



# BCFED WOMEN AND GENDER RIGHTS STANDING COMMITTEE

## Minutes

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

**To:** Women's and Gender Rights Standing Committee Members

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

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**Present:** Laura Snow CEU, Andrea Matthews FPSE, Angela Marcakis BCTF, Christy Slusarenko Move Up, Dayna Gill IBEW 258, Denise Moffatt BCNDP WGRC, Lisa Flesher LiUNA, Mandi Ayers HSA, Marion Pollack BCFORUM, Rysa Kronenbusch Move Up, Sabrina Prada UBCP/ACTRA, Sheryl Burns CUPE, Sussanne Skidmore BCFED, Cassandra Cordero BCFED

### 1) Land Acknowledgement

### 2) Adoption of Agenda and Previous Minutes M/S/C

### 3) Introductions

### 4) BCNDP WGRC Report

Rysa Kronebusch is the Secretary Treasurer of the BCNDP WGRC.

Mandi Ayers is the Northern Rep.

Gender Based Violence Round Tables.

Pay Equity and Pay Transparency Consultation coming up.

Reproductive Rights: The committee discussed some of the following at the last meeting – how can we advocate for and lift up the fight for reproductive rights. Can we send some support to our friends in the US? Can we send letters of solidarity? We also need to be mindful of the disproportionate effect that lands on the shoulders of Indigenous, Black and People of Colour of not having access to abortions.

If there are opportunities to work together, or amplify each others work, please be in touch either through Denise or through Rysa and Mandi.

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

Equity Mandate Update: the Equity mandate will be worked on by a five person committee. The committee will be reviewing the mandate and making recommendations on recruitment, training, nominations, and the nomination process. We will expect a report and summary of findings in September of 2022. Further consultations will happen with a further report in December 2022, followed by a final report to be submitted to the executive in 2023 to prepare for a 2024 election.

The BCNDP WGRC will be centering intersectionality in its work moving forward. Invitations for fundraisers and events of the BCNDP WGRC will come to the committee in the future.

**5) Summer Institute for Union Women:**

The Western Regional SIUW will be held June 23 -25 2022 online via Zoom. There are currently enough core course facilitators, but workshop spots have not yet been filled. If you have ideas for workshops, please let Kassandra know.

**6) Convention Report Outline:**

Please see the Jamboard link here to see items that committee members identified to be included in this year's convention report. If you were not able to attend the meeting and have something to add, please do so by creating a sticky note and adding it to the Jamboard. [https://jamboard.google.com/d/1OGlggUnY\\_mzveoK9BM5gCtvDYY-u2w\\_n6oHIBQrzuF4/viewer?f=0](https://jamboard.google.com/d/1OGlggUnY_mzveoK9BM5gCtvDYY-u2w_n6oHIBQrzuF4/viewer?f=0)

**7) BC Government Roundtables on Gender Based Violence Report Back:**

The BCFED was invited to participate in a series of BC Government Roundtables on Gender Based Violence, and we had representation at 4 of the five sessions. The documents provided to us for these sessions are included for your information. The roundtables were divided up into five sections:

- Prevention and Awareness
- Supports for Survivors
- Justice System Approaches and Responses
- Coordination
- Advancing Equity

Available [discussion primers](#) and the [backgrounder](#) for the roundtables are attached.

**8) Access to Abortions:**

There is a real fear that with the repeal of the Roe vs. Wade decision in the US, efforts by conservative entities in Canada will re-double to try to criminalize abortion on this side of the border. There is a concern that this might shine a spotlight on two free standing abortion clinics here in BC. (Elizabeth Bagshaw Clinic, and Everywoman's Health Centre.) At

the next meeting the unions representing these clinics will bring a report back to the committee.

#### 9) **Affiliate Reports:**

**IBEW:** There is a gender-neutral language resolution going to the international convention next week. IBEW Women's committee for Canada is working on improving maternity benefits in CBAs across Canada. Four women have been accepted as powerline technicians and Dayna will attend SWIT June 2-3 in St. Johns Newfoundland.

**CUPE:** had its first in person convention last week since before COVID. It was the first convention of the new President, Karen Ranalletta, and she made a special effort to be inclusive of Indigenous and Racialized people's voices. A number of significant resolutions were passed. One being the changing of the name of the women's committee to the Women's and Gender Rights Committee. Also, a resolution calling for 10 days paid leave for survivors of sexual and domestic violence, a resolution supporting the decriminalization of sex work. CUPE National has an initiative called the Safe Union Spaces initiative in which measures to make our spaces safer for equity groups are being discussed.

**BCGEU:** May 25<sup>th</sup> is the upcoming Women and Gender Rights Committee of the BCGEU. We will be discussing the topic of abortion rights at that meeting. As a follow up from a previous meeting, the BCGEU reported that they had written a letter to minister of health, in late July 2021 about a member's access to gender affirming care. The response came back about a month ago, not from the Minister but from Mark Armitage, and not from Mark himself but written by someone in his office. The response was very disappointing, basically stating that the Minister's office is not looking at this issue right now. Part of the response indicated waiting for the new WPATH standards to come out to take action. There is a national patterns standard being set for NUPGE bargaining across Canada on bargaining access to gender affirming care and time off required as well as protections and transitions policies as per the CLC guide for unions supporting workers in transition drafted by Adrienne Smith.

**CUPW:** In September there will be a CUPW Women's conference for Women and Gender Diverse people.

**BCFORUM:** Diane Wood, our long-time President has stepped down, and we now have an interim President Sam Weiss. A BCFORUM Zoom meeting will be happening shortly, and a new issue of the Advocate has been created, please distribute!

**MoveUP:** Last year MoveUp had our convention in person as well. 2 resolutions of note were passed, one on the decriminalization of sex work and support for sex workers, and one on the issue of food security, which will be taken on by the new community and social

development committee. Lastly, Move Up hired a company called Lanku to do an audit of our policies and procedures, to see where barriers exist for membership. They will develop a plan on EDI work and will be working with us on the implementation of the plan.

**HSA:** First convention last week also since 2019. Our Women’s Rights Committee is looking at changing its name right now to become the Women’s and Gender Rights Committee. We have a women’s workshop series in June, and it is fully subscribed.

**10) Motion:** *That the BCFED write a letter to the minister of health calling upon them to improve provincial health care coverage for gender affirming care based on Yukon Territories’ framework adopted in 2021.*

## **11) Adjourn**

Next Meeting: June 6<sup>th</sup>