



## BCFED POLITICAL ACTION STANDING COMMITTEE Minutes

**Date of meeting:** March 15, 2023

**To:** Committee Members

**From:** Denise Moffatt, Director, BCFED

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**PRESENT:** Maria Lugs, HEU; Hilary Bergshoeff, IATSE; Corry Anderson-Fennell, CSWU-LIUNA; Hermender Kailley, BCFED; James Coccola, BCGEU; Andrea Matthews, BCIT FSA; Annette Toth, MOVEUP; David Fleming, CUPE; Paul Bowles, UNBCFA; Sara Rozell, HEU; Margo McKenzie, IATSE; Shelley Siemens, USW; Trish Garner, BCFED; Russ Surbey, BCFMWU, Denise Moffatt, BCFED

**GUESTS:** Karl Riley, Jordan Reid, BC NDP

### 1) Territorial Acknowledgement

### 2) BC NDP Update

Jordan Reid and Karl Riley attended the meeting and provided an update from the provincial office on ways labour activists can participate in local electoral district associations (EDAs) and upcoming by-elections. They anticipate that there will be six new constituency associations based on electoral redistribution, bringing the total number of EDAs to 93.

The 6 proposed new seats are:

- a. Burnaby – New West
- b. Juan de Fuca-Malahat
- c. Kelowna Centre
- d. Langley-Aldergrove
- e. Surrey Central
- f. Vancouver Yaletown

They are interested in helping NDP MLAs connect with local unions and members in their constituencies. They offered to help affiliates get MLAs out to local meetings and events to strengthen relationships.

They also mentioned that the BC NDP's Equity Mandate is under review. The committee will make recommendations on how to strengthen the mandate to address existing gaps.

Two by-elections are coming up – Vancouver Mount Pleasant, Langford. John Horgan and Melanie Mark stepping down at the end of March. By elections must be called within 6 months. There will be opportunities for people to volunteer.

**3) M/S/C – Motion to approve the Agenda.**

**4) M/S/C – Motion to approve the November and February Minutes.**

**5) Discussion Re: Provincial Election Working Group Structure**

The committee decided that the provincial election working group will be a timed item at the beginning of each PAC meeting. There are only 583 days until the next election! Affiliates are welcome to bring additional representatives/staff for this portion of the meeting.

**6) Legislative Session Updates and Government Announcements**

Updates were provided on various pieces of legislation, including Truth and Reconciliation Day, minimum wage, intimate images protection, pay transparency, and the BC Green bill on NDAs. Hermender Kailley reported that the BCFED was invited to an IRCC consultation on the future of immigration in Canada. He raised BCFED priorities focused on supporting migrant workers and international students.

Affiliates raised the importance of having proper briefings with all the stakeholders at the table, as critical to avoiding mistakes/oversights in newly drafted legislation.

**7) CLC Convention**

The CLC convention is coming up May 8-12, and the deadline to register is approaching at the start of April 6.

**8) Municipal Report**

There were no new updates.

## 9) Affiliate Updates and Campaigns

Affiliates provided updates on their current government relations priorities and campaigns.

Liuna is developing an education module for members focused on the rising popularity of Pierre Poilievre amongst union members.

HEU is focused on seniors care and their Care Can't Wait campaign this year, and noted that CUPE national held an excellent National Women's Conference.

BCGEU is working on a ladder of engagement with members and a campaign directed at VanCity Board of Directors to address workplace issues (<https://campaigns.bcgeu.ca/>).

CUPE is working on getting progressives elected in the school trustee by-elections in Prince George and on a campaign to deliver public before and after school care in schools. Members of CUPE transit operators and support staff in Fraser Valley are on strike.

BCIT FSA is still in bargaining. They also raised food insecurity and rising tuitions for international students as issues they are concerned about. BCIT FSA flagged that deficit budget are no longer permitted in post-secondary, post pandemic, and this will inevitably mean budget cuts.

## 10) Adjournment

DM/mp



1330-23min-dm-pac-mar15