



BCFED OH&S STANDING COMMITTEE Minutes

Date of meeting: May 3, 2022

To: Committee Members

From: Sheila Moir, Director, BCFED

Present: Reagan Belan, BCGEU; Paul Bergin, BCGEU-CEU; Lynn Bueckert, HEU; Matt Campbell, ILWU-GWU 333; Leo Ciarrocchi, UA 170; Sherry Earl, UFCW 1518; Barbara Gibson, MoveUP 378; Dayna Gill, IBEW 258; Lezlie Gorosh-Carey, BCGEU-BCFMWU; Erin Guy, BCGEU-CEU; Nina Hansen, HSA; Linda Harding, PSAC 20008 GSU; Coleen Jones, CUPW Pacific Region (Chair); Ed Kent, USW; Karen McVeigh, HEU; Sheila Moir, BCFED; Paul Pelletreau, IAMAW 11; Evert Ryland, PSAC; Jennifer Savage, CUPW Squamish; Megan Scott, BCGEU; Gavin Slade-Kerr, BCTF; Monica Staff, FPSE; Lori Stewart, UBCP/ACTRA; Michael Wisla, HSA

Guests: Dan Strand, Kira Bernston, WCB Prevention Services; Jessica Isbister, ILWU Canada; Steve Kwon, FPSE; Jennifer Lambert, BCFED OH&S Centre

1) Welcome and First Nations' Territory acknowledgment

2) Zoom house keeping items

3) Any further items for agenda

- Guests: 2:00 pm: Dan Strand, WCB Prevention Services, update on WCB Bullying and Harassment prevention strategy
- Aerosol transmission of COVID-19 concerns for affiliates
- Ministry of Labour survey on dangerous work for children
- Agenda adopted

4) Previous minutes

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

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

USW members Lonnie Hryhroka a faller, and Keith Murphy Telus line worker were killed on the job in April.

6) PPCC update

- Met on April 13, 2022
- Public hearings scheduled for June 21st for first aid amendments and crane misadventure amendments

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
- Continue to urge PRRD to move quickly on the combustible dust regulation, 10th anniversaries of the Babine and Lakeland Mill explosions
- Anne Naser, WCB CEO and Jeff Parr, BOD Chair, will attend May meeting
- Government consultations: Ministry of Labour survey on dangerous work for workers under 19 <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/govtogetherbc/consultation/hazardous-work-protections-for-youth/>
- BCFED participated in consultation on BC's response to COVID-19

7) Workers Deserve Better campaign

- Video has been finalized and will be released at All Regions Conference on May 26th
- Injured workers panel at BCFED Regional Conference, May 26, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm. Panelists are Janet Patterson, Paul Petri, Kevin Love and Doreen Russell

8) Education opportunities

- Feedback on webinar on April 6th Heat and Sun Exposure at work with:
 - Claudia Naroki, researcher at Madrid Instituto Sindical De Trabajo Ambiente y Salud
 - Cheryl Peters, CAREX Canada
 - Percy Chua, WCB
- Other educational/guest opportunities
- Update on UBC melatonin research project

9) Review committee recommendations and resolutions

What is remaining to do? Most have been completed.

10) Upcoming events for 2022

- BCFED Regional Conference: Workers Front and Centre, May 26th evening and May 27th full-day
- Injured Workers Day – June 1st
- BCFED Convention – November 21-25 (in-person)
 - Reminder for resolutions
 - Think about committee recommendations (July meeting)
- Discussion on theme/speaker suggestions for OH&S Lunch and Learn event. Suggestion to invite Karen Messing who has done research on gender and health and safety.
 - On agenda for June meeting

11) Discussion on COVID-19 response

Discussion on aerosol transmission of COVID. We need to keep this on the radar and keep pushing for an effective OHS strategy.

Broader discussion to determine responsibilities for the WCB and the PHO.

The PHO is not responsible for workplace OHS. Retail workers felt unsupported by the employers and the WCB. Set up a meeting to discuss conduct a post-mortem. How can we do better so we don't have to go through this again.

Invite John Oudyk from OCOW to do a presentation.

Dangerous work survey discussion

Younger workers commonly participating in high school apprenticeship programs and are sent out to workplaces. Provide the next group of a qualified workers. A need to provide opportunities for children where they have to work. Common to have high school students working in mills doing cleanup, some of the most dangerous work. Follow up with USW.

12) WCB presentation on psychologically safe workplaces enforcement strategy

Dedicated team of WCB prevention officers mostly focusing on bullying and harassment complaints. Complaints are increasing as business is re-opening. Increasing complexity. 3,500 inquiries many from health care.

13) Affiliate reports

BCFED OHS Centre – EAL and migrant worker classes resuming. Mental health courses both virtual and in-person available. 21,000 workers participated in virtual courses.

BCFMWU – no report.

BCGEU – requested the WCB issue a hazard alert on brine truck loads after the worker fatality. And were successful--a win! Now working on exposures to radon and will be meeting with WCB to ask for an interim policy while working on a regulatory amendment. Radon is exempted from the ionizing radiation regulation.

CEU – Prevention officers very busy with inspections with workplaces re-opening.

CUPW – Not successful with grievance for vaccine options. Arbitrator determined it was a reasonable employer action.

FPSE – no report.

GWU – Lots of workers being laid off.

HEU – In OHS meetings with Coastal Health.

IAMAW – Lockout with Ashcroft employer. More OH&S training needed under the *Mines Act*. Successful arbitration on employer requiring workers to do rapid tests and to pay for the tests.

IBEW – No report.

ILWU – Jessica new to this committee. Welcome Jessica.

MoveUP – Concerned about ASTD claims and high level of denials. Work with the WCAG to address with the WCB.

PSAC – Supports focus on COVID-19 by following the new research and building on public health experiences. Will send written report.

UBCP/ACTRA – Members are challenging the reasonableness of increasing vaccine mandate to have three doses. Employers are requiring testing for workers in the Red Zone.

USW – Two fatalities. May 9th is the 30th anniversary of the Westray Mine disaster. USW will refocus their “Stop the Killing” campaign.

14) Next meeting

- The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 7, 2022, at 1:00 pm, via ZOOM.
- **Note:** The August meeting is cancelled.

15) Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm.