



# BCFED OH&S STANDING COMMITTEE

## Minutes

**Date of meeting:** June 7, 2022

**To:** Committee Members

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

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**Present:** Reagan Belan, BCGEU; Paul Bergin, BCGEU-CEU; Steve Campbell, ATU 1724; Dayna Gill, IBEW 258; Georgina Hackett, HEU; Jim Jarvie, IBEW 213; Coleen Jones, CUPW Pacific Region (Chair); Ed Kent, USW; Gord Lechner, BCFED; Karen McVeigh, HEU; Sheila Moir, BCFED; Evert Ryland, PSAC; Megan Scott, BCGEU; Gavin Slade-Kerr, BCTF; Monica Staff, FPSE; Lori Stewart, UBCP/ACTRA; Michael Wisla, HSA

**Guests:** Dan Strand, Suzana Prpic, WCB Prevention Services

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

**2) Zoom house keeping items**

**3) Any further items for agenda**

- Guests: 2:00 pm: Dan Strand and Suzana Prpic, WCB Prevention Services, update from WCB on worker engagement
- Agenda adopted
- Chair welcomed new members to the committee

**4) Appointments to BCFED Standing Committees**

- Affiliate Officer submits committee appointment(s) to BCFED

**5) Previous minutes**

The minutes of the May 3, 2022, meeting approved.

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

Worker died from ammonia exposure at ice facility in Kamloops.

Worker died on construction site in Burnaby.

**7) PPCC update**

- Met on May11, 2022
- Public hearings scheduled for June 21 for first aid amendments and crane misadventure amendments. Link to proposed changes and registration for public hearings:

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

<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/law-policy/public-hearings-consultations/current-public-hearings-and-consultations/june-2022-public-hearing-on-proposed-changes-to-ohsr-june-21-22>

- 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 scheduled for June 16th and 17th
- Jeff Parr and Anne Naser attended. CEO discussed challenge in recruiting new staff. 80 hired, 80 left in 2021. Takes 12 months to train a case manager
- Worker engagement a priority for the BOD. Labour reps recommended that prevention services must model effective worker engagement through all levels
- 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
- Government consultations: Ministry of Labour survey on dangerous work for workers under 19. Due date June 10th  
<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/govtogetherbc/consultation/hazardous-work-protections-for-youth/>
- Violence regulation review update

#### **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
- Campaign will continue through July and ramp up in September
- BCFED met with Minister Bains
- Working on more injured worker stories
- Great feedback from the BCFED Regional Conference Injured Workers Panel. Panelists were Janet Patterson, Paul Petri, Kevin Love and Doreen Russell

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

- Other educational/guest opportunities. Webinars on aerosol transmission
- Update on UBC melatonin research project

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

- What is remaining to do? Most have been completed
- CEU/BCGEU MVA on public highways exemption from employer investigations under WCA Division 10. This issue has to do with the exemption for employers to do investigations into MVAs on highways under WCA Division 10. May require a change to the Act and suggestion goes back for a new resolution to convention

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

- BCFED Convention – November 21-25 (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** – Slow uptake on in-person public courses. Centre does offer workplace OHS coaching and if unions need help, please let Centre know. Recent changes to Section 3.12 refusal of unsafe work will be added to course materials.

**BCGEU** - A successful bi-annual BCGEU/CEU OHS conference held. Included presentation on the new asbestos memorial. Strike vote in the public service through June. OHS investigations process in the Atira hotel fire, employer tried to intimidate workers reps by threatening to bring their lawyers to the interview. Union complained to the WCB and employer backed off. But WCB determined the employer can bring who they want to the investigation.

**BCGEU-CEU** - Union has the option to file for a review if they disagree with any variance granted an employer. Workers are getting COVID-19 and employers not doing adequate communicable disease prevention.

**BCTF** - OHS priorities set for 2022 and include more training to raise awareness of OHS issues for workers reps. Safe workplaces for dealing with ongoing COVID-19. Violence issues a concern for teachers and CUPE members. Bringing in mental health supports that are site-based. Social justice issues contentious at AGM and showed the pervasiveness of racism. Union has hired a diversity officer.

**FPSE** - Employers saying there is no justification for workers applying for accommodations for remote work arrangements. Back to in-person classes in September.

**HEU** - Bargaining is taking up a huge amount of time. Union is going through the appointment process for worker committee reps. Multiple employers in LTC are wanting to combine committees and are applying for a variance. Local committee members are intimidated and WCB officers work with the employer not with the union. Vancouver Coastal Health first health care employer to have a family violence policy.

**CUPE** - Employers wanting workers back to in-person work. Recommending filing grievances or human rights complaints. Union has provided info on monkey pox. Dysfunctional committees are a huge problem so lots of work being done on reactivating.

**CUPW** - Mandatory masks policy will move to recommended masks by mid-June. Slowly removing COVID-19 protocols for workers delivering packages. Some members on unpaid leave for lack of vaccinations. Union has started in-person OHS committee education.

**IBEW** - Hydro COVID-19 mandate still in place. Large employer in traffic control asking for a variance to have a single committee.

**PSAC** – Offices are opening- up again with in-person meetings. Some hybrid meetings continuing.

**UBCP/ACTRA** - Pressing employers to have a plan for possible heat dome this summer. Offered a webinar on workplace heat exposures. Working with Alive After Five to provide OHS education for young workers (actors) and parents.

**USW** - Would like to see how the PACE program is rolled out. Employers do not implement solutions and either ignore or do not fully deal with worker concerns.

### **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.