

# **Teleconference, Ontario Council July 11, 2006**

## **In Attendance:**

**Gerry Halabecki, REVP, Ontario and Chair  
Jim Chorostecki, Regional Co-ordinator  
Rita Cantalini, Executive Assistant to REVP  
Ken Boone, Alternate to REVP  
Barb Wardlaw, Region 2  
Hélène Brochu, Region 3  
Dennis Miluck, Region 3  
Romeo Jackson, Region 4  
Glenn Miller, Region 4  
Bruce Flannigan, Region 5  
Penny Kreamer, Region 6  
Sharon DeSousa, Racially Visible Members  
Steve Tuffin, Regionally Based Separate Employer Locals**

## **Regrets:**

**Kevin Lundstrom, Region 1  
Steve Gauthier, Region 2  
Nicole Ma, Region 5  
Val Fargey, Regional Women's Committees  
Kevin Nadjiwon, Aboriginal Members  
Aileen Duncan, Members with Disabilities  
John Ross, Gay, Lesbian, Bi-Sexual and Transgendered Members  
Debbie Willett, Area Councils  
Elana Geller, Directly Chartered Locals  
Christopher Flower, Youth**

**The REVP welcomed everyone to the teleconference.**

**The REVP advised that the Political Action Committee met earlier in the day and that 11 submissions for Labour Day Proposals/Requests were reviewed. The EA will advise all of the submitting bodies of their approved budgets. The t-shirt colour for this year is royal blue. The theme will be the 40 year logo and it will be displayed on the back of the t-shirts.**

**The REVP will send out the latest XO/13/06 regarding the NH&WU Decision electronically to all Ontario Council members.**

**The REVP asked those who were to report back their hotel information to do so. The REVP received an email from Val Fargey advising that moving the PSAC Ontario Convention would be**

a good idea however cost would be a factor. If a hotel could be secured for \$119 it could be feasible but what is the bottom line in terms of funding for such an event.

Hélène Brochu proposed NavCanada and Sodexo in Cornwall. The facility is unionized and accessible. It has handicap rooms on the first floor. The plenary hall would be the gymnasium which can accommodate 300 people in a classroom style set-up. It has over 5 breakout rooms. It is available for May 2-4 for Convention and for May 1 for Council meeting. Cost is \$190.21 plus tax per person which includes accommodation, 3 meals, and coffee break twice per day. This cost also includes the cost of the plenary, breakout rooms, basic audio-visual equipment, use of all recreational facilities and free parking. There is an Olympic size pool, hot tub, sauna, 2 outdoor tennis courts, a games area with 2 pool tables, 1 ping pong table and a coin operated arcade. There is a pub on site, and a snack bar. Internet is available in the bedrooms but at an additional cost but there are also computers available in a common area at no cost. Cornwall is on the VIA rail corridor between Windsor, Toronto, Montreal. It's a \$6 taxi ride from the train station to NavCanada. The cost of VIA from Toronto to Cornwall return is \$136.96, from Windsor to Cornwall return is \$222.56. For those travelling by air, the Ottawa airport is 1 hour away. Taxi from the airport is \$150, or shuttle is the same cost regardless of the number of people.

Romeo Jackson proposed the Hilton Hotel in London. The hotel is unionized and has accessible rooms. There are 323 rooms ranging from \$99 - \$185 for the available dates in May 2008. The Convention Center can hold up to 800 people however it is not unionized. The Delta Hotel has 246 rooms which range from \$99 to \$499.

Both Rita Cantalini and Sharon DeSousa looked at hotels around Toronto that could accommodate the 2008 Ontario Convention. The EA enlisted the Toronto Tourism Board and asked that they provide proposals of hotels that could accommodate our convention. She prepared a quick spreadsheet and read out the following to the Ontario Council members.

<u>Name of Hotel</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Guest Rate</u>	<u>Parking</u>	<u>Convention Rate</u>	<u>Coffee/Tea</u>	<u>Pop/Juice</u>	<u>Other Misc:</u>
Renaissance	Airport	\$129/night	\$12/day or \$14/night	85% = \$9,850	\$4.75	\$3.25/4.00	Valid until July 20, 2006
Double Tree Int'l	Airport	\$138 or \$153	\$10	Nil - However ..	\$2.75	\$2.75/\$2.95	B, L, Dinner & 2 coffee breaks
Hilton Airport	Airport	\$126/night	??	\$8,250.00	\$35/gallon	\$2.50/\$3.50	Valid until Aug 15, 2006
Holiday Inn	King Street	\$179 or \$193.	\$18/day	\$9,150	\$3.00	\$3.00	B, L, Dinner & 2 coffee breaks
Westin Harbour	Harbour Sq	\$225	\$17 Self \$30 Valet	\$13,500.00			B, L, D & 2 - Banquet Revenue of \$60,000
Hilton Toronto	Richmond St.	\$189 (2007)	??	Nil - However ..			Minimum Banquet Revenue of \$85,000
Sheraton	Queen St.	\$239 or \$299	\$28 Valet	\$7,500			B, L, Dinner & 2 coffee breaks
Hilton Suites	Markham	\$139 plus	\$5/day \$8/night	\$27,500			B, L, Dinner & 2 coffee breaks
Westin Prince	401 & Don V	\$169	\$6/day \$9.78/night	\$8,050.00			B, L, Dinner & 2 coffee breaks
Fairmont	Front Street						no availability
Delta Chelsea	downtown						no availability
Renaissance	Niagara Falls						unable to accommodate 300 classroom

**The REVP wanted to hear what sort of feedback the Ontario Council Members received from their constituency groups.**

**Ken Boone had spoken to 5 to 10 members and there was no request to move out of Toronto and that it would be the cheapest place.**

**Barb Wardlaw cannot speak on behalf of her membership as she was having email problems. She felt however that cost would be a factor. She will also endeavour to survey the membership to get their input.**

**Helene Brochu spoke to the Cornwall members, the RVP for USGE polled the Kingston members. The RVP for USGE advised that it would be cost sensitive.**

**Dennis Miluck also advised that his members are cost sensitive to moving the 2008 Convention. UNDE has budgeting for the Convention to be in Toronto.**

**Romeo Jackson received 12 responses, 8 were in favour of moving it and 4 were against. Members wanted to move it out of Toronto regardless of the cost. They also wanted to see other major communities outside of the Toronto hub. Those who were against felt that Toronto is central and cost effective.**

**Glenn Miller received 10 responses from his constituency group. Many of them liked the idea however cost is a factor which would enable members getting there. Moving the convention could cut back in participation. We could look into moving the convention in the future. Many of his members applaud the Council for their efforts.**

**Bruce Flannigan received 11 responses. The consensus was that cost could prevent them from receiving a full subsidy. Members want to stay in Toronto. Participation could be reduced if held outside of Toronto.**

**Penny Kreamer did not receive any responses as she was on holidays.**

**Sharon DeSousa received responses and cost was a big factor. The number of delegates attending convention could be reduced if held outside Toronto. The hotel is the cost factor.**

**Steve Tuffin received 7 responses and the majority of them considered cost as the most effective. Two (2) wanted to have the convention any place other than Toronto and 1 did not care.**

**Aileen Duncan received 3 written responses, one is concerned with cost/bottom line, one wanted to keep the Convention in Toronto and the other the least expensive venue.**

**Kevin Lundstrom received 1 written response, the preference is in Toronto preferably a location near the airport.**

**Debbie Willett received 1 written response, preference is outside Toronto but no discussion where or cost.**

**Steve Gauthier advised that it would be nice to move it around the region however if cost is substantial than “no” to moving it outside of Toronto.**

**Val Fargey advised that the concern is the cost.**

**Jim Chorostecki provided a breakdown of possible delegates who could have attended and those delegates who did attend:**

<b>Region 1</b>	<b>out of possible 12 delegates 10 attended</b>
<b>Region 2</b>	<b>out of the possible 37 delegates 23 attended</b>
<b>Region 3</b>	<b>out of the possible 48 delegates 23 attended</b>
<b>Region 4</b>	<b>out of the possible 55 delegates 32 attended</b>
<b>Region 5</b>	<b>out of the possible 93 delegates 58 attended</b>
<b>Region 6</b>	<b>out of the possible 23 delegates 15 attended</b>

**The REVP had wanted to explore the possibility of moving the 2008 Ontario Convention outside of Toronto if it was cost effective and feasible. He was glad to have undertaken this opportunity for Council to seek input from their constituency groups. The REVP also contacted National Officers. Some Components paid each local \$100 to attend the Ontario Convention in 2005 while others fully funded their delegates. A significant portion of the delegates are from the Toronto area and it would entail a huge cost for those delegates to attend the 2008 Convention if it were moved outside of the GTA. It could prevent delegates from attending if the cost was too high or out of close proximity.**

**Romeo Jackson would like to pursue other venues outside of Toronto in the near future.**

**The REVP wanted to know who was in favour of moving the convention outside of the Toronto area as opposed to keeping it within the GTA. The Ontario Council overwhelming voted in favour of keeping the 2008 Convention in Toronto.**

**The REVP wanted to thank Ontario Council for the input they provided. Council was able to reach out to members as a result of this exercise. The contracts have deadlines of July 20<sup>th</sup> and we will need to firm up negotiations soon. The EA will do site inspections on the top three hotels to ensure they meet PSAC guidelines. Once complete, Council will be contacted to make their choice. The Delegate Assistance Committee can now start to do their work.**

**The REVP thanked the Council for reaching quorum and for providing their input. The REVP wished everyone a nice summer holiday.**

**Meeting was adjourned.**