

INAUGURAL NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE UNION OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT WORKERS TORONTO, ONTARIO, AUGUST 22-24, 2017

**Conference Report**

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Shop Steward Local 70712

Monday, August 21, 2017 – Registration for all Delicates and Observers

Tuesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>

All attendees were welcomed to our first UHEW convention and then we had Wabion (Flower blooming in Spring) of the Ojibway Nations people give an aboriginal opening ceremony that started with an offering of tobacco and a smudging ceremony intended to help bring about change. That was next followed by a traditional native dance in full costume by Sara that was very well received. This was the opening of the circle for talks to begin we were told that this meeting place was Turtle Island (Toronto) and Migwetch which means welcome to all creatures four legged or two.

Next formal introductions were given from the Host committee down to our esteemed guests. Then the formalities of the convention were brought forth ratification of appointments to the committee's and adoption time frame, rules extra.

Sister Robin Benson - Address by our National President

Sisters and Brothers we wouldn't need to bank sick leave if they would give us a paid sick day for every sick day taken and have short term disability take effect after thirteen days. Bill C-20 still hasn't been passed which Harper implemented in order to remove our sick leave. Lobby our government kill bill C-27 (Bill Monroe) to grant access to our Defined government pension and turn it into a Targeted pension please lobby your local MP <https://www.federalretirees.ca/>. Child care money given to the provinces is not enough half measures avail us nothing. The Government is now talking about selling off all their assets Airports, buildings extra to make up for bad spending habits. Then Robin announced her resignation into retirement 30 + years of union service.

Brother Mike Ballard (National Human Rights Committee) petitioned Human Rights Committee did not make the cut with the new merger of the UHEW was referred back to the committee with recommendations to reconsider its worth due to the inordinate amount of resolutions drafted in its name. I for one David T. Buote Steward Local 70712 drafted a resolution that's was ruled out of order and dropped with out any explanation and was grateful that the motion was moved forward for debate.

Brother Todd Panas president of the Union of Environmental Workers spoke on bullying and Violence and harassment with in the public service. Todd asked the Trudeau Government to create a bill in order to study the matter more closely much like the mental health bill Trudeau put forward with his new government.

Brother Todd Pannas gave a nod to the first Respect Day campaign November 28, 2016 and the spirit to which our convention will commensurate. Todd also told of how the union will be recruiting respect liaisons for the office at 2781 Lancaster Road right off the 417 at Walkley road.

Brother Todd Panas also spoke of a new interactive website for our members but which our delegates debated the that the one we have is working and may be in need better promotion towards effectiveness in sourcing information regarding training and the latest in talks at the bargaining table.

Their was a very heart felt thank you from Brother Mike Lister VP Local 70712 on the behalf of Brother John Coltes and family in helping setup a trust for John son Dante who passed earlier this year from a rare disease Febrile Infection-Related Epilepsy Syndrome on February 25th, 2017.

UHEW Final Budget as of June 2017 was presented and questions to the finance committee were given. The budget was not well defined per line item as per new convention attendees pointed out. Budget 2017 – 2018 was approved.

Report to the finance committee resolution #7 was put forward to increase to increase funding for observers for conferences and training from \$1,500.00 to \$3,000.00 it was sent back to the committee for review.

Esteemed Health Canada UNION president Tony Tilly “announced retirement” and was given the first life membership for the UHEW for all his hard work throughout the years..

To commensurate the conference an amazing buffet and Dance was held that evening the live band was awesome fine food and dancing enjoyed by everyone.

Aug 23<sup>rd</sup>/2017

Key note speaker Maude Barlow Author of Boiling Point council of Canadians gave an awe inspiring talk on the global water crisis that was very well received

All bylaw resolutions were heard and voted upon by delegates given the opportunity for rebuttal and resolve.

Resolution #47 Motions to Divide the Human Rights structure and National officer and Regional representative was heard and elections for the position will be held the next day.

Elections Aug 24/2017

National President Nominations:

Todd Panas, Marie Josee Boudreau, Fredrick Geoffrion

1 – Todd Panas 106 votes

National Vice-president Nominations:

Shimer Fayad, Fredrick Geoffrion

1 - Shimer Fayad 104 votes

National Human Rights Nominations

Marie Josee Boudreau, Mike Ballard, Paige Gilmore, Elain Lawrence

Three ballads 3<sup>rd</sup> and final close race

Marie Josee Boudreau 58 votes

Mike Ballard 55 votes

Regional Vice-Presidents:

Newfoundland/Labrador - Robert Chafe (alternate, Jennifer Higdon)

Scotia-Fundy - Marc Blanchard (alternate, Scott Mossman)

NB/PEI - Steve Maund (alternate, Todd Davies)

Atlantic - Karla Levangie-Connor (alternate, Brandon Thorne)

Québec - Maryse Veilleux

Québec - Benoît Thibault (alternate, Sylvie A Denis)

NCR - Michel Lépine (alternate, Diane Girouard)

NCR - Jayne Powers (alternate, Rubin Kooner)

Ontario - Kevin Lundstrom (alternate, Rita Lemick)

Ontario - Cheryl Sullivan (alternate, Jacqueline Gabon)

Prairie and Northern - Mark Gilchrist (alternate, Elizabeth Lewis)

Manitoba - Faye Kingyens (alternate, Sheilagh Hanson)

Saskatchewan - Larry Schlosser (alternate, Lisa LaRocque)

Alberta/BC/Yukon - Darlene Lewis (alternate, Jasmine MacIver)

BC/Yukon - Richard May (alternate, Linda Moen)

The delegates also elected a National Human Rights Representative - Marie-Josée Boudreau

#### Priority List for PSAC Triannual

- 1 Mark Power
- 2 Kristin Thompson
- 3 Rubin Kooner
- 4 Michel Plamondon
- 5 Perry Powers
- 6 Jeannette Pierce
- 7 Tod Davies
- 8 Melanie Trendocher
- 9 Dian Girouard
- 10 Grace Morgan

My Take away from this conference was the dedication and unselfish behavior from our President Tod Panas that did not take individual matters personally and dealt with constructively and fairly.

Your Trusted Observer David T. Buote LOCAL 70712

