



## BCFED OH&S STANDING COMMITTEE Minutes

**Date of meeting:** July 5, 2022

**To:** Committee Members

**From:** Sheila Moir, Director, BCFED

---

**Present:** Reagan Belan, BCGEU; Paul Bergin, BCGEU-CEU; Matt Campbell, ILWU-GWU 333; Barbara Gibson, MoveUP; Lezlie Gorosh-Carey, BCGEU-BCFMWU; Toni Grewal, BCTF; Nina Hansen, HSA; Linda Harding, PSAC; Jessica Isbister ILWU Canada, Coleen Jones, CUPW (Chair); Doug Kinna, BCGEU; Gord Lechner, BCFED; Sheila Moir, BCFED; Merrill O'Donnell, BCBT; Monica Staff, FPSE; Michael Wisla, HSA;

**Guests:** Pamela MacDonald, Workers' Advisors Office; Workers' Compensation Advocacy Working Group members: Melanie Hugh, HSA; Judith Lee, Judith C. Lee Law Corporation; Ben Lewis, Delta Firefighters; Kevin Love, CLAS; Jim Parker, BCNU; Michelle Poulsen, HEU; Paul Rushton, IAFF 323; Janet Yip, HSA

### 1) Welcome and First Nations' Territory acknowledgment

### 2) Zoom house keeping items

### 3) Any further items for agenda

- Guests: Pamela MacDonald, new Acting Executive Director of the Workers' Advisors office, 2:00 pm; and Workers' Compensation Advocacy Working Group members have been invited to join at 2:00 pm
- Agenda adopted

### 4) Previous minutes

The minutes of the July 5, 2022, meeting approved.

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

### 6) PPCC update

- Met on June 27, 2022
- Al Johnson, head of WCB Prevention Services announced he is leaving June 30th
- Public hearings were held June 21st for first aid amendments and crane misadventure amendments. Total of 224 participants (observers and presenters)

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

- Asbestos program roll-out, employer certification and worker training. WCB has set up consultations with employers and workers in asbestos industry to conduct a task analysis
- Pre-consultation for combustible dust regulation was held June 16th and 17th. Good discussion and PRRD will make further revisions to the proposed language based on stakeholder feedback
- Asked what WCB prevention is planning to deal with COVID-19 this fall. Ian Shaw will take this to Al Johnson and report back at next meeting. Ian was not at the meeting
- Violence regulation review update. Small sub-committee will participate in the next pre-consultation session
- Next meeting of WCAG and WCB Compensation Services on July 7th

#### **7) Guest: New Acting Executive Director Pamela MacDonald, Workers' Advisors Office**

- Pam provided an overview of WAO services. Providing more assistance to worker advocates. Worker portal has made services and website more accessible. Can provide funding to workers to obtain medical evidence. Minister has indicated more support for this service. Prohibited Action (PA) claims are sent to mediation quickly and this doesn't always work. The PA process is often lengthy.

#### **8) Workers Deserve Better campaign**

- Video and social media campaign released on June 1st, Injured Workers Day. Please share the video and encourage members to take action
- Social media campaign will continue through July and ramp up in September
- BCFED met with Minister Bains on legislative priorities for workers' compensation
- Planning summer meetings with key caucus members and MLAs

#### **9) Education opportunities**

- Update on UBC melatonin research project

#### **10) Review committee recommendations and resolutions**

- CEU/BCGEU MVA on public highways exemption from employer investigations under WCA Division 10
- Discussion on committee recommendations for convention

#### **11) Upcoming events for 2022**

- BCFED Convention – November 21-25, 2022 (in-person)
  - Reminder for resolutions: Deadline is September 22, 2022
  - Discussion on theme/speaker suggestions for OHS Lunch and Learn event
  - Suggestion to invite CLC to discuss their survey on bullying and harassment in workplaces

#### **12) Affiliate reports**

**BCFED OHS Centre** – Course offerings will slow down for summer and Centre is on track for deliverables. Workers' Advisors office offering a one-hour webinar on Prohibited Action process. Option to offer to this committee. Updating course materials on the changes to Section 3.12 reassignment of refusal of unsafe work.

**BCGEU** – 95% strike mandate for members who work in government. Now negotiating essential service levels. Offering more in-person OHS courses and mental health first aid courses. Fire investigation at the Winter Hotel now completed with recommendation for a more consistent approach to fire prevention in municipalities. NUPE passed a resolution recommending presumption for psychological injuries be adopted in all provinces.

**BCGEU-BCFMWU** – Members are coming back to work.

**BCGEU-CEU** – On new reassignment requirement in Section 3.12 Prevention Officers have not received training yet. What does compliance look like? Bullying and harassment enforcement complicated with the three options and workers need to inform officer which option they are choosing. Officers are available to assist joint committees.

**BCTF** – Education sector met with WCB on various issues and changes to Section 3.12 reassignment of work came up. Employers more concerned about impact on students than workers. Workers are excited to see this change as employers work around a refusal by asking another worker to do the refused task. Will have first in-person conference in fall. Members concerned about COVID-19 in the fall with a no-mask mandate now in place.

**FPSE** – Members are concerned with COVID-19 when returning to work in the fall.

**ILWU** – Employer will be providing coveralls designed for women. Starting bullying and harassment training and feedback has been positive. Union is launching a campaign on B&H and psychological safety as the employer is doing nothing. Another member died by suicide. 10 days paid sick leave coming and union working with other jurisdictions to have vessels declared workplaces.

**MoveUp** – Lack of education for joint committees. Arbitration completed on the reasonableness of employer vaccine mandates. Will send to the committee. David Black retiring and Lori Mayhew now president. Annette Toth now national president.

**PSAC** – National conference will be held January 2023. Bargaining not going well with no significant wage increase and concessions on the table. May be going for a strike mandate in September.

### 13) Next meeting

- The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 6, 2022, at 1:00 pm, via ZOOM.
- **Note: The August meeting is cancelled.**

### 14) Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.