

Atlantic Regional Council Teleconference
March 24, 2015

Attendance:

Jeannie Baldwin, REVP Atlantic
Katie Murphy-Langille, EA – REVP
Sébastien Bezeau, Communications Officer
Darlene Bembridge, NB Provincial Director
Bill Bennett, Director for Non-Treasury Board/Separate Employer - NL
Debi Buell, PE Provincial Director
Joey Dunphy, Director for Aboriginal Members
Chris Di Liberatore, NS Provincial Director
Angela Decker, Women’s Director - NL
Shanny Doucet, Francophone Director
Colleen Hodder, NS Provincial Director
Steve Johnson, NL Provincial Director
Stephanie Jones, Director for Young Workers
Wayne Kelley, GLBT Director
Chris Lansdell, NL Provincial Director
Mike LeBlanc, NB Provincial Director
Brian Oldford, Director for Non-Treasury Board/Separate Employer - Maritimes
Nathalie Paulin, Director for Members with Disabilities

Regrets:

Jody LaPierre, PE Provincial Director

Absent:

Rhonda Doyle LeBlanc, Women’s Director – Maritimes
Ardith Jordan-Simmonds, Director for Racially Visible Members

The call commenced at 7:35pm with the REVP as chair. The following items were added to the agenda:

- DCL dues increase
- Webinar
- Council Director’s report
- Telephone Town Hall
- Bill C-51
- MP, John Williamson
- Federal Election

1. Convention Resolution Update and Priorities

The PSAC Triennial Convention will take place April 26-May 2, 2015 in Quebec City.

The Convention Committee’s met in February 2015 in Ottawa and established their priorities. The top 5 priorities for each committee are listed below:

General Resolutions

1. Childcare in Canada
2. Union Education for Aboriginal Women
3. Gender identity
4. Domestic Violence Awareness
5. Regional Racially Visible Conference

Collective Bargaining

1. Contracting Out of Building Maintenance Services
2. Sick Leave
3. Legal Support for Members Required to Carry Fire Arms
4. Retiree Benefits
5. Protective Reassignment for Pregnant and Nursing Mothers

Constitution

1. To add a Component President to the AEC
 2. To change the component delegate entitlement to 1 delegate per 300 members from the current 400. Means 119 more component delegates.
 3. To require Regional Councils to get professional audits done and report to Regional conventions.
 4. To include gender expression as part of membership rights.
 5. To require/mandate each region to establish one Regional H&S committee
- Finance Committee is going into Convention with a balanced budget.

2. Speaking with Media/Events

When members are requested to speak at rallies, events or with media it is required that Sébastien Bezeau is contacted before accepting the invitation. The REVP's office is responsible for designating individuals for such events and speaking engagements with TV, radio and media. We (PSAC) must ensure that the message being delivered is clear and consistent across the region.

3. Day of Action Activities / Day of Action Newsletter

Sister Baldwin thanked everyone for the work they have done thus far with the Day of Action events held throughout the region. Unfortunately, with the snow storm in NS this month (March) some events were canceled. The activities continue to be posted on the PSAC Atlantic website and in the monthly newsletter.

The Day of Action newsletter for March will be released March 25th. Each month a local will be showcased, and for March, CEIU Local 90113 – NL has been selected; as this month marks their 11th consecutive day of action event!

4. Atlantic School

The deadline for the School is March 31st and currently applications are low. Sister Baldwin requested that Directors encourage members to apply. The Council Education Committee is holding a teleconference on April 1st to discuss School details. The theme of the School is 'Building our Union, Building our Power'.

5. DCL Dues Increase

As of January 1st, 2015, eight (8) of seventeen (17) Components had adopted a dues rate change at their respective Conventions. Whereas the DCL rate is determined using a weighted average of all Component dues rates; the DCL portion of the dues rate will now increase from 0.6034% to 0.6120% effective April 1st 2015.

The previous DCL rate of 0.6034% has not changed since January 1, 2004. The new DCL rate of 0.6120% represents an increase of 1.4% to a member's union dues.

6. Webinar

Brother Bezeau explained that a webinar on the topic of Political Rights will be held for PSAC members on Wednesday, May 20 at 7 p.m. (Maritimes) and the duration is an hour which will be divided into two or three panelists.

Additional information will follow at a later date.

7. Council Directors Reports

Sister Langille reminded Director's that their Activities report for the May 2015 Council Meeting is due on or before April 8, 2015.

8. Telephone Town Hall

Sister Baldwin advised there were roughly 2,500 people on the call that took place March 2, 2015. The recording of the call is posted on the PSAC Atlantic website.

9. Bill C-51

Bill C-51 has passed the 2nd and has now been referred to the Standing Committee on Public Safety & National Security. The President for the CLC, Hassan Yussuff will be presenting to this body on March 25th which will be viewable on CPAC.

10. MP, John Williamson

Below, find op-ed that was published March 24th in the Telegraph journal:

Williamson Should Resign

MP John Williamson has admitted to using offensive and inappropriate language about workers of the Temporary Foreign Workers program. However, he hasn't owned up yet to using inappropriate language in his '10 percenter' to misinform his constituents about the federal employees who provide public services in his riding.

As the Prime Minister's former director of communications, perhaps it's not surprising that attack mode is the only one he knows. Mr. Williamson's record goes beyond language. He has cut services and eliminated good jobs in his riding.

Out of respect for the position he holds and the people he represents, I suggest he do the honourable thing and resign.

Jeannie Baldwin

11. Federal Election

We are still working on identifying the targeted ridings. Presently, the identified target ridings are:

MP, Robert Chisholm - Dartmouth-Cole Harbour, NS (965 PSAC members)

MP, Gail Shea – Egmont, PE (747 PSAC members)

MP, Ryan Cleary - St. John's South-Mount Pearl, NL (828 PSAC members)

MP, Robert Goguen - Moncton-Riverview-Dieppe, NB (848 PSAC members)

MP, Keith Ashfield – Fredericton, NB (828 PSAC members)

Special courses will be offered to those members requested to work with the targeted ridings.

Sister Baldwin explained that should members have questions or require rationale concerning the targeted ridings, to provide her contact information as she would be happy to field calls.

12. Other Items

Sister Baldwin welcomed Debi Buell as PE Provincial Director for the Regional Council.

Sister Baldwin mentioned that the Budget might be announced the week of April 26th while at PSAC Triennial Convention.

Lastly, Sister Baldwin thanked all those who were able to participate on the conference call.

Call adjourned at 8:10pm (Maritimes)