



BCFED OH&S STANDING COMMITTEE Minutes

Date of meeting: February 1, 2022

To: Committee Members

From: Sheila Moir, Director, BCFED

Present: Reagan Belan, BCGEU; Matt Campbell, ILWU-GWU 333; Steve Campbell, ATU 1724; Leo Ciarrocchi, UA 170; Sherry Earl, UFCW 1518; Lezlie Gorosh-Carey, BCFMWU; Georgina Hackett, HEU; Nina Hansen, HSA; Linda Harding, PSAC 20008 GSU; Jim Jarvie, IBEW 213; Coleen Jones, CUPW Pacific Region (Co-chair); Ed Kent, USW; Doug Kinna, BCGEU; Gord Lechner, BCFED; Karen McVeigh, HEU; Sheila Moir, BCFED; Paul Pelletreau, IAMAW 11; Karen Ranalletta, CUPE BC (Co-chair); Jennifer Savage, CUPW Squamish; Megan Scott, BCGEU; Gavin Slade-Kerr, BCTF; Monica Staff, FPSE; Cliff Wellicome, ILWU Canada; Michael Wisla, HSA; Vanessa Wolff, CUPE

Guests: Dan Strand, Tom Brocklehurst and Chris Back, Prevention Services, WCB

- 1) Welcome and First Nations' Territory Acknowledgment
- 2) Zoom house keeping items
- 3) Any further items for agenda
- 4) Previous minutes

The amended minutes of the January 4, 2022, meeting minutes approved as circulated.

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

CUPE worker at the City of Vancouver has died and a second worker seriously injured
USW member at Acorn Mill died

6) PPCC update

- Next 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
- Urging PRRD to move quickly on the combustible dust regulation; 10th anniversaries of the Babine and Lakeland Mill explosions

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

- Violence regulation pre-consult set for February/March

7) BCFED Workers Deserve Better campaign next steps

- Lobby: reported on meeting with Finance Minister Selina Robinson
- Website now live and video in the works
- Working on more injured worker stories

8) Education opportunities

- Webinar on ventilation with Kevin Hedges/John Oudyk
- Members expressed interest in seminar on the impact of heat waves on workers
- Discussion on next steps for committee work on joint OH&S committees

9) Guest: Dan Strand, Prevention Services, WCB

Presentation on WCB COVID Safety Plan guidelines for workplaces. Committee members recommended changes including more robust guidance for aerosol transmission and improving ventilation, better examples in the hierarchy of controls and differences between masks and respiratory protection (N95s).

10) Review committee 2020 recommendations and resolutions

11) 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

12) Affiliate reports

CUPE - There has been a fatality and a serious incident with a second member over the last three weeks at the City of Vancouver Local 1004. CUPE has initiated a complete review of the employer health and safety program. CUPE 1004 has now had three fatalities – something is seriously wrong with the City of Vancouver’s health and safety program.

CUPE is seeing that over the course of the pandemic, many locals, and many other unions, have joint health and safety committees (JHSCs) that are increasingly less functional. Prior the pandemic, WorkSafeBC stated up to 90% of JHSCs were not fully functional. The pandemic has only made it worse. Issues include: JHSCs not meeting, no annual training, no annual evaluations and employer dominated committees.

CUPE would like the WorkSafeBC PACE program become mandatory instead of voluntary. This initiative has been very effective where used; however, employers can opt out as it is voluntary.

There are continuing issues of the need for improved ventilation and the desire for N95 masks in K-12. This is likely to continue as the pandemic will continue through 2022 per Dr. Tam.

Violence is increasing across BC, e.g., Keremeos where a member of the public attacked CUPE members with a knife and sledgehammer. 14 charges have been laid against that person. WorkSafeBC needs to address rising violence and poor mental health arising from the pandemic.

BCGEU - The BCGEU is moving ahead with planning for its joint conference with the CEU, which will be held at the end of May this year. At this popular event, we host about 100 OHS reps from both unions for two days of learning and networking.

On November 10, 2021, BCGEU member Randy Sandberg died when the brine truck he was driving rolled over and hit a power pole. The employer agreed to a joint investigation, and BCGEU OHS officer Wendy Mah participated with an employer rep. A number of interviews were conducted and other information gathered. The available information pointed to the truck being overloaded, Randy not being trained to drive the vehicle, no safe work procedures in place for driving these trucks, an ineffective JOHS committee, and a failure by the employer to respond to concerns about the brine trucks being overweight that were raised by workers over a number of years. However, the final report submitted to the WCB by the employer was not jointly produced, and did not include any of these contributing factors, only identifying “motor vehicle incident” as a contributing factor. This experience raised a number of important issues, which the BCGEU will continue working on:

- Employers are not required to investigate motor vehicle incidents on public roadways (s.69 of the WCA), so there’s no recourse when the employer does not complete a proper incident investigation in these instances. A legislative change is needed to remedy this.
- Highways maintenance contractors are not routinely inspected by CVSE. More enforcement is needed to ensure compliance with commercial vehicle requirements on BC roads.

- Many highways maintenance contractors are large companies, even multi-national corporations that are motivated primarily by profit. Moving highways maintenance back into the provincial government has the potential to improve worker safety.
- WCB is conducting its own investigation of this fatality. We're (somewhat) hopeful that the employer will be held accountable in some way for Randy's death.

13) Next meeting

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

14) Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm