

**REPORT OF THE  
REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT  
BRITISH COLUMBIA/YUKON REGION  
Elizabeth Oliphant**

This report covers activities as Regional Vice-President, British Columbia/Yukon Region, for the period from September 6, 2016 to March 10, 2017.

PSAC National Occupational Health and Safety Conference, Montreal QC - November 17-21, 2016

I attended the National Health and Safety Conference as a delegate on behalf of Union of Environment Workers. The theme was “Shaping a New Culture for our Health and Safety”. I found it particularly valuable to participate in the workshop on Strategies for Preventing Workplace Violence which focused on the process for filing a Canada Labour Code (CLC) Part II and Canada Occupational Health and Safety Regulations (COHSR) Part XX complaint.

PSAC-BC Young Worker Conference, Vancouver - November 26, 2016

I was invited to present on a panel at the "Up Next: Young Worker Leadership Summit" in Vancouver. Other panelists included: Yasmin Ali, Board Member of the Coalition of Childcare Advocates of B.C., Paul Finch, Secretary-Treasurer of the BCGEU, and Carl Gannon, National President of the Union of Veteran Affairs. I was asked to reflect on my experience as a young worker recently coming in to a National Officer role, the journey to that position, my observations, and any barriers faced. Some of the challenges discussed included: work-life balance, having the courage to face management, and nerves when public speaking. I was pleased to note that one of our UEW young workers from local 20169, Brother Robert Kowbel, was in attendance as a delegate at the conference.

PSAC - Sacred Water Ceremony, Victoria BC - December 10, 2016

I was invited as a guest speaker to the Sacred Water Ceremony in Victoria. This event was a part of the Thirsty for Justice campaign demanding safe drinking water in First Nations communities and was sponsored by the PSAC National Aboriginal People’s Circle, PSAC-BC, and the PSAC-BC Vancouver Island Human Rights Committee. The UEW donated \$500 to the PSAC-BC Vancouver Island Human Rights Committee in support of their community outreach and the cheque was presented during the ceremony. The event included: a welcoming address and blessing by Elder Joan Morris Lekwungen (Songhees Nation), a march with buckets of water, visits to each of the East, South, West, and North doorways of the Songhees territory, guest speakers at each location, and a symbolic returning of the water to the Inner Harbour.

### Component Merger Ratification Vote Meetings

All 6 BC/Yukon UEW locals voted in favour of ratifying the Component merger between UEW and NHU. Thank you to all local executives for organizing successful meetings.

### UHEW National Council Meeting - January 9-12, 2017

I attended the first UHEW National Council Meeting in Montebello, Quebec. The agenda included: teambuilding exercises, review of local ratification vote results, establishment of committees, RVP duties under the new By-Laws and 2017 National Convention planning.

### Retirements

Congratulations to Brothers Tom Hopkins, George McElwee and Frank Snelgrove on their retirements. On behalf of the UHEW BC/Yukon region, thank you for your years of service representing the members.

### 2016 Events and Meetings Attended:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Event</b>
Sept 14	Telecon	DFO Regional Health and Safety Committee (RHSC) Meeting
Sept 15	Telecon	ECCC Regional Occupational Health and Safety (ROHS) Meeting
Oct 17-21	Ottawa	UEW National Executive Meeting
Nov 3	Sidney	Institute of Ocean Sciences (IOS) Health and Safety (H&S) Meeting
Nov 4	Telecon	DFO Mental Health in the Workplace National Committee
Nov 17-21	Montreal	PSAC National Health and Safety Conference
Nov 26	Vancouver	PSAC-BC Young Worker Conference Guest Speaker
Nov 29	Telecon	ECCC ROHS
Nov 30	Victoria	Local 20169 Component Merger Ratification Vote
Dec 1	Telecon	Local 20147 Component Merger Ratification Vote
Dec 6	Sidney	IOS H&S Meeting
Dec 6	Telecon	Local 20090 Component Merger Ratification Vote
Dec 7	Victoria	Local 20076 Component Merger Ratification Vote
Dec 8	Telecon	DFO RHSC Meeting
Dec 8	Telecon	NRCan Local Union Management Consultation Committee (LMCC)
Dec 8	Whitehorse	Local Y0720 AGM and Component Merger Ratification Vote
Dec 8	Vancouver	Local 20729 Component Merger Ratification Vote (attended by National President due to schedule conflict with Local Y0720 AGM)
Dec 10	Victoria	PSAC-BC Vancouver Island Human Rights Committee (VIHRC) Sacred Water Ceremony

2017 Events and Meetings Attended:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Event</b>
Jan 9-12	Montebello	First UHEW National Council Meeting
Jan 30	Sidney	Local 20076 Executive Lunch
Feb 6	Nanaimo	Local 20090 AGM with National President
Feb 7	Victoria	Pacific Forestry Centre (PFC) Tour with National President
Feb 7	Sidney	IOS and CCGS M Charles MB Tour with National President
Feb 8	Vancouver	DFO Meeting with Regional Director General (RDG)
Feb 9	Vancouver	Local 20147 AGM and Retirement Party with National President
Feb 15	Vancouver	DFO Meeting with New Conservation and Protection (C&P) Director
Feb 16	Vancouver	Local 20729 AGM with National President
Feb 17	Vancouver	ECCC Workplace Health Assessment Interview Representation
Feb 20	Telecon	UHEW National Council Teleconference Call
Feb 20	Telecon	DFO Regional Union Management Consultation Committee (RUMCC)
Feb 21	Telecon	PSAC-BC Victoria Area Council Meeting - Resolutions for PSAC-BC Regional Convention were discussed.
Feb 22	Sidney	IOS H&S Meeting
Feb 22	Victoria	Local 20169 AGM
Feb 23	Victoria	PSAC-BC VIHRC AGM - Accepted a blanket on behalf of UEW for donation to Sacred Water Event
Feb 24	Telecon	PSAC-BC Vancouver Island Young Workers Committee AGM
Feb 27	Telecon	ECCC Workplace Health Assessment Follow-up
March 6	Telecon	DFO Meeting with Regional Director General (RDG)
March 7	Sidney	JLP Mental Health in the Workplace - Union Co-organizer/Opening Remarks
March 7	Sidney	Local 20076 AGM

Upcoming 2017 Events:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Event</b>
April 3-7	Toronto	UHEW Spring National Council Meeting
June 9-11	Ottawa	UHEW Convention Committee Meeting
June 15-18	Vancouver	PSAC-BC Regional Triennial Convention
Aug 22-24	Toronto	UHEW National Convention

Please feel free to contact me with questions or for further information.