:03 p.m and asked for introductions from participants. Brother Wayne also gave a friendly reminder to the members that February is Black History month and that a link to a CBC video on Viola Desmond was to be forwarded to our members.
- 2) Brother Wayne then read the Agenda and asked for any changes and also additions.
- 3) Council Aboriginal opening ( Brother Joey )  
Brother Dunphy spoke about the resolution 6 that was passed at the Unity Conference: which reads:  
Be It Resolved That in accordance with the Aboriginal customs each Major Conference and Event held by Public Service Alliance of Canada should Begin and End with a ceremony with an Elder who will serve as the Host Elder at the opening and closing ceremonies. It was approved by the Alliance Executive Committee.
- 4) Union Activism Turtle Island ( Brother Joey)  
Unionism on Turtle Island workshop that is being delivered by Public Service Alliance of Canada is getting a lot of good feedback. The workshop overall goal—Why this workshop?
  - Increase representation of aboriginal activists in our unions, through the creation of a welcoming, inclusive and discrimination free-environment in the workplace and in the union.
  - Workshop Objectives: The workshop would identify the injustices through history, up to today, that Aboriginal people have faced.

Describe the way in which aboriginal people resisted the injustices throughout history, including today's Idle No More Movement in which the single story maintains oppression, create ways to take action to reverse the injustices by being an ally as a union as an individual.

Brother Dunphy also reported to the committee that many Public Service Alliance Aboriginal Brothers and Sisters in the Atlantic region feel like there is NO follow up to the (NAPC) National Aboriginal People's Council introduction to Public Service Alliance of Canada training and he also believes this training would be a great follow up.

5) Activities Surrounding National Aboriginal Day (Brother Joey)

Brother Dunphy shared with the committee, the activity that took place last year in Moncton where the area council and human rights committees set up a booth at a Farmers Market and had folks sign a petition while answering questions regarding the Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women and other Aboriginal issues. Brother Dunphy recommended that the committees come together again this year during the time around National Aboriginal Day, June 21, 2016. The theme for this year will be around safe water.

6) Regional Racially Visible Conference update( Brother Neville)

The Racially Visible Conference will be held September 23-25, 2016 at the Hampton Inn by Hilton, Halifax NS.

The Conference theme is "Race Forward": Our Union, Our Community, Our Future. The registration package is being developed and will be distributed at a later date. The Conference is opened to members who self-identify as being Racially Visible members. This Conference is a fully funded event and will be opened to 30-40 members. Brother Neville also provided details on the objectives of the conference and how he was working with Nancy Maclean, Public Service Alliance of Canada representative.

7) March 21 - International Day for the elimination of Racial Discrimination ( Brother Neville)

This item was discussed very little and will be reported on during our next Human Rights Committee meeting by Brother Neville. The Halifax Human Rights needs to discuss further.

8) Safe Space Training

Brother Wayne contacted the REVP's office to see if the Agenda outlining the training had any changes prior to the teleconference, there were none. The committee was satisfied with the agenda provided by the facilitator.

9) CLC Canadian Labour Congress Rise up Human Rights Conference

The conference will be held at the Algonquin Anishinabek territory at the Shaw Convention Centre in Ottawa Ontario, from Oct 20-23 2016.

10) CLC National Young Workers Conference (Sister Monique)

This Conference will be held on the Algonquin Anishinabek territory at the Shaw Convention Centre in Ottawa Ontario from October 23-25 2016. The members had discussions concerning the back-to-back Conferences and all Committee members were in favor for a recommendation.

11) Sister Rhonda Doyle LeBlanc gave a reminder to the Human Rights Committee that The Atlantic Women's Conference will be held June 3-5 2016 at St. FX University in Antigonish. Sister Rhonda also said that they would be meeting shortly to work out plans for the Women's Conference with the main objective to reach, involve and mobilize members. We will be building on the Women's Forum on Domestic Violence by delivering a workshop on the subject.

12) Sister Rhonda also reminded the committee members that the National Human Rights Conference will be March 24-28 2017 in Toronto and also that March 8, International Women's Day, is fast approaching and to participate in activities in your area.

## Recommendations

- 1) To make recommendation that the Public Alliance of Canada Atlantic Council out of respect to Aboriginal Culture and Traditional land that each council has an Aboriginal Opening and Closing Ceremony. This recommendation was unanimously supported by the Human Rights committee.
  
- 2) To make recommendation that the cost for all Atlantic Human Rights members be covered by PSAC Atlantic to attend the CLC Human Rights & Young Workers' Conferences. Respectfully Oct 20-23 2016 Oct 23-25 2016 This recommendation was supported unanimously by the Human Rights Council
  
- 3) To make recommendation That the Public Service Alliance of Canada Atlantic region Education Committee add to their schedule for this cycle the Union Activism on Turtle Island. This recommendation was supported unanimously by the Human Rights Committee.

Teleconference adjourned 6:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wayne Kelley – Committee Chairperson