

RDLCL Equity & Human Rights Report AGM – 2018

The Equity & Human Rights Committee Members: Daniella Aubichon, Crystal Bubly, Susan Butson, Juliet Bushi, Muna DeCiman, Sandra Fayant, Dodie Ferguson, Judy Kobsar, Michelle Lang, Darin Milo, Fran Passmore and Shobna Radons.

On November 8, 2017 we had our Equity Pot Luck; great evening with keynote speaker Ted Jaleta, who spoke on what it is like to be an Equity Candidate running for Public Office and what his experience was when he ran for the Provincial Election as an NDP Candidate and lost by 140 vote. Present at this event was Ryan Meili and Trent Wotherspoon, who wanted to hear and understand what Ted had to say on this important topic. There is still some systemic racism that exists. Though Ted focused on how we can help Equity Candidates.

The Committee met and started planning the Equity Conference on September 26, 2017, subsequent meeting dates were: October 24, 2017, January 18, 2018, the final meeting to debrief the conference March 9, 2018. In terms of the debrief and looking at the evaluations from the conference; where we received high marks on everything, other than the room was cold and food bland were some comments, with that we can turn the heat up and add more spice to the food.

We discussed why numbers were low this year; factors is that there is a lot going on with Affiliates, quite a few in Bargaining and cannot participate when they are. Unifor's disaffiliation from the CLC. Two thirds of our Executive this year are all new, and maybe are not aware of what the expectations are for the Labour Council. We talked about next year's conference with some things to look at and possibly change, see what the new Committee will come up with.

The Conference was scheduled for February 2-3, 2018 at Luther College (U of R), where we had originally booked Larry Rousseau one of the Vice Presidents from the Canadian Labour Congress to be our Keynote speaker; unfortunately he canceled at the last minute and we had to scramble and get other speakers. Good thing that we have folks on the Executive that have a great network and we pulled it together with awesome speakers: Michelle Stewart and Robyn Pitawanakwat talked about the system racism against the Indigenous people of Saskatchewan; in the Colton Boushie case, among other cases that were current. They also raised \$250 for justice for the indigenous folks in these current cases. It was a good evening with supper, and mostly everyone who registered showed up along with some guest.

On Saturday the Keynote for that day was Lani Elliot, who shared her story of the "Me Too," movement. Amazing speaker and was well received. Thank you Lani.

Saturday Workshops were:

- Decolonization, thanks to Facilitator, Don Wren, from Unifor.
- Brain Architecture, thanks to Facilitator Kristin Nelson, from United Way Regina,
- Mental Health, thanks to Andrea and Tom Howe from Saskatoon United Way & District Labour Council, this workshop was run twice, both in the morning and afternoon, because of high interest we had to split up participants into two groups,
- Domestic Violence, thanks to Wendy Daku, from the Canadian Labour Congress,
- "Me Too," thanks to Lani Elliot who also facilitated this workshop.

- TRC, thanks to Dodie Ferguson who graciously volunteered to facilitate, however there was not enough participants to run this workshop, maybe next year.

This year the number of participants were down; we had 50 people registered. The past two years we did have 100 participants, though two years ago, one Local sent 45 members, last year the draw maybe due to our keynote speakers. As well two thirds of our Executive were new, and first time on the RDLC. Look forward to next year and hope that numbers will be up. Though regardless of numbers the Conference was a success and we will continue to run it as long as we can.

We did also use this conference as a collection point for “Tampon Tuesday Campaign.” We received a big bag of products that was taken to the United Way on March 6th, 2018.

Debrief of Conference and Evaluations:

MEET & GREET – overall rating was 90%

SPEAKERS:

- Michelle Steward} 90%
- Robyn Pitawanakat} 90%

- Lani Elliot} 90%

FOOD – 83%

WORKSHOPS

- Me Too - 83%
- Mental Health – 88%
- Decolonization – 92%
- Brain Architecture – 78%
- Domestic Violence – 95%

Harry Francis was really like and request to have him back next year.

Great job to this Committee for their hard work and commitment once again.

With thanks for this opportunity in the past two years to Chair and Co-Chair with Judy Kobsar.

Respectfully Submitted

Shobna Radons
Chair
RDLC Equity & Human Rights
Committee