

REPORT OF THE AFL POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

INTRODUCTION

Since the 2007 Convention, the Political Action Committee (PAC) met on four occasions.

The PAC meetings have served as important discussion and analysis opportunities for Committee members. AFL undertakings or planned initiatives were reviewed and discussed with President McGowan. The most important PAC initiative arose from the April 2008 meeting following the provincial election. The Committee proposed a Political Action Accountability Project, which was approved during the April Executive Council meeting. MLA briefing sessions, surveying, lobby days and MLA “accountability files” are elements of the strategy. The PAC hopes not only to educate and lobby MLA’s, but also to provide vehicles for affiliate member participation in political action.

The AFL Executive and staff fulfill the real time, day-to-day political action of the AFL. President McGowan has routinely reported the media coverage of AFL initiatives and activities to the Executive Council. Hundreds of media stories, pictures and quotes since the last convention, attest to the political activism and profile of the AFL.

The AFL Executive and staff have worked hard to promote and coordinate activities with affiliates

across the province. The provincial election (March 2008) and a federal election (October 2008) generated time-specific events, meetings and speaking events. The nearly sixty press releases give a glimpse of the ongoing issues such as, labour laws, occupational health & safety, pensions, energy, health, and the economy.

MLA briefing sessions were held on the oil sands and public private partnerships (P3s) on April 29th and May 6th, 2008 by President McGowan.

The first AFL Lobby Day was held November 18, 2008. The lobby issues were pensions, health care and oil sands development. On November 17th lobby participants reviewed the lobby kits and materials prepared by AFL staff and role-played meetings with MLA’s. While the number of affiliate participants was fewer than hoped for, the first lobby was considered a success. A date has not been set for the lobby in 2009. PAC would like it expanded to twice a year.

Diminishing participation in PAC and the relationship to activities of the AFL should be evaluated early in the upcoming term of the Committee.

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

2007-2009

- PAC-directed \$1,000 campaign contributions to David Eggen; Ray Martin; Rachel Notley; and Brian Mason.
- Requested the development of an issues-style election pamphlet. Targeted mass mailings.
- Reviewed Convention resolutions and requested follow-up where appropriate.

- Outlined the Political Action Accountability Project.

GOAL FOR 2009-11

- Build lobby capacity in each of the 83 constituencies in the province. Develop constituency specific advocates to participate in political action initiatives. PAC envisions one or two AFL advocates/activists in each constituency who could work with advocates supporting the Friends of Medicare and Public Interest Alberta initiatives.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Committee,

AFL POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE, 2007 – 2009

Heather Smith, Chair and Council Liaison	UNA
Alyson Williams, Secretary	TWU
Don Boucher	CEP
Carisa David	PSAC 30025
John Fata	UFCW 401
Greg McMaster	CUPW-Edm.
Bev Dick (alternate)	UNA
Gil McGowan	AFL
Nancy Furlong (information)	AFL
David Winter (information)	CLC

Committee members who served a partial term:

Alex Grimaldi	EDLC
Don MacNeil (alternate)	CEP
Dave Malka	CEP
Steve Nimchuk	USW 9302
Rachel Notley	USW
Les Steel	CLC

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