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## Director's Report to the October 2014 Board

Submitted by Bonnie Pratt

### 2014 PRAIRIE/NWT REGIONAL STEWARD COUNCIL

#### Rally:

Approximately 100 PIPSC stewards and friends from PSAC and Unifor participated in a rally September 19 in Winnipeg. The rally was to protest government cuts to services to Canadians and to evidence based research as well as attacks on previously fought for and negotiated employee benefits. The gala opening of the Canadian Human Rights Museum on the same weekend co-opted media attention and presented logistical issues for the rally. Undaunted, the rally marched from the Delta Hotel Conference Centre to the Manitoba Legislature grounds. Steve Hindle, PIPSC vice-president and Kevin Rebeck, president of the Manitoba Federation of Labour addressed the rally. The weather was much kinder than 2012 and the rally concluded with a hot BBQ lunch prepared by Danny's Whole Hog. Food leftover was taken to Lighthouse Mission; primarily a soup and sandwich kitchen serving the immediate needs of Winnipeg's less fortunate in such a manner that conveys the value of those in need. After the lunch, PIPSC Stewards returned to the Delta Hotel to start the Steward Council. The grand winner of the rally chant contest, Shannan Little was presented with the prize: a mini-iPad and keyboard. Two additional winners will receive the iconic Regional Padfolios: Jane Ray and Rachel Siwak.

#### Guest speaker: Kevin Millsip

Opened the Council with a discussion of Professional Unions: Where we are, What have we lost, Where are we going, What tools do we need to get there?



Kevin's work is focused on building progressive social change leadership. He is the co-founder and Director of 'Next Up' – a national leadership program for young social change leaders, emphasizing cross-generational collaboration and he also works as the Sustainability Coordinator for the Vancouver School Board. Kevin was a presenter at the CLC Political Action Conference Workshop in March 2013 as well as at the PIPSC NCR 2013 Steward Council. His talk covered leadership development and mobilization with an emphasis on connecting with others, setting up individual relationships and bringing others on side. He challenged us to tell the story: how we work for the public good.



## Value For Money - Business Cases:

Presentation by Gary Farnsworth, Regional Secretary/Treasurer.

“Not Just for Accountants”: To conclude Day One, Gary presented a succinct overview of the business cases that will be presented to, and voted on, at the upcoming AGM. The cases are of interest to all stewards. He also provided links that allows individuals to access more information, at their leisure, so AGM delegates can arrive well informed. See also: **Finance Portal Value for Money Review**

## Mediation – the Coles Notes Version (why Mediation is more effective than rights based conflict resolution):

Presenter: Tom Clairmont, Dispute Resolution Specialist,  
Public Service Labour Relations Board.



Dispute Resolution Services (DRS) offers professional assistance to help employers and employees resolve their disputes and find their own solutions to their workplace conflicts.

DRS mediators have many years of experience and extensive knowledge of dispute resolution. The team is made up of seasoned mediators who are recognized for their professionalism and exceptional work in fields such as labour relations / collective bargaining, human rights and human resources.

DRS mediators have vast experience working in the public service and with unions and have become experts at managing sensitive and complex cases. They are also skilled at delivering training on mediation as well as effective communication, conflict management, interest-based negotiation and on how to prepare for union-management meetings.



## Single Transferable Vote: Secretary/Treasurer

**Gary Farnsworth** gave a short presentation on STV - a type of Proportional Representation, where every vote carries the same weight. It was also noted that Fair Vote Canada endorses any type of Proportional Representation voting system (almost every other democracy uses this clearly more democratic system). Only Canada, USA and Britain use a 'first-past-the-post' (winner-take-all system).



## Moving Forward

### **Making Change: Who we are, What we Do, How we can do it better – Together** Introduction by Vice-President Steve Hindle.

The power-point presentation was facilitated by our Regional Mobilizer Coordinators: Kieth Laing and James Betteridge and the staff support person, Grace Chychul, Regional Representative.

The presentation was followed by an exercise in which members of different Branches were asked to work together to suggest Lunch and Learns and Branch events to promote the goals of Better Together.

### **Winnipeg Harvest:** Fund Raising for a local charity.

A decision was made by the Regional Executive to emulate the Atlantic Region's worthy efforts made at a recent event to raise funds for the Food Bank. We agreed that PIPSC, as an organization, does not make charitable donations but there is no policy to dissuade local, spontaneous efforts. The local charity chosen was Winnipeg Harvest, a non-profit, community based organization that is a food distribution & training centre. Their goal is to collect and share surplus food with people who are hungry and to offer training opportunities to help people step up and out of poverty. Every \$1 received, translates into \$20 of groceries. To encourage donations, we held a raffle that met the legal criteria in Winnipeg. Tickets for a mini-iPad and keyboard were enthusiastically sold by some phenomenal Medical Adjudicators led by Elizabeth Franklin and Donna Johnston. We raised \$1,050 dollars. Funds were matched by a very generous donor who may wish to remain anonymous. We realize that we can't expect future gestures of this nature or we won't be able to recruit any guest speakers.

### **Regional Steward Awards were presented to the following Stewards:**

Career-to-date Contributions: John White, PWGSC

Current Service: Valentina Dimitrova, AFS

Services Rendered as an elected official: Fern Heitkamp, NEB



## Prairie/Northwest Territories Region

### Status of Staffing in the professional offices

<b>Edmonton Office - Previously</b>	<b>Edmonton Office - Current</b>
Grace Chychul	Grace Chychul, appointed Regional Representative
Vance Coulas	Vance Coulas
Jeffrey Ryder (moved to Winnipeg)	
<b>Winnipeg Office - Previously</b>	<b>Winnipeg Office - Current</b>
Regional Representative - Joe Ahrens	This position moved to Edmonton; <del>Joe Ahrens (laid off)</del>
	<del>Bruce Buckley (retired, temporary)</del>
Neil Hardin	<del>Neil Hardin (retired, temporary)</del>
Karine Pelletier	<del>Karine Pelletier resigned</del>
Maria Jordan	<del>Maria Jordan resigned</del>
Jeffrey Ryder	Jeffrey Ryder
	Stephen Edwards (new)
Negotiator for MAGE - Joe Ahrens WTEG, WRPEG - Joe Ahrens Deer Lodge - Joe Ahrens	MAGE <del>Lynn Morin</del> , John Paul Leduc (temp); Evan Heidinger WTEG, WRPEG - Jamie Dunn Deer Lodge (nurses) - Jean Paul Leduc Deer Lodge (1.5 doctors) - ?