



# BCFED WOMEN AND GENDER RIGHTS STANDING COMMITTEE

## Minutes

**Date of meeting:** June 6, 2022

**To:** Women and Gender Rights Committee Members

**From:** Cassandra Cordero, Director, BCFED

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**Present:** Laura Snow CEU, Dr. Balbir Gurm NEVR, Sheryl Burns CUPE, Rysa Kronebusch MoveUp, Angela Marcakis BCTF, Angela Marie MacDougall BWSS, Barb Nederpel HEU, Karen Sutton PSAC, Kari Michaels BCGEU, Kathleen Guerin UFCW 1518, Marion Pollack BCFORUM, Mandi Ayers HSA, Sabrina Prada UBPC/ACTRA, Sharon Gregson CCCABC, Dayna Gill IBEW 258, Cassandra Cordero BCFED, Sheila Moir BCFED, Denise Moffatt BCFED

- 1) Land Acknowledgement
- 2) Adoption of Previous minutes and Agenda
- 3) Introductions
- 4) Guest speaker Angela Marie MacDougall

Battered Women Support Services (BWSS) has done work on gender-based violence in the way of direct services and policy change advocacy for over 43 years. We understand that this violence doesn't happen between two people, it happens in a social context that allows for some people to dominate other people. The issues are historic, and we can't talk about gender-based violence in Canada without talking about colonization.

BWSS is part of a network of organizations working on a report as a response to the national action plan against gender-based violence. Safe and affordable public transit, welfare rates, responsive justice system responses, and supports for survivors and their families. Watch for an upcoming report on the colour of violence.

<https://nationalactionplan.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/NAP-Final-Report.pdf>

- 5) Guest speaker Sharon Gregson

Sharon joined the WGRC to speak about the \$10 A Day Childcare Plan and the Progress that has been made on the implementation at a provincial government level. The Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC (CCCABC) has been around for over 40 years. The current campaign has basic tenants:

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

1. Fees for families need to go down.
2. Wages for childcare providers should go up.
3. Move childcare away from being a commodity for a fee and move it into being part of the public good, and a part of our public service infrastructure.

The CCCABC believes that access to quality affordable childcare should not be contingent upon a parent's participation in the workforce. We have seen many steps implemented over the past five years, and now we have every province and territory across the country has signed on to the \$10 A Day plan. If any of you have not yet signed on to the plan, please do so by clicking this link: [https://www.10aday.ca/add\\_your\\_name](https://www.10aday.ca/add_your_name) .

## **6) Guest Speaker Dr. Balbir Gurm**

The Network to End Violence in Relationships (NEVR) is an organization that seeks to end violence in relationships which we define as Physical, Emotional, Mental, Spiritual, and Financial. We do public awareness and education. We participate in policy conversations, community events, and conferences. Our membership is very free, and anyone can join. Our membership meetings usually have thirty to fifty people attend and that is where we get guidance on what programming is needed most to meet the moment at any given time. If anyone would like more information on how to join, simply e-mail [nevr@kpu.ca](mailto:nevr@kpu.ca) .

## **7) BCNDP WGRC report – Denise Moffatt**

Denise attended the BCFED WGRC as a guest from the BCNDP WGRC which she chairs to report on two things:

One is that the provincial council will be meeting on June 24<sup>th</sup> where the WGRC and the SOGI caucus are bringing forward a motion to recommend that local constituency associations receive guidance from the party for their constitutions. In that guidance, that constitutions be revised so that when you're electing local executives, that no more than 50% of the position can be held by cisgender men.

The committee provided feedback that it is no longer enough to simply push for equity as it relates to gender. Indigeneity, race, ability and sexual orientation also need to be taken into account.

The second item to report on is the women's caucus of the BC NDP is going to be supporting candidates in the municipal elections coming up this fall and as part of that work they were doing around they held a listening session with MLA's who had previously held roles in City Council and they invited staff from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs in local government to hear about their experiences. In particular, the challenge is that candidates have experienced a number of instances of discrimination based on race, gender, ability and other equity identities, and we need to find a way to make sure people are supported and protected in campaign spaces.

Marion Pollack shared that CRIAW has actually published a paper on the barriers faced by women in municipal politics. <https://www.criaw-icref.ca/our-work/research-projects/action-on-barriers/>

**8) Convention Report:**

The committee went over the draft WGRC report to Convention and provided feedback to be included in the final draft which will go to Laird and Sussanne for final approval.

**9) Adjourn**

**10) Next meeting date: September 15, 2022**