

REPORT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

ATLANTIC REGIONAL COUNCIL

May 07, 2015

Present:

Wayne Kelley, Angela Decker, Rhonda Doyle LeBlanc, Joey Dunphy, Neville David, Chris Lansdell,

Regrets: Nathalie Paulin

Staff Advisor- Monique Laplante

The committee welcomed new committee member, Neville David, Racially Visible Director. Round table introductions followed.

Agenda:

Review of 3 Year Committee mandate and plan

Committee reviewed & discussed the plan and mandate. Revisions were identified and will be sent to REVP for final approval. Will be requested to be posted on website.

National Human Rights Committee meeting (NAPC)

An update was provided of the NAPC meeting that was held in Ottawa March 25-27. Sarah Leonard is the new Female NAPC rep since Tanna Pirie-Wilson stepped down due to personal obligations. Joey provided an update of the meeting, speakers, and guests in attendance. Joey also provided the list of priorities for NAPC during the cycle.

National Childcare Week (May 14-17)

Dates were identified for events nationally as:

- Noon on May 14: A Twitter Storm; #voteforchildcare2015
- May 14 all day: Chalk it up for child care-write messages
- Power of one: One on one conversations about child care

Events were noted for the Atlantic Region:

- May 16: St John's NL Stroller Brigade & Picnic

- May 16: Moncton, NB will hold a family event
- May 13: Halifax Public Forum with Hassan Yussuff

Recommendation from Committee to have message sent out from the Region, providing the information where members can link into the events.

Follow up on Directors Introduction Letters

A brief discussion followed on Directors sending out their letter of introductions to all members to ensure our members know who we are and our role on the Atlantic Council. It was recommended that for returning Directors, an edited letter could be sent to remind members.

PSAC National Convention updates (Regional Racially Visible Conference)

Chris Aylward, National VP spoke on the passed resolution of the Regional Racially Visible Conference. A lot of discussion followed on this, and how will roll out, when will it be held, & is the HR Committee involved. It was noted that the National Human Rights Equity Conference may be rescheduled. This would/may determine when other Regional Conferences will be held.

Other updates on Convention:

\$5 Million campaign to fight attacks on unions was passed

Component President to AEC –didn't pass discussion of Equity rep on AEC.

Age of Youth was changed from 30-35 in constitution

Gender Expression resolution passed

Child Care Campaign \$10,000 per Region per year

Leadership course for Aboriginal Women

Event accommodation for members with disabilities passed to have a member with a disability look at the proposed event venue to ensure it is accessible to all members.

Resolution passed on Members with Disabilities receiving advance expense cheques prior to National Conventions

Missing & Murdered women campaign passed.

Harassment in Workplace Reference Tool

Monique provided an update from Sister Paulin who raised the concern. Committee agreed to follow up at our next meeting.

Upcoming Federal Election & Human Rights

Discussion on how we can play a role in ensuring everyone can vote in the upcoming election without any barriers or exclusions. The Photo Id requirement for voting can affect equity group members. A recommendation was made to ensure when the PSAC identifies targeted ridings that Human Rights issues are included.

Role of Committee in PSAC Days of Action

A brief discussion followed on how we can/are involved in the Days of Action. Members shared their ongoing/planned activities around the days of action.

Regional Human Rights Committee

A brief discussion followed on the Committees within the Atlantic Region.

Halifax Human Rights Committee has just been revitalized. Moncton has an active Committee. Committee reviewed our role in promoting the Region Human Rights Committees & joining Committees where we can.

Safe Space Training

Question of when training may be held. Recommendation was made of asking at Council Meeting when training will be provided.

Commemorative Dates

A list of commemorative dates were provided and reviewed. A recommendation was made to have the dates posted on the website, and the communication be co-signed by the applicable Equity Director & the REVP.

Accommodating Members with Disabilities

A discussion followed on members attending PSAC events and concerns of financial issues & accommodation issues that continue to arise. Committee will continue to keep this as a standing agenda item on our next meeting & provide some possible solutions.

Other

The NSFL Women's Conference is scheduled for May 22-24 in Greenwood, pending registration. The NSFL Anti Racism/Human Rights Conference is scheduled for June 12-13 in Dartmouth. Members were encouraged to participate where possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wayne Kelly
Chair, Human Rights Committee