



BCFED OH&S STANDING COMMITTEE Minutes - Amended

Date of meeting: January 4, 2022

To: Committee Members

From: Sheila Moir, Director, BCFED

Present: Reagan Belan, BCGEU; Paul Bergin, CEU; Leo Ciarrocchi, UA 170; Sherry Earl, UFCW 1518; Dayna Gill, IBEW 258; Lezlie Gorosh-Carey, BCFMWU; Nina Hansen, HSA; Linda Harding, PSAC 20008 GSU; Coleen Jones, CUPW Pacific Region (Co-chair); Ed Kent, USW; Doug Kinna, BCGEU; Gord Lechner, BCFED; Tom McKenna, CUPE BC; Sheila Moir, BCFED; Evert Ryland, PSAC; Jennifer Savage, CUPW Squamish; Megan Scott, BCGEU; Gavin Slade-Kerr, BCTF; Monica Staff, FPSE; Cliff Wellicome, ILWU Canada; Michael Wisla, HSA

Guests: Michelle Laurie, WCB Board of Directors Labour Representative; Brian Campbell, BCFED Health & Safety Centre; Jason Kowal, BCFED Health & Safety Centre

1) Welcome and First Nations' Territory Acknowledgment

2) Zoom house keeping items

3) Any further items for agenda Karen Ranalletta sent regrets

4) Previous minutes

The minutes of the December 1, 2021, meeting were approved.

5) Minutes of silence for workers who have died on the job

6) PPCC update

- December 8, public hearings on refusal of unsafe work
- Submission deadline for workplace status review extended to January 10
- Report on PPCC meeting December 15

WCB proposing to reduce PPCC meetings from 10 to six per year. Labour reps will oppose at February meeting. Provides an important opportunity for updates from the WCB and stakeholders.

7) BCFED Workers Deserve Better campaign next steps

- [Website now live](#) and video in the works.

The [BCFED statement on harassment](#) applies to all our events.

8) Feedback on December 9 investigations session with John Oudyk

Discussion on next steps for committee work on joint OH&S committees.

9) Guest: Michelle Laurie, WCB Board of Directors Labour Representative

10) Review committee recommendations and resolutions

- What is remaining to do? CEU resolution on regulatory requirement for vehicle operation.

11) Affiliate reports

BCTF - Members are very concerned about the new variant of COVID, Omicron, and the impact it will have on their teaching, students, and themselves. Teachers were given the week of January 3-7 to prepare a plan for the return of students.

HVAC in schools remains a top area of concern. Some districts have brought in portable HEPA filters, some are fully upgraded to MERV-13s, and others are still using MERV-8s. WorkSafeBC is being contacted to see if they will take action.

Mask compliance will likely continue to be a big issue. Tensions around who qualifies for an exemption and how they demonstrate that.

Some members have filed refusals of unsafe work which have resulted in a response from WorkSafeBC around changing rooms, rearranging furniture, etc.

BCFED OHS Centre – new Duty to Accommodate course now virtual. Planning women's OH&S course. Offering courses to ILWU. Technical Advisory Committee required for the Centre. Considering offering workplace coaching for joint committees.

ILWU – Working with employer on mandatory vaccine mandates (hardline or softer rollout?). Recognizing issue of unavailability of work clothes designed for women workers.

BCGEU – Office closed until January 17. Reopening dependent on PHO orders. Outbreaks reported at some worksites. In-person education on hold.

USW – Union met with ministers Eby and Bains to push for implementation of outstanding Helps report recommendations. Training on OH&S investigations for police and crown counsel. Continue to have some COVID issues in workplaces.

PSA – large union with many different components and good work being done in these. Appreciate the provincial info shared at this committee.

CUPW – COVID cases are increasing, rapid tests are available on voluntary basis. Employer will not provide workers with N95 respirators and government has not mandated.

UA170 – COVID infections are doubling, workers being sent home. Union is assisting with providing rapid tests.

BCFMWU – COVID infections are increasing, along with poor weather resulting in sailing cancellations.

PSAC – COVID infections increasing. Employer has asked workers to work from home. Continue to hold OH&S courses.

HSA- Union working on getting joint committees to function better.

FPSE – COVID plans being treated differently than K-12 sector. No mandatory vaccines. Staff and students afraid to return to campus. One local has been successful at lobbying for mandatory vaccines for staff and students. Students working in service industries at highest risk.

CEU – 100% staff vaccinated. One third of calls are COVID-related. Lots of inquiries from schools.

CUPE – Waiting for PHO to say get back to normal regarding COVID. Business as usual for schools K-12 with no mandatory N95s. Need more resources for ventilation. Good resource: Ryerson Tool Kit for chemical exposures.

Resources:

- OHCOW calculator heat calculator
https://www.ohcow.on.ca/edit/files/general_handouts/heat-stress-calculator.html
- European Report on Heat Wave impact on workers
<https://www.etui.org/publications/heatwaves-occupational-hazard>

12) Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 1, 2022, at 1:00 pm via ZOOM.

13) Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm.