

Wed., Jan 5<sup>th</sup>, 2004

## Joint Awareness Day of Human Rights Day and International Day for Disabled People (U.N.)

Sponsored by BC PSAC Human Rights Committee and the Equal Opportunities arm of PSAC-Agriculture Union.

Invitation to PSAC members from any Equity Committee to Join the Human Rights Committee to hear about the History of Human Rights Day (Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>) and to Celebrate International Day for Disabled People. (In Canada, Persons with Disabilities, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>)

Concurrently, other special dates include World's Aid Day (Dec. 1st), Start of Hanukkah (Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>), International Day for the Abolition of Slavery (Dec. 2nd), and National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women (Canada, Dec. 6th).

Door Prize – Just identify one of the PWD symbols on your ticket when you come in and be eligible for a draw for a prize.

### Agenda:

5:30 – 6:15	Food & Networking
6:15 – 7:00	Opening, Talk by Jacquie Hepner
7:00 – 7:45	Talk by Harry Monk
7:50 – 8:00	Draw for Door Prizes
8:00 – 8:15	Question & Answer Period
8:15 – 8:30	Dessert. Wrap-up

### Biography of Jacquie Hepner:

Jacquie began her public service career as a Customs Inspector with Canada Customs in 1986. She became active within the Customs Excise Union Accise Douanes (Local 20045) in 1988 and took on many roles within the union. She served as a steward for many years then took on the role of Treasurer for two years, Secretary for two years and five years as First Vice-President. During this period Jacquie became one of the two Visible Minority Representatives on the PSAC National Equal Opportunities Committee and served on this committee for a four year period. She served one term when the PSAC Regional Council was newly formed as the Regional Coordinator for Racially Visible Members.

Jacquie worked with Pat Reid (past Regional Coordinator for Aboriginal members) to develop and form the union committee named "Aboriginal, Visible Minorities and Persons with Disabilities Committee" to assist in the development of union members from these equity groups to take their rightful place within the union structure. This committee was the founding committee for the present PSAC Regional Human Rights Committee. She has been a PSAC facilitator at both the National and Regional Women's Conferences. Jacquie stepped back from union activity at the beginning of 2002 to ensure that younger activists would step in to take up the challenge and to begin her long awaited preparation for retirement.

Jacquie has been actively involved in Human Rights within the workplace became involved in the fledgling Employment Equity Program as a committee member since 1994. In October 1996 she became the Regional Employment Equity Coordinator for the Canada Customs operation in the BC and the Yukon and

remained in that job until October 2000, at which time she became the Regional Employment Equity Administrator for the then known Canada Customs and Revenue Agency (now the Canada Revenue Agency).

Highlights include, successfully developing specific training targeted to Aboriginal People to assist in the test writing process, upon the split of CCRA to CBSA and CRA - turning this program over to Aboriginal employees within CBSA for future delivery, developing training package and ensuring the delivery of training on the Employment Equity Act & Canadian Human Rights Act to all CCRA employees within the region, being elected first as Co-Chair of the CCRA National Advisory Committee for Women (2 years) then being elected as Chair of this committee for the past five years, selected as the sole trainer for specific "Duty to Accommodate" training delivered to all CRA managers in the region, the ongoing success of the now "PSAC Regional Human Rights Committee" and the great friendships and camaraderie along the way, best of all as a member of the visible minority group seeing the equity groups members beginning to gain the much needed strength within the union structure.

### Biography of HARRY MONK

Mr. Monk began his public service career in 1974 as an intake officer, public educator and complaints investigator with the Manitoba Human Rights Commission. In 1978, he joined the CHRC as a Community Liaison Officer working with employers, unions and community groups to promote a better understanding of human rights in Canada. Mr. Monk was President of Local 70176 Solicitor-General Component of PSAC in the early 1980s.

Over the past two decades, he held several interesting and challenging senior advisory and managerial positions in different areas within the federal government. In 1996, he returned to the CHRC as a Human Rights Officer in the B.C./Yukon Regional Office. Mr. Monk has been Regional Director since October 2001.

Highlights include, drafting amendments to the Manitoba Human Rights Act in 1977 to provide comprehensive protection from discrimination for persons with disabilities, involvement in the process that led to inclusion of persons with disabilities in Section 15 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, publication of ~A Way With Words~, guidelines for appropriate terminology and portrayal of persons with disabilities; drafting amendments to Bill C-26 legislating employment equity in the federal Public Service, publication of Case Studies on Effective Practices in the Employment of Persons with Disabilities as well as two practical tips/guides for employing and accommodating workers with psychiatric and developmental disabilities.

Reference:

The Human Human Rights Commission:  
<http://www.chrc-ccdp.ca/>

**RSVP by Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> to:**

Monica Urrutia, A/Regional Representative  
PSAC Vancouver Regional Office  
T: 604-430-5631 / 1-800-663-1655 ext. 222  
F: 604-430-0451  
W: [www.pvac.com](http://www.pvac.com) [www.pvacbc.com](http://www.pvacbc.com)