Report to the PSAC Atlantic Regional Council

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| **Name:** Rhonda Doyle LeBlanc | | **Date:** June 2014 – March 2015 |
| **Constituency (area, equity, etc.):** Women’s Director, Maritimes | | |
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| **Activities since Election at Convention - June, 2014** | | |
| **Activity** | **How it fulfilled my role on the Regional Council** | |
| Strategic Summit | The members of the Atlantic Council along with other activists throughout the region, came together to develop and discuss ideas for a PSAC Atlantic Action Plan. | |
| Unveiling of the Dream Catcher Project | Attended the MicMac Friendship Centre where they unveiled the amazing dream catcher which represents the over 1200 missing and murdered Aboriginal Women. PSAC was a large supporter of this project. Money was donated and we came together to create dream catchers at our Halifax Regional Women’s committee and at the Atlantic Convention. | |
| Sisters in Spirit Rally | Participated in a march and rally in support of the missing and murdered Aboriginal Women. Speakers were amazing and moving. | |
| PE Women’s Retreat | Attended the retreat where current campaigns were discussed with the wonderful women activists from Prince Edward Island. | |
| National Human Rights Committee Meeting | Meeting with my counterparts – women’s representatives from across Canada. We discussed current initiatives and created the women’s PSAC priorities for this cycle. We also attended sessions to bring human rights issues to the forefront and we had an opportunity to lay a wreath at the War Museum Memorial in Ottawa. | |
| Childcare 2020 Conference | Attended this conference where we shared ideas on how to bring child care to where it should be. At this conference we attended workshops and developed plans on how to bring the issue forward and create a Canada with affordable and quality childcare for all. | |
| Council Meetings | Continued working on the campaigns and priority issues at hand with the council. I also co-chair the women’s committee and am a member of the Human Rights committee on council. Very important issues are shared and recommendations are brought forward and voted on. | |
| December 6 Organizing Committee and Activity | Joined together with coalition partners to develop an event to commemorate December 6, the day of Action against Violence for Women in Halifax. A “Not so Silent” vigil took place, as well as entertainment and actions that need to be taken. We journeyed through the history of women victims of violence and murder in our area, sent homemade postcards to the prime minister and raised money for the Purple Ribbon campaign. | |
| International Women’s Day Organizing Committee Lead and Chairperson | Organized an International Women’s Day conference in Halifax with guest speakers, workshops and exhibitors to celebrate women and bring forward the issues that still require work and action. | |
| International Women’s Day Rally | I was asked to speak at this rally that was organized by the Halifax-Dartmouth & District Labour Council. I shared the “Think 15” campaign; it was well received by all attending. | |
| Regional Women’s Committees | As women’s director, I am available for committees as required. I keep them abreast of current activities, campaigns and events. We work to keep committees active and have recently started to revitalize a NB RWC and I am looking forward to helping to re-activate a committee in NS. I am also active in my Halifax RWC. I want the RWC committees to know that I am here for them. | |
| Area Council | Continue to participate on the area council; we discuss political activities and take action in order to help improve the lives of workers and families in Canada. | |
| NSFL Women’s Committee | Planning of NSFL Women’s Conference on “Women in Politics”. This committee is excited to announce that our women’s conference will take place during the month of May in Greenwood, NS. | |
| Nova Scotia Women’s Retreat Planning | Working on creating proposals for this upcoming event, including creating an agenda and organizing outside activities, etc. The purpose of this retreat is to share issues with women activists, promote RWCs and engage women to take action. | |
| Unions Work for Women Training | Education to better understand women’s history with regards to women’s rights and activism. I am happy to share with others. | |
| Atlantic Council Teambuilding | Learning on how we can work better together, as a team that works for the members. | |
| Leadership Training | Education on organizing our members…not just to join the union but become active in all of its different forms. | |
| CLC Election Preparation | Education on bringing the important election issues forward to members and the community and ensuring that everyone votes in the 2015 federal election. | |
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| **Challenges you had to cope with since the last meeting** | | |
| This current government that is anti-union and anti-worker is always a big challenge. Members and the community need to come together more than ever. Time management is also an issue when it comes to challenges. Activities tend to take place at similar times, weekend after weekend and life balance is important to keep family, work and union activism in check. | | |
| **What would you like to work on next?** | | |
| I am excited to finalize the details of the Nova Scotia Women’s Retreat and to be part of the rejuvenated Halifax Human Rights Committee. We plan to take place in the Souls Harbour Rescue Mission on a regular basis to prepare hot and nutrition meals to those in need. | | |