



BCFED OH&S STANDING COMMITTEE Minutes

Date of meeting: March 1, 2022

To: Committee Members

From: Sheila Moir, Director, BCFED

Present: Paul Bergin, CEU; Matt Campbell, ILWU-GWU 333; Leo Ciarrocchi, UA 170; Dayna Gill, IBEW 258; Erin Guy, BCGEU-CEU; Georgina Hackett, HEU; Linda Harding, PSAC 20008 GSU; Ed Kent, USW; Tom McKenna, CUPE BC; Sheila Moir, BCFED; Merrill O'Donnell, BCBT; Paul Pelletreau, IAMAW 11, Karen Ranalletta, CUPE BC, (Co-chair); Jennifer Savage, CUPW Squamish; Megan Scott, BCGEU; Gavin Slade-Kerr, BCTF; Monica Staff, FPSE; Lori Stewart, UBCP/ACTRA; Cliff Wellicome, ILWU Canada

Guests: Chandra Brogden, BCGEU-BCFMWU; Ben Lewis, IAFF; Kevin Love, CLAS; Daniel Oleksiuk, BCGEU; Luke Olver, BCTF; Michelle Poulsen, HEU; WCAT Presenters: Ning Acuitas, Kim Halkett, David Newell, Debbie Sigurdson

Co-chair regrets: Coleen Jones, CUPW

1) Welcome and First Nations' Territory Acknowledgment

2) Any further items for agenda

WCAT presenters joining meeting at 2:00 pm; Aerosol Transmission Coalition at 3:15 pm

3) Previous minutes

The minutes of the February 1, 2022, meeting were approved.

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

- Tree faller January 24, North Lake
- Mobile home mover February 9, Coombs

5) Report on PPCC Activities

- PPCC meeting February 2, 2022
- Compensation policy reviews currently posted for public consultation: Suitable occupation for loss of earnings assessment and permanent psychological disability policy
- Chronic pain working group to meet with Maria Hudspith, ED Pain BC and Co-chair of the Federal Government Chronic Pain Task Force

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

- Presentation from Jessica Berglund, Director of WCB Investigations. Invite to committee meeting?
- Urging PRRD to move quickly on the combustible dust regulation. 10th anniversaries of the Babine and Lakeland Mill explosions
- Violence regulation pre-consult set for April 1st. Sub- committee will meet in March to discuss/develop strategy

6) BCFED Workers Deserve Better Campaign

- Website now live and video in the works
- Working on more injured worker stories
- Upcoming meeting with Minister Bains in April

7) Guests: WCAT Chair and colleagues

Welcome to new chair of WCAT Ning Alcuityas-Imperial who provided an update on the activities of WCAT. Exciting news that three navigators are being provided to assist Indigenous injured workers with filing an appeal. Large numbers of injured workers appearing at WCAT without representation. Return rate back to the WCB is 28%.

8) Education opportunities

- Webinar on Heat Exposure for Workers scheduled for April 6. Thanks to Megan Scott for organizing.

9) Review committee recommendations and resolutions

- No action at this time

10) Upcoming Events for 2022

- Golden Tree Farmworkers Vigil - Saturday, March 5, 1:00 pm -2:00 pm; Matsqui Centennial Auditorium
- Bottomline Conference – March 29-30, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm; Virtual event
- Day of Mourning - Thursday, April 28, 10:30 am - 11:30 am; Jack Pool Plaza
 - Preliminary fatality stats for 2021: Total - 156
 - Traumatic - 61 (MVI - 15 / Other traumatic - 46)
 - Disease - 95 (Asbestos - 51 / Other disease - 44)
- Injured Workers Day – June 1st
- BCFED Convention – November 21-25

11) Affiliate reports

HEU – Developed resource package for appointing worker reps to OHS committees. Six employers have applied for variances for joint committees. Implementing Musculoskeletal Injury Prevention (MSIP) pilot project.

PSAC – Basic training has been scheduled for members until end of June. Virtual convention end of May.

CUPE – OHS committees are struggling in all provinces with similar issues as in BC. Post-fatality investigation found that the City of Vancouver committees were not operating effectively. No tool-box meetings and some disbanded during COVID-19. Hoping to conduct a committee survey.

UBCP/ACTRA – Lori just back to work from workplace injury. Quiet in film, still some concerns with mandatory vaccine policies. Stunt performers agreement to donate their brains to the Boston Brain Bank for research.

USW – Long-time director Steve Hunt defeated in election. New director is Scott Lunny. May 9, 2022, is 30th anniversary of the Westray Mine disaster. Similar causation factors to the BC mill explosions. Alberta changing OHS legislation, red-tape exercise! Union workers must file grievance for discipline for refusing unsafe work. Non-union workers can go through regulation process.

CUPW – Employer continues to supply non-medical masks but no N95s. Starting up joint OHS committee training again. Union is updating and appointing their worker reps on committees. Cleaning contractors are using an unapproved product to fog workplaces at night and causing breathing problems, rashes from residue left behind. 10 claims to WCB. Cleaning has always been done badly with no training for workers. COVID-19 showed the gaps.

FPSE – Remote work, employers are demanding that protocols are in place in workers' homes.

IBEW – Still dealing with issues from the COVID-19 vaccine mandates. Joint committee not working well. Safe work practices not being communicated to workers by the employers. Continue to meet with employers to try to resolve.

GWU – Interested in ILWU position on Russian invasion of Ukraine.

BCGEU – Focus on bargaining taking time and energy. On-line courses continuing with in-person resuming April 1st. Participants will be required to be vaccinated and do rapid testing. Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement (CVSE) non-compliance agreement for violence and working alone has been extended. WCB officer doing a good job. Union has been supporting investigation into death of Randy Sandberg a highways maintenance worker.

CEU – Welcome to Erin Guy who is new to committee. Erin is a WCB hygiene officer. Our friend Paul Bergin is running for VP.

12) Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 5, 2022, at 1:00 pm, via ZOOM.

13) Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.