**PSAC Atlantic Council**

**Women’s Committee Meeting Minutes**

**February 28, 2018, @ 6:00 pm, Atlantic time (by teleconference)**

**Present:** Shanny Doucet, Rhonda Doyle-LeBlanc (Co-Chair), Michelle Neill (Secretary), Heather Ford, Mary MacNeil (PSAC Rep), and Angela Dekker (Co-Chair, joined at 6:51 p.m.)

Rhonda opened the meeting by congratulating Shanny on her 2018 Women in Leadership recognition award from the New Brunswick Federation of Labour. Congratulations Shanny!

1. **International Women’s Day (IWD) Plans:**

PEI: The event is generally coordinated through the PEI Status of Women for a breakfast, luncheon, or movies. This year’s event will be dancing, including an Aboriginal Circle Dance in the Charlottetown area. No plans for Summerside.

NB: Nurses’ Union in Fredericton hosts a lunch and evening event. Shanny advised that the Federation of Labour will be hosting a Pay Equity press release between 10 am and 12 noon.

NS: Currently planning an annual conference, and using an alternate venue in Halifax that will be free, due to a significant reduction in donations. The conference will include eight (8) workshops (Mary is delivering Domestic Violence) that are open to both PSAC members and others. Jennifer Howard is the keynote speaker – she was elected on the Manitoba legislature and has a disabilities and domestic violence background. The theme is “Strong Women: End the Violence; End it Now”. There is room for 200 participants, but only 41 are registered so far, but Friday is the deadline.

They also held a Women’s Retreat this past December on Child Care.

NL: Morna Ballantyne will be in attendance to speak on Child Care at the IWD event at the Holiday Inn in Saint John’s on March 4, 2018. Bread & Roses theme is “Child Care”. Robyn Benson and Colleen Coffey are scheduled to attend. Goose Bay will be holding a soup event with the Native Council.

1. **Child Care Update**

The latest updates are now on the website, and includes a few short videos:

* PSAC’s vision and what we are seeking for National Child Care.
* “Let’s Rethink Childcare”.

The website [www.childcareforall.ca](http://www.childcareforall.ca) is also a great resource for information as well. There are postcards and videos that can be shared on Face Book.

PEI is also looking at bringing in Tara Peterson (who replaced Morna) for a Childcare session with the public in May or June.

1. **Domestic Violence**
* PSAC wants 10 days of paid leave.
* Manitoba currently has 5 days of paid leave for its residents.
* PSAC has successfully negotiated 5 days of paid leave with Canada Post.
* PSAC has prepared new training: “Domestic Violence at Work”, which will be delivered in Ottawa on April 6-7, 2018. Angela and Rhonda haven’t heard yet who is attending this training.
* The federal budget recently announced 5 days of paid leave for all federally-regulated workplaces/employers, which is a great start and a huge win for unions that have been lobbying for this leave. We should continue to speak with MPs and MLAs about extending such leave to all workplaces.
* The CLC site has wording for collective agreements, which are being included as bargaining demands in all negotiations going forward. The CLC also has stats and workshops for lunch & learns; Mary can share the workshop information with us.

[**http://canadianlabour.ca/issues-research/domestic-violence-work**](http://canadianlabour.ca/issues-research/domestic-violence-work)

1. **Education: Employment Equity:**
* The training was delivered in PEI just before Christmas in December, and it will be coming to NB soon as well. It can be offered again if additional people wish to have the training – may need to request it through your local PSAC representative. Shanny will bring this training information to the Education committee.

**Action: Shanny**

* Michelle commented the training was very informative, even for those with a long background in working with Regional Women’s Committees (RWCs).
* Employers are responsible to activate joint committees.
1. **Women’s Committee Updates:**
* NB: A new RWC has been established in Moncton, the launch will be held in April.
* We would like to increase communication between the RWCs in the region, so perhaps we could create a Face Book Group to connect each other.
* NS: Held a women’s retreat last year that was very successful.
* Rhonda requested that each RWC advise her of when they are holding meetings, in case she can to attend of participate by teleconference.
* NL: There are four (4) RWCs in Goose Bay, Saint John’s, Rocky Harbour, and Gander. They are holding a women’s retreat in September and will speak about Child Care and Domestic Violence. Currently planning the IWD event.
1. **Activities since last council meeting:**

NS: Women’s committee and Human Rights committee joined together to plan “African Heritage” evening event with music, food a great speaker Lana MacLean and award presented to Joy Clayton for her tireless volunteering and contribution to the labour movement.

NFLD: New Area Council in Western part of the province.

Goose Bay had successful Women’s Retreat.

PEI: Women’s committee, Human Rights committee and Area Council joined together again to provide food and serve at the local soup kitchen. Toys were also purchased for children that attend the soup kitchen.

NB: A Women’s in Leadership Gala, in Fed. Approx. 80 attended.

Shanny is VP for Women’s issues on the NB Fed.

1. **Next Meeting**

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