



**Young Workers' Committee (YWC)  
RECORD OF DISCUSSION**

**April 4, 2017**

**6 p.m. to 8 p.m.**

***233 Gilmour St. - J.C Carlo Boardroom, PSAC - Ottawa***

**In attendance:** Matthew McKenna, Heather Ross, Mary Ellen Ross, Audrey Girard – local 70030, Crystal Warner – CEIU local 7075, Leslie Bennett – CEIU local 7075, Rhea Sandy – phone

**Guest speaker:** Dave Lanthier – Chair of Ottawa Union Council, OAC and alt. REVP

**1. Call to order**

Co-Chair Brother Matthew called the meeting to order.

**2. Round-table introductions**

The meeting started with a round-table introduction of Committee members. Crystal Warner (CEIU NEVP), Audrey Girard and Leslie Bennett also introduced themselves.

**3. Guest speaker – Dave Lanthier**

Dave spoke about his roles with PSAC over the last ten years. He is currently the Alternate REVP and aspires to replace Larry as the REVP.

Dave started the Radicalmobile. He had four big speakers put on a vehicle and he crashed Public Service Weeks for the last three years, telling people they shouldn't accept hamburgers instead of new contracts.

He thinks PSAC needs more branding in the media. He went to CLC Labour College and strongly encouraged members to attend the next edition. If he becomes the next REVP, he will work closely with young workers because the only way to deal with issues involving young workers is to work with them.

**4. Adoption of agenda**

Crystal moved to adopt the proposed agenda. Heather seconded. Carried.

**5. Debrief**

• **March 21 panel on eradicating racism and Islamophobia**

Rhea mentioned some hiccups at the planning stage. It was a good networking opportunity for the YWC and she expected more involvement from members and the community. Advertising wasn't great. We should have used more of the email distribution lists available.

- **National Equity Conferences**

Good conferences, good networking opportunity for Rhea. Great resolutions debated, but one resolution did not go through as there was not enough time. Crystal felt Equity Conferences actually taught something. She was highly impressed with the content but comments about immigration workers weren't appreciated. Speakers should have been vetted before they were chosen. The male Access worker is a young worker and was told, "you are too young, your time will come". Crystal was heartened to see so many young workers and felt their group was the most organized.

- **Triennial Convention**

There is a lack of young workers in leadership roles. A resolution was submitted to get delegate status for young workers. "Make space not tokenism."

- **Executive Council**

Rhea mentioned that Larry put in his notice the night before.

CLC registration and credentials are due May 7 (soft date).

PSAC spring/summer course schedule will be coming out soon.

Update on Phoenix: lots of issues still, many T4 problems that might not be corrected until September.

Crystal would like to see a seat for YWC on the Executive Council.

## 6. **Update on CLC and PSAC-NCR conventions**

- **YWC rep and registration**

Things are in the works for Heather. Lynn is approved for Sat. check-in so that she can attend the convention Sun. morning. Mary is still waiting to hear back from her local president.

- **YWC info table**

We will provide information on lunch, loss of salary, and hand out cards. We only need to be there an hour or so (Fri. evening, Sat. morning and lunch).

## 7. **Local 70030 AGM – YWC presentation**

Matt is working on a presentation. Theme: "What is the YWC? Top five reasons you should get involved!"

He appreciates any ideas we may have. He will share it with us when he is done.

## 8. **Discussion**

### a) **Precarious work campaign**

Rhea can find no confirmation of a Young Worker Committee being involved in the precarious work campaign (casual, student, term). It would be a great idea for the YWC to spearhead it. We need to highlight how it affects health, family, etc.

**Campaign objective:** To organize casuals. We need stability.

Ideas: letter-writing campaign aimed at MPs.

- Matt spoke about the Millennial Voices Report, which has a number of recommendations. He recommended that the YWC efforts dovetail with the ongoing work of the inter-union youth caucus to organize students and casuals.
- Crystal thinks we should get a systematic push across the country to include it at the bargaining tables across the board.
- Matt spoke a few times about it and has always gotten nowhere. No one wants to take responsibility.
- There is a MOU between PSAC and Treasury Board.

**b) PSHCP**

Medical abortions and medical marijuana are not covered. We want better coverage that is relevant to us. Leslie noted serious gaps in coverage of drugs related to reproduction (no coverage of abortion pills, birth control covered for limited reasons, not including prevention of pregnancy).

There was a call-out two weeks ago from REVPs for recommendations on PSHCP updates. Barely any of us have heard about it. The deadline is June 1, 2017 and negotiations are set for 2019.

The period to send requests is now and we need to raise awareness about this. The YWC will try to develop recommendations to respond to the call-out. We should do mass emails and campaigns/plantgating to encourage members to think about their benefit requests. We will draft an email to approach locals and Components with bargaining demands.

**9. Update on recruitment initiatives for 2017**

We are slightly behind schedule with YWC swag and banner. We need an updated logo. Rhea knows a designer and she will get them to contact Matt.

**10. REVP Event for May 2017**

Follow-up for next meeting:

Pamphlet – What the YWC is about, how to get involved, what we plan to accomplish. Cupcakes. Crystal will come and trade cupcakes for email addresses.

**11. Miscellaneous**

- **New Local Officers' Conference**

Mary will email Sandy and cc Rhea and Élisabeth Woods to confirm for the conference. Matt hasn't registered yet. He will look into it.

- **Committee's open house**

The committee discussed whether one or multiple events would be most useful. It was mentioned that many members don't know that all of these different groups exist.

The committee discussed the possibility of having different committees hold an open house in September (women's group, men's support circle, education, diversity, YWC, etc.).

There are 13 Components in Ottawa.

The YWC will work on ideas for food, door prizes and ways to keep participants engaged. We also need key ideas to get the ball rolling for the campaign and ensure we get REVP buy-in.

**12. Closing remarks and election of communications officer**

Cory stepped down. There is a small discussion as to whether Audrey would like to be the new communications officer.

Mary Ross nominated Audrey Girard: moved by Crystal, seconded by Matt and supported another time by Mary for good measure. Carried.

- **Follow-up: minutes from March meeting**
- The committee discussed an upcoming presentation at the local 70030 AGM.
- Matt and Heather to present?
- Crystal would like to organize a new national YWC.
- Matt moved to adjourn. Heather seconded. Carried.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 2, 2017, J.C. Carlo boardroom, Ottawa**