



## BCFED POLITICAL ACTION STANDING COMMITTEE Minutes

**Date of meeting:** November 9, 2022

**To:** Committee Members

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

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**PRESENT:** Clint Johnston, BCTF (Chair); Corry Anderson Fennell, CSWU 1611; Stephen Von Sychowski, VDLC; Hillary Bergshoeff, IATSE; Brett Barden, USW; Sam Weise, BC FORUM; Anna Chudnovsky, BCTF; Andrea Matthews, BCIT FSA, Nicole Seguin, HSA; Janet Andrews, NWDLC; Brian Haugen, IUOE; Jeremy Allingham, BCBT; Denise Moffatt, BCFED; Sussanne Skidmore, BCFED

**GUESTS:** Alissa Brandt, Ramesh Ranjan, BC NDP Caucus

### 1) Territorial Acknowledgement

### 2) Guest Speakers Alissa Brandt and Ramesh Ranjan from BC NDP Caucus

Alissa and Ramesh reviewed caucus structure and key roles.

PDF of her PowerPoint is attached.

Alissa shared additional contact information for Matt Hannah in issues management. Matt can be reached at [matt.hannah@leg.bc.ca](mailto:matt.hannah@leg.bc.ca) or 778-389-0486.

### 3) M/S/C Approval of the Agenda

### 4) M/S/C Approval of Minutes of October 12<sup>th</sup>

### 5) Reminder BCFED Convention Committee Process

Denise reviewed the process for the committee's report and presentation of resolutions referred to the committee. These details will be shared in a separate email.

## 6) BCFED Legislative Priorities Update

Sussanne reported on the BCFED's meeting with Premier-Elect David Eby. She reported that the BCFED has identified four priority areas in addition to asking the government to complete it's work on initiatives that are already underway:

- Precarious work – address misclassification
- Labour code review – focus on improving access to unionization for precarious and low wage workers exploring options like sectoral bargaining, improved successorship provisions and other improvements to the negotiation of first collective agreements.
- Outstanding issues on WCB reform including bringing balance on the Board of Directors and ensuring that workers do not face additional barriers when making psychological injury claims.
- Bring in pay transparency legislation and move ahead with pay equity legislation as well.
- Finish the work that has been started on a number of issues including the Gender Based Violence action plan, asbestos licensing, expanding skilled trades certification, the *Declaration Act* Action plan, Anti-racism legislation and more.

## 7) New Premier's Office Staffing

The committee discussed the staffing announcements within the Premier's office. Matt Smith has been appointed Chief of Staff. New cabinet positions and mandate letters will be announced on December 7<sup>th</sup>.

## 8) Current Legislative Session

The committee discussed the *Workers Compensation Amendment Act* that is currently in front of the legislature. The bill has passed second reading and will head into committee the week of November 21<sup>st</sup>. [The BCFED's press release is available here.](#) This is the last week of the legislative sitting.

## 9) Federal and Municipal Updates (CLC and Labour Councils)

Orion and Ron sent regrets.

Janet reported on the recent municipal elections. She highlighted that the widespread rejection of divisive politics at the local level was a positive result. She highlighted the results in Langley Township where Rich Coleman was unsuccessful in his bid for mayor. The progressive slate won the balance of power. She cautioned that we may see BC Liberals putting their energy into this community.

Stephen reported on the disappointing outcome in Vancouver. He pointed out that it was a tough election for incumbents in some communities. He thanked all the volunteers who helped Labour Councils with outreach.

Anna from BCTF reported on school board elections and that the results were, for the most part, positive. Despite losses for radical right, she cautioned that their politicians did see a significant increase in their vote share. She stressed that this should be an alarm bell for all of us.

## 10) Affiliate Updates and Lobbying Objectives

**BC FORUM** continues to work with its affiliates on *Bill C-228* which is currently at committee. We have submitted a letter to committee urging support of the Bill with the amendments submitted by MP Peter Julian which speaks to ensuring severance pay entitlement be protected. They are in the process of completing our submission to ESDC regarding anti-scab legislative changes to *Canada Labour Code* Part I. Many older British Columbians transition from long-term, full-time employment to less secure, part time and precarious work; BC FORUM will be looking at ways we can take action in the campaign to ensure these workers are protected under Employment Standards.

**IUOE** – Highlighted an event for John Horgan in Langley.

<https://www.bcndp.ca/events/farewell-premier-john-horgan-celebration-langley>

**HSA** – reported that they are educating MLAs on workload issues for health science professionals and community services. They are monitoring the change to family service centres and move away from child development centres. Following the BCFED's work on psychological injury protection for workers and presumptive coverage.

**BCBT** –recently held a lobby in Victoria and will be headed to Ottawa to lobby the Federal government.

**USW** – held a lobby in Victoria issues included mineral strategy, successorship, workers rights in a modern BC economy incl sectoral bargaining and telework, WCB reform, need for recognition of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

**BCFED** – reported that a Living wage briefing has been organized for Tuesday. There will be a significant increase in the living wage this year and this will impact living wage employers and workers at those locations. Denise also reported that the BCFED is planning to hold a course at Winter School to help affiliates train up campaigners. Spots will be offered by invitation. If you are interested in sending someone, connect with Denise as [dmoftatt@bcfed.ca](mailto:dmoftatt@bcfed.ca).

**11) New Business – None**

**12) Meeting Dates for 2023**

We will set dates for the January and February meetings and then we will establish a regular schedule for the rest of the year.

DM/mp



1330-22min-dm-pac-nov9

# New Democrat BC Government Caucus

Presentation to the BCFed Political Action Committee

NOVEMBER 2022

# Caucus Structure

- ▶ The Caucus Executive has four elected (typically) positions
- ▶ The Premier, House Leader, and Deputy House Leader also sit on the executive, along with the two chairs of the Government Caucus Committees and the Party Liaison
- ▶ The caucus ED reports to the executive and through the caucus management team oversees the work of caucus staff and provides support to CAs
- ▶ Collective agreements

# Caucus and The Party

- ▶ Work very closely with the Party
- ▶ Shared goals and objectives
- ▶ Outreach

# The Constituency Office or Minister's Office?

- ▶ If you are looking to connect locally, start with the CO
- ▶ If it's more about lobbying on a specific issue, start with the relevant MO.
- ▶ If you want to set up lobbying meetings with all of government, connect with Teresa in the Whip's Office.
- ▶ Rule of thumb: province wide - go to the MO; more regional - start with the CO or with caucus
- ▶ We're here to help!



# Where to go to connect with your New Democrat MLAs

- ▶ The Whip's Office organizes and schedules all lobby events and meetings during the Legislative Session.
  - ▶ Examples: BC Federation of Labour lobby meetings with all MLAs, BC Building Trades Evening Reception.
  - ▶ Teresa Scambler is your contact there.
- ▶ The BC NDP Caucus Outreach team organizes and schedules all outreach meetings
  - ▶ Examples: Private Members meet with the Canadian Men's Health Association or Clayoquot Biosphere Trust, or potentially, a newly certified union since the passing of Bill 10 (card check)
  - ▶ Ramesh Ranjan is your contact there.

# What the Caucus ED does

- ▶ Administrative and HR role - supporting MLAs and CAs
- ▶ Strategic role - working with the Premier's Office and the Party
- ▶ Always applying a political lens

# Director of Outreach - Ramesh Ranjan

- ▶ Outreach Director, Ramesh Ranjan and Outreach Coordinator, Priyanka Krishna
- ▶ Supports MLAs and CAs in the development and implementation of outreach strategies and regional caucus initiatives.
- ▶ Supports caucus engagement of non-profit groups through regular meetings during the Legislative session.
- ▶ Supports caucus engagement of faith and cultural organizations by region.
- ▶ Coordinates strategic outreach and visibility campaigns including regional caucus tours, Minister outreach into target constituencies and more.
- ▶ Works closely with stakeholders across government/caucus to support coordination on regional event attendance.
- ▶ Provides advice and assistance to Constituency Offices on local outreach planning and execution.

# Manager of Strategic Comms - Tabitha Bernard

- ▶ Triage Constituency Assistants' questions concerning government policy and other emerging issues.
- ▶ In conjunction with the Executive Director, monitors the Legislative Corporate calendars to identify priority items (legislation/announcements/issues) on which to brief caucus; coordinates and schedules caucus briefings.
- ▶ In conjunction with the Constituency Support Manager, identifies priority briefings and training opportunities for CAs; coordinates and schedules CA briefings and training sessions.

# Director of Issues Management & Strategic Initiatives - Matt Hannah

- ▶ Assists the caucus & individual MLAs dealing with challenging political issues
- ▶ Monitors opposition MLA activity in the media, legislature, and social media
- ▶ Holds opposition accountable for comments & past record
- ▶ Works on various long-term research projects & strategic communications priorities



# Director of Communications, Research and Legislative Initiatives - Edward May

- ▶ Leads the communications teams that develops and manages the communications, media relations and research functions of government caucus.
- ▶ Assists MLAs with their communication needs
- ▶ Works with MLAs to promote government initiatives, investments, and commitments.
- ▶ Helps ensure consistency of tone and messaging in all communications materials, and by MLAs in media interviews and public speeches.
- ▶ Builds and maintains relationships with traditional mainstream media, including the press gallery, major provincial media and local outlets to advance the communications priorities of caucus.

# Director of Operations - Joanna Groves

- ▶ Administrative role:
  - ▶ Financial
  - ▶ HR
  - ▶ Administrative staff
  - ▶ Work spaces and Logistics
- ▶ Ensures MLAs and staff have what they need to do their jobs

# Constituency Support Manager - Aaron Leung

- ▶ Provides strategic operational advice related to constituency offices
- ▶ Provides direction to Constituency Assistants on Constituency Office operations
- ▶ In conjunction with the Manager of Internal Strategic Communications, identifies priority briefings and training opportunities for CAs; develops, coordinates and schedules CA briefings and training sessions.
- ▶ Liaises with internal Legislative Assembly Departments to provide more efficient and effective service delivery to Members and Constituency Offices



# Call us!

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