

**GENERAL RESOLUTIONS  
B.C. REGIONAL CONVENTION - 2008**

**RESOLUTION # G-1**

**Temporary Foreign Workers**

The Public Service Alliance of Canada will work through the Canadian Labour Congress to demand that the Federal Government overhaul its current temporary foreign worker programs by ensuring that these workers have access to full rights of citizenship, not just temporary access to jobs; and

PSAC will work through the CLC to demand that the Federal Government stop deportations of undocumented workers; and

PSAC will call through the CLC for a full review of Canada's immigration programs, including the role of Ministerial exemptions, the use of spot-checks and the addition of penalties for employers violating regulations; and

PSAC will continue to work with CLC member unions and progressive organizations to ensure that temporary foreign workers rights are protected.

*Vancouver Area Council*

## **RESOLUTION # G-2**

### **Colombia**

Because the Government of Canada is currently negotiating a free trade agreement with Colombia; and

Because more trade unionists are killed in Colombia than in the rest of the world combined, and there are 3.8 million internally displaced people; and

Because Colombia's President and his government do NOT share Canadian values of human rights, democracy, freedom and rule of law; and

Because even the US Congress has refused to approve a similar free trade agreement with Colombia based on evidence of government involvement in crimes against humanity, massive human rights violations, on-going unsolved crimes against labour activists and direct involvement of the Colombian government with paramilitary death squads, now

The Public Service Alliance of Canada will, through the Canadian Labour Congress, call on Prime Minister Harper to stop negotiations of the free trade deal with Colombia.

*Vancouver Area Council*

## **RESOLUTION # G-3**

### **May Day**

**WHEREAS** May First, known as May Day or International Workers' Day, is a historic commemoration and international celebration of the social and economic achievements of the working class and labor movement dating back to the struggle for the eight-hour work day in the United States and Canada on May 1, 1886; and

**WHEREAS** May Day is not officially recognized in Canada or the United States, but instead has been replaced with "Labour Day",

**WHEREAS** May Day commonly sees organized street demonstrations by hundreds of thousands of working people and their labour unions throughout most of the world; and

**WHEREAS** there are local activists/community organizations that hope to reclaim the historic tradition of May Day in Canada;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the locals/branches of the Public Service Alliance of Canada in British Columbia work with or support local activist/community organizations presently involved in organizing May Day actions to include as many workers and workers' organizations as possible on May First 2008 and subsequent May Days; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the locals/branches/Area Councils of PSAC in B.C. be encouraged to join or endorse the May Day Organizing Committee; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that locals/branches of PSAC in B.C. participate with local activist/community organizations presently involved in organizing May Day actions to include as many workers and workers' organizations as possible on May First 2008 and subsequent May Days; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the PSAC-BC region send a resolution to the BC Federation of Labour Convention for November 2008 calling on the BC Fed to assist the labour movement to fully participate in every community in B.C. to reclaim the fighting tradition of May Day on May First of each year with demonstrations, rallies and meetings to highlight the workers' movement in Canada as part of the international May Day actions which take place around the world.

*Vancouver Area Council*

## **RESOLUTION # G- 4**

### **Security and Prosperity Partnership**

The Public Service Alliance of Canada will, through the Canadian Labour Congress, continue to oppose the Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP) of North America and call on all of our affiliates to take similar action; and

PSAC will support NDP trade critic Peter Julian's motion calling for public consultations and full Parliamentary oversight of the SPP; and

PSAC will lobby the Federal Government to immediately cease SPP talks until the process becomes democratic and guarantees protection of Canadian sovereignty; and

PSAC will work with affiliates to mobilize the membership to put Canadian sovereignty front and centre in the lead-up to the forthcoming election.

*Vancouver Area Council*

## **RESOLUTION # G- 5**

Because supporting local, socially responsible farms and agricultural businesses lessens the reliance on imported food sources and the impact of transporting food on the environment; and

Because support for local farmers leads to greater food security and safety; and

The PSAC B.C. will join with District Labour Councils to lobby municipalities and school boards to buy locally grown and produced food, to plant fruit trees on public and private property, to support farmers' markets, and to support community gardens; and

The PSAC B.C. will join with District Labour Councils to lobby municipalities and school boards to increase recycling and composting programs and put in place other green initiatives.

*B.C. Regional Council*

## **RESOLUTION # G-6**

### **Resolution from B.C. Regional Council**

Because the Harper Conservative Government has cut or not funded environmental protection programs, including funding for fish stock enhancement, stock assessment analysis, and habitat and pollution monitoring and enforcement; and

Because scientists predict that Arctic summer ice will disappear within this century and that melting of glacial ice will result in a drastic rise in sea levels; and

Because global climate warming will have harmful or devastating affects on food production and the availability of clean drinking water; and

Because scientific evidence strongly indicates that green house gas emissions need to be cut by 90% by 2,050 to slow down the global warming process; and

Because the Harper Government has joined with the Bush Administration to thwart international efforts to cut green house gas emissions - evidenced by their sorry and disgraceful performance at the U.N. Climate Change Conference in Bali;

The PSAC will work with environmental, community, and labour groups:

\* to pressure the federal government to fund Environment Canada, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and other federal environmental programs, including those falling under OurFish.ca ; and

\* to pressure the federal government to bring in a national climate change plan which would cap and reduce green house gas emissions and that part of this plan include federal and other governmental funding for public transit; and

\* to pressure the federal government to implement the Kyoto Protocol targets and support future international agreements to substantially decrease green house gas emissions;

## **RESOLUTION # G-7**

The Conservative Government slashed 40% of Status of Women Canada's (SWC) administrative budget, removed all references to "equality" from SWC's mandate, closed 12 of 16 Status of Women Canada regional offices, eliminated the Court Challenges Program that funds equality test cases on behalf of marginalized people, and disallowed funding to women's groups that do advocacy and lobbying,

The PSAC will work with the B.C. Federation of Labour, the CLC, and women's groups to pressure the federal government to reverse the cuts and changes made to the Status of Women Canada, and call for:

- \* A Status of Women Canada with a strong mandate to advance women's equality; and
- \* A Status of Women Canada with the resources to lead the way when it comes to research and policy development on women's equality issues within government; and
- \* A federal presence for women's equality across the country; and
- \* A Women's program that funds not-for-profit women's groups that support feminist principles and research and advocate for change

The PSAC will work with the B.C. Federation of Labour, the CLC, and women's and community groups to put pressure on the federal government to reinstate and properly fund the Court Challenges Program.

*National Component Local 20088*

## **RESOLUTION # G-8**

### **Status of Women Canada**

Because the Federal Government has slashed forty percent of Status of Women Canada's (SWC's) administrative budget, removed all references to 'equality' from SWC's mandate, closed 12 of 16 Status of Women Canada regional offices, cut the Court Challenges Program that funds test cases about equality rights, and changed the rules in order to disallow women's groups from doing advocacy or lobbying with federal funds; now

The Public Service Alliance will work with the CLC to call upon the Federal Government to reverse the cuts and changes made to Status of Women Canada and to other groups fighting for an equal society.

*Vancouver Area Council*

## **RESOLUTION # G-9**

Because the U.S. government requires passports to enter the U.S. by air and in the near future will require passports by land,

Because the population of B.C. has increased to almost 4.5 million and a proportionately high number of B.C. residents travel outside of the country,

Because large urban areas in B.C. are in close proximity to the Canada/U.S. border,

Because the high demand for passports has resulted in passport workers working long hours under difficult and stressful circumstances and has also negatively impacted Service Canada workers and offices,

The PSAC will lobby and put pressure on the federal government to significantly increase the number of passport offices and workers in B.C. to serve the needs of B.C. residents and to address the workload and working conditions of the Passport and Service Canada workers

*National Component Local 20088*

## **RESOLUTION # G-10**

**WHEREAS** the PSAC uses Air Canada as its airline of choice;

**WHEREAS** PSAC members, including our members with disabilities which include hard of hearing/deaf members, who have a necessity to fly to various locations for conference and conventions, fly on the airline of choice of their Union;

**WHEREAS** Air Canada does not provide accommodation for those members who would like to make use of the on-board entertainment by providing both English and French subtitles on their tv/movie screens;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the PSAC put pressure on Air Canada to update their electronic technology in order to provide both English and French subtitles on their television/movie screens.

Rationale: Recently I flew home from Ottawa with a hard of hearing/deaf member who attended the Access conference. This member wanted to watch the movie which was being presented by Air Canada as our entertainment for our flight. Unfortunately, this member could not make use of this perk as the subtitles were not written in English. This was a very frustrating experience for the member.

*B.C. Human Rights Committee*

## **RESOLUTION # G-11**

**WHEREAS** successive Liberal and Conservative federal governments have reduced Unemployment Insurance (UI) and subsequently "Employment" Insurance (EI) benefits and fewer unemployed workers qualify for benefits; and

**WHEREAS** the Federal Government has used surplus monies from the EI fund for purposes other than insurance for workers or the public service infrastructure to assist workers; and

**WHEREAS** the Federal Government is continuing its mandate to decrease EI services in small communities by declaring many Service Canada sites as non-growth offices for EI service; and

**WHEREAS** service to the public is negatively impacted by these regressive measures; and

**WHEREAS** this has a negative impact on public service workers through the loss of career advancement opportunities, and an additional negative impact on communities, through the loss of family-supporting and community-supporting jobs;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that:

The PSAC B.C. will lobby Members of Parliament, and work with community and labour groups, to put pressure on the Federal Government to reverse these regressive measures, and increase funding for EI program delivery and benefit entitlements; and

The PSAC B.C. will work with community and labour groups to raise public awareness and gain public support for these issues.

*CEIU*

**RESOLUTION # G-12**

**PSAC Policy #12 (Superannuation)**

**WHEREAS** the PSAC superannuation policy (Policy #12)  
Was developed in 1989

And

**WHEREAS** the Public Service, the PSAC, and the goals of its members with respect to pensions have changed significantly since PSAC policy paper #12 was written.

And

**WHEREAS** all PSAC members have a right to a pension that meets their needs and desires.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

That the PSAC BC shall lobby the PSAC National Board of Directors to consult with all PSAC members (by survey, focus group or other means) with the objective of reviewing and revising Policy paper #12 (superannuation) so that it is responsive to the needs of members in today's society.

*Local 20147 UEW*

## **RESOLUTION # G-13**

### **Classification**

**WHEREAS** the current classification system is outdated and overloaded.

And

**WHEREAS** the National Model Work Description does not meet the needs of our members

And

**WHEREAS** the recent supreme court decision (Health Services and Support vs. British Columbia, June 8,2007) has established the rights of unions to consult with government on matters important to their members.

And

**WHEREAS** this issue has been initiated by the membership through bargaining demands

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the PSAC BC will consult with the PSAC National Board of Directors with the objective of developing a campaign using all means at its disposal (even court challenges) with the objective of forcing the employer to consult with them and to jointly develop a classification system that meets the needs of all PSAC members.

*Local 20147 UEW*

## **RESOLUTION # G-14**

### **Staffing**

**WHEREAS** the staffing process is defined by an act of parliament (Public Service Employment Act).

And

**WHEREAS** the act is not scheduled to be revised until 2010

And

**WHEREAS** there are problems/concerns with staffing rules that must be dealt with on a regular basis

And

**WHEREAS** the recent supreme court decision (Health Services and support vs. British Columbia June 8, 2007) has established the right of unions to consult with government on matters important to their members

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the PSAC BC will consult with PSAC the National Board of Directors and express the memberships desire that the PSAC use all means at its disposal (even court challenges) with the objective of jointly developing with the employer a responsive mechanism for changing staffing rules on an ongoing basis.

*Local 20147 UEW*

**RESOLUTION # G-15**

**WHEREAS** during every round of bargaining PSAC members express their (sic) for changes in their pension plan

And

**WHEREAS** they are always told we cannot bargain on pensions

And

**WHEREAS** the recent supreme court decision (Health Services and Support vs. B.C. June 8, 2007) has established the constitutional right of unions to consult with government on matters important to their members.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the PSAC BC will consult with the PSAC National Board of Directors and express the memberships desire that the PSAC develop a campaign using all means at its disposal (even court challenges) with the objective of changing the law and allowing bargaining related to superannuation.

*Local 20147 UEW*

## **RESOLUTION # G-16**

### **Regional Equity Conferences**

**WHEREAS** the PSAC National Equity Conference have represented an opportunity to bring equity group members together across all Regions and Components to build an effective and proactive human rights strategy across the PSAC; and

**WHEREAS** the strength of the PSAC is in its diversified structure; and

**WHEREAS** the PSAC has evolved to encompass a strong Regional and Component structure; and

**WHEREAS** the strengthening of this structure necessitates creating an opportunity for equity group members to come together from across the Region to develop effective, proactive strategies on human rights that build and foster regional initiatives;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that each PSAC region hold one Regional Equity conference for all equity group members in the next convention cycle; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the PSAC Regional Equity Conferences for all equity group members be funded by the PSAC on a model such as the Regional Women's Conferences.

*B.C. Human Rights Committee*

**RESOLUTION # G-17**

**National Vice-President for Equity Seeking members**

**WHEREAS** the PSAC is committed to Human Rights and Equity issues; and

**WHEREAS** PSAC leadership at the National Board of Directors and the Alliance Executive Committee is not reflective of Canadian society or PSAC membership; and

**WHEREAS** the NBOD and AEC lacks membership from all of the PSAC equity seeking groups;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the PSAC establish a National Vice-President that will represent all PSAC equity seeking members and will sit with full voice and vote on the AEC; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that prospective candidates for the National Vice-President position come from the PSAC's equity seeking members and that voting for eligible candidates be by delegates to PSAC Convention who have self identified as being from an equity group.

*B.C. Human Rights Committee*

## **RESOLUTION # G-18**

### **National Network for Racially Visible Members**

**WHEREAS** Racially Visible members across the country are active in the union and in their community; and

**WHEREAS** Racially Visible members do not have a National Network in order to connect and facilitate the work and activate more Racially Visible members into the union; and

**WHEREAS** Aboriginal members have the NAIM circle which has been successful in organizing, activating, networking and mobilizing Aboriginal, Inuit and Métis members:

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the PSAC establish a national network of Racially Visible members from coast to coast to coast; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the National Network of Racially Visible members be structured and funded in a similar way as the National Aboriginal, Inuit and Métis Network.

*B.C. Human Rights Committee*

## **RESOLUTION # G-19**

### **Funding for Regional Human Rights and Equity Committees**

**WHEREAS** the funding for PSAC regional human rights and equity committees does not provide enough resources for the committee members to fully encourage and engage members to participate in Union activities; and

**WHEREAS** the number of PSAC equity group members have increased over the past few years;

**WHEREAS** the PSAC has seen the value of human rights and equity committees in addressing member issues such as activism, advocacy, education, social justice and political action;

**WHEREAS** the PSAC encourages and fully supports equity member involvement in the Union;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the PSAC nationally increase the funding for Regional Human Rights and Equity Committees.

*B.C. Human Rights Committee*

**RESOLUTION # G-20**

**Convention delegate status for Regional Human Rights Committees**

**WHEREAS** PSAC Human Rights committees, are duly constituted bodies pursuant to the PSAC Constitution; and

**WHEREAS** PSAC Human Rights committees are entitled to send delegates to the PSAC Regional Conventions, but do not have delegate status to the PSAC Triennial Convention; and

**WHEREAS** PSAC Human Rights committees should have every opportunity to put their issues forward and have voice and vote at the PSAC Triennial Convention;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that each duly constituted PSAC regional Human Rights committee, be entitled to send, with full delegate status, one delegate per regional Human Rights committee to the PSAC convention.

Resolution submitted to the Racially Visible Conference by the BC Human Rights Committee meeting held on January 10.

We determined this resolution to be our fifth priority

*B.C. Human Rights Committee*

## **RESOLUTION # G-21**

### **Convention delegate status for Regional Equity committees**

**WHEREAS** PSAC equity committees, such as Women, Aboriginal, Racially Visible, Persons with Disabilities, Pride and Human Rights, are duly constituted bodies pursuant to the PSAC Constitution; and

**WHEREAS** PSAC equity committees are entitled to send delegates to the PSAC Regional Conventions, but do not have delegate status to the PSAC Triennial Convention; and

**WHEREAS** PSAC equity committees should have every opportunity to put their issues forward and have voice and vote at the PSAC Triennial Convention;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that each duly constituted PSAC regional equity committee, namely Women, Aboriginal, Racially Visible, Persons with Disabilities, Pride and Human Rights, each be entitled to send, with full delegate status, one delegate per regional Women, Aboriginal, Racially Visible, Persons with Disabilities, Pride and Human Rights committee to the PSAC convention.

Resolution submitted to the Racially Visible Conference by the BC Human Rights Committee meeting held on January 10.

*B.C. Human Rights Committee*