



*Local 70712 - Union of Health and Environment Workers
Section Locale 70712 - Syndicat des travailleurs de la santé et de l'environnement*

3rd UHEW Triennial convention

This year's convention took place August 15 to 17, 2023 at the Hyatt Regency Vancouver hotel in Vancouver British Columbia. Convention opened with indigenous dances and songs to promote reconciliation and recognition of the unseeded land that we were on.

The credentials committee reported 74 delegates, 20 observers and 4 guests (there was a total of 91 delegates registered).

Chris Aylward was the first guest speaker and he spoke about the strike and the gains we made.

After lunch the credentials committee reported 81 delegates, 16 observers and 6 guests.

The financial report was presented, and the budget was reviewed. Many questions were asked to clarify what was included in the categories to better understand the justification of spending. The budget was passed with no dues increased.

There was a resolution submitted to apply a 5\$/m/m dues levy in order to rebuild the strike fund in a timely manner. This was a contentious issue as members do not want an increase in their dues but it's important to rebuild the strike fund for a future strike. It is estimated that it will take just over 3 years to increase the fund and once 2.5 million is achieved the levy will be dropped and the dues will go back down. This resolution was voted on and was carried.

A resolution to increase the strike fund to 4.5 million was also discussed and carried. It's important to ensure that our strike fund will be large enough to accommodate several days of striking as future strikes will only get harder and more expensive. The balance of the fund after the strike levy reaches 1.5 million may come from investments to ensure that the levy can still be dropped after the three-year period.

Day 2 of the convention started out with 81 delegates, 17 observers and 1 guest.

Guest speaker Lisa Marie Barron spoke about the gains that the NDP has recently obtained for Canadians. She spoke about anti-scab legislation, dental care for children and seniors, and future concerns such as gaps in corporate pensions and coastal debris response (Zim Kingston shipping container spill).

The bylaws committee was called up to go through the top 10 concurrent resolutions.

Resolution 25 was carried. This is to send the PSAC National Human Rights Rep to the next UHEW triennial convention. This was costed at 0.01\$/m/m.



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Resolution was 14 carried, so that the HR rep can attend PSAC equity conferences.

Resolution 30 was carried to clarify the functions of the national director of regulatory enforcement position within UHEW.

Resolution 8a was carried to remove the reference of UEW and NHU from the national president and NVP positions.

Resolution 6b was carried so that locals will receive the list of unallocated members.

Resolution 11 was referred back to the committee to add a new committee for reconciliation. As this resolution is only to add current resolutions to the bylaws, this referral was defeated by the committee and the original resolution was carried.

Resolution 12 was defeated. This resolution was to allow alternate RVPs to attend council meetings in any region. The costing was 0.17\$/m/m which was inflated because the costing was never done for members to attend council meetings in their own region and Ottawa (current bylaws).

Resolution 26 was carried. This resolution is about extending the criteria for the delegate formula. The costing was 0.05\$/m/m.

Resolution 28 was carried and was housekeeping.

Sharon Desousa spoke in the afternoon about anti-oppression.

The General resolutions committee was asked to present. The general resolutions sparked a lot of debate from the floor and took up a lot of time.

Resolution 35a for UHEW communication was carried. Resolution 36 for social media staff was defeated. This resolution was costed at 10 hours per week resulting in a 0.27\$/m/m dues increase. Resolution 34 for PSAC conference selection was carried. Resolution 39 for business continuity plan was split into resolution 39 a and 39 b. Resolution 39 a was carried while resolution 39b was defeated.

On Day 3 we focused completely on the election process with a lot of time wasted on technical difficulties with encore's voting tablets. Sharon Desousa was the chair for all of the elections. We started with the National President position. Shimen Fayad was acclaimed to the position as no one else ran for the position. Next Marc Blanchard was acclaimed to the National Vice President Position. The RVPs were elected through regional caucuses. Rubin Kooner, the RVP of NCR1 ran against Terry Fanning and was re-elected to the position. Jeannine Laing ran again for the position of alternate RVP and I was acclaimed to the position.

All elected RVPs and Alternates read the oath of office.



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Samantha Basha and Sonya Driscoll ran for the position of PSAC National Human Rights Representative. Sonia was elected to the position for a 3 year term.

20 delegates were nominated to attend the PSAC Triennial Convention as a delegate as there are extra spots after the NP, NVP and RVPs. Jeannine Laing was nominated and elected to attend.

The convention was adjourned August 17, 2023.