**PSAC Atlantic Council**

**Human Rights Committee Meeting Minutes**

**April 11, 2018, @ 6:30 pm, Atlantic time (by teleconference)**

**Present:** Neville David, Terry Sacrey, Wayne Kelley, Michelle Neill, Colleen Coffey (REVP-Atlantic), and Monique Laplante (PSAC Rep)

**Regrets:** Joey Dunphy.

Monique opened the meeting, welcomed everyone, and advised that Terry will now act as Chair of this committee.

1. **Selection of new Alternate Chairperson**

Monique advised we can have the choice of having two Co-Chairs, who chair equally through rotation, or we can have a Chairperson and an Alternate Chairperson, so the alternate would chair only if the Chairperson is not available.

Terry confirmed he is ok with chairing meetings on a regular basis if the group wants to choose an alternate.

Neville made his interest known that he would be willing to act as Alternate Chair of the committee. Monique will follow up with Joey to see if he was interested, as he was not available at this time. **Action: Monique**

1. **Truth & Reconciliation Commission of Canada (Joey)**

As this was Joey’s item, we will table the discussion to the next meeting.

**Action: BF to next meeting**

1. **Atlantic Newsletter – Equity and Human Rights Calendar (Monique)**

Sebastien has removed this part of the calendar for now, as he doesn’t want to have the structure of the newsletter become too bland for readers; however, he’s happy to include any special events that we want to highlight at any time.

Dates are still available on the Atlantic website. The group acknowledged the change and were ok with it – we will advise of any events we would like to have highlighted. **BF: Item for each mtg.**

1. **Committee Mandate & Three-year plan (Monique)**

Current mandate is very comprehensive.

*Question: How many HR Committees are there in Atlantic at this time?* Halifax, PEI, Moncton, and Saint John’s, NL (just got approved yesterday), so four (4) in total at this time.

*Question: Who from Atlantic Council sits on the National HR Committee?* Wayne does at this time, but we weren’t sure if any others were included. Colleen will follow up on the topic of the National HRC versus the Working Groups, as she’s not sure if the same people are on both or not. She will also ask when the Atlantic reps will be elected or selected.

**Action: Colleen**

The following updates were made to the 3-yr mandate plan (see attached for incorporated changes):

* Paragraph (P) 3: add “some of whom” after Regional Council Directors.
* Under Human Rights Committee Plan, P1: change from “2014-2017 cycle” to “2017-2020 cycle”.
* Under Education, P1: change the first “be” to “are” and change “it be” to “they are”.
* Under Education, remove P2 entirely. This was decided after quite a discussion because we want to ensure the PSAC National website includes up to date information to help Component and DCL members with tools for filing a human rights complaint &/or grievance, if needed. Colleen agreed to check with Sebastien to see if there is anything on the PSAC National website already. **Action: Colleen**
* Under Education, P3: remove “a safe space” and add “related to human rights issues” at the end. Wayne agreed to take the lead on terminology training. **Action: Wayne**
* Regarding the final contact information, we decided, with Colleen’s blessing to change the contact information as follows:
  + Instead of contacting the REVP’s office, we will have the committee members listed along with links to their email address.

1. **Round Table**

Colleen:

* Reviewed the Funding Requirements for committees:
  + Four (4) meetings/year;
  + Budget for the coming year; and
  + Bank Statement for December 31, 2017.
* Colleen will advance 80% of the funds up front and then later in the year, if additional funds are needed (due to actions completed), the remaining 20% will be forwarded to the committees.
* Colleen also reiterated the message from Robyn that committees will be held accountable to complete the actions they plan and funds are spent accordingly, and if not, they will not get their funds until they do.
* Funds are not to be used for meeting food only, nor for simple donations to other organizations, nor for prizes for staff. If a donation is being made to an organization and committee members participate in a function involving that organization, that is fine. Examples could be providing donation to a local Status of Women “International Women’s Day” event and members participating in the event to help spread the word; or participating in a Soup Kitchen event and providing a donation of food for the event.
* Pride Funds:
  + Colleen advised we get $2,000 for the whole region. Colleen suggested at the AEC meeting to purchase some nice fans nationally and received conditional approval.
  + She will follow up to let us know if this is a go and perhaps include some of the other regions to get a better price by purchasing higher quantities. **Action: Colleen**
  + Colleen will also speak with Morna Ballentine about crayons, colouring sheets, and candies (hoping low cost). **Action: Colleen**
  + We also discussed frisbees last year – Sebastien received a quote of about $1.40 each, so these could be purchased for either the Pride Parade or the Labour Day events (and use a plate for food).

Wayne:

* Asked about 2021 census and status to include sexual orientation and gender identity. This relates to information that was sent to Wayne from Robyn.
  + Colleen advised this was not yet sent to regional coordinators.
  + Wayne will send to Sebastien to include in the next Atlantic newsletter (not tomorrow’s, though), likely in about 2 weeks.

**Action: Wayne**

Neville:

Happy to be back on council and looking forward to working with everyone. He was previously on Political Action and Human Rights Committees.

Michelle:

* Asked if anyone had received any feedback on the daft Accessibility Legislation, and if so, to please forward on to Michelle, and she will share with the Persons with Disabilities working group to provide to the PSAC for when the legislation gets introduced in the House of Commons.
* Colleen advised she will share the HRC meeting minutes from the whole region with Michelle in case there were comments made in those meetings.

**Action: Colleen**

* Michelle will speak with Lori Walton (who helped in putting the draft information together) to see which MP was on the committee.

**Action: Michelle**

* Michelle mentioned the PEI HRC is working on a public event in May/June to discuss the Childcare Campaign, Pharmacare and Social Justice issues being worked on by PSAC. We hope to partner with the PEI Federation of Labour, the PEI Status of Women, and also include local MPs and MLAs.

Monique:

A trans-gendered flag was recently signed at a Moncton HRC park event. It was then presented to a local MP to give to Justine Trudeau (photo of this is now on the Atlantic website).

Terry:

Thanked everyone for the opportunity to chair this meeting.

1. **Next Meeting**

Next meeting will take place in June at the Atlantic Council face-to-face meeting in Corner Brook, NL.

1. **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Note taker: Michelle Neill

Minutes approved: Terry Sacrey

(E-mail - April 16, 2018)