



BCFED POLITICAL ACTION STANDING COMMITTEE Minutes

Date of meeting: September 9, 2022
To: Committee Members
From: Denise Moffatt, Director, BCFED

PRESENT: Clint Johnston, BCTF (Chair); Ron Stipp, CLC; Anna Chudnovsky, BCTF; David Fleming, CUPE; Hillary Bergshoeff, IATSE; Janet Andrews, NWDLC; James Morrison, CEU; Orion Irvine, CLC; Catherine Black, HEU; Nicole Seguin, HSA; Trish Garner, BCFED; Denise Moffatt, BCFED

1) Territorial Acknowledgement

2) Agenda

M/S/C – That we adopt the agenda with one amendment to remove guest speakers.
Caucus staff will attend the October meeting.

3) Minutes

Minutes will be recirculated and approved at the next meeting. June 15th will amend attendee list to include Ron Stipp.

4) Introductions

Introduction of new co-chair Clint Johnston (he/him) and new BCFED staff person, Trish Garner (they/them).

5) BCFED Precarious Work Paper

Denise reported that the BCFED is releasing a paper to support the campaign to improve working conditions for precarious workers. The report outlines the impact of exclusions from the *Employment Standards Act* and sets out six steps to address the issues. The report will be circulated to Officers and then to the PAC and the Precarious Work Working Group.

6) WCB Campaign Update

Denise reported on progress on the WCB campaign.

- Work was informed by previous reviews of the workers compensation system, in particular, Patterson report
- Hoping to see legislation this Fall – fruition of 20 years of work since cuts made in the early-2000s
- BCFED is continuing with a social media campaign – please amplify
- Many affiliates participated in lobby in 2021 so know messages; please continue to advocate in any interactions with government
- In particular, we need to push on two recommendations: Fair Practices Commission as an independent oversight body; psychological injury treated same as physical injury
- BCFED has been connecting with the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions
- Q&A:
 - Appetite from gov for refunding WCB surplus in response to calls from business? Business always use this argument, but this is not employer's money, this is worker's money; only reason for surplus is that benefits are insufficient
 - Does SM amplification count as lobbying? Will review wording of video to check and get back to everyone
 - Heard that definition of presumptive coverage for psychological injury will be added to the list that already exists? We don't support a limited definition, all workers should have presumptive coverage; any list will exclude some workers. Asked for changes to section 135 of Act to remove terms "predominantly" and "significant" to be removed in relation to psych injuries; asked for shift to family doctor recommendation not psychologist/psychiatrist; asked for elimination of exclusion for labour relations. May be further consultation led by Ministry of Labour this Fall.
 - CEU – we see impact on workers and case workers.
 - Our focus is change to the system, agree it's important to remember the workers at WCB are simply following the current policies.

7) Discussion: UBCM

The committee discussed who will be heading to UBCM and priorities for outreach.

- The BCFED will be talking to MLAs about precarious work and WCB reform.
- Sustainable communities is holding a briefing prior to UBCM on the resolutions.

8) Affiliate Fall Legislative Priorities (not covered above)

HSA –

Pay transparency

Gender Based violence

Anti-Racism Act (following anti-racism data collection act)

9) By election – South Surrey

Election day is Saturday, September 10th, last chance to encourage members to get out and vote. Campaign will likely need volunteers for EDAY if folks can attend.

10) NDP Leadership Race

Membership sign ups closed September 4th. Candidates can come forward until October 4th. The campaign period ends on December 3rd. NDP has been conducting membership audits and people should expect to be contacted. Some affiliates are making endorsements. CUPEBC has endorsed David Eby.

11) CLC Report

Orion and/or Ron will report on CLC activities

- Labour Day – very successful events across the province. Thanks to all participants. Siobhan Vipond attended the VDLC and NWDLC events. A very positive reboot of labour day events.
- May 8-12 is CLC convention next year.
- Fall federal government session is starting soon. Looking to the implementation of the CASA agreement. Launching the care campaign on Monday, reinforcing the importance of social services.
- People should also be prepared that with a minority government there could be a snap election.
- Conservatives will be announcing their new leader. The CLC will be responding on social media. There will be speaking notes. Announcement is postponed due to death of Queen Elizabeth.

12) Municipal Election Report

- Today is official nomination deadline, all candidates will be listed by early next week.
- 250 endorsements by Labour Councils around the province.
- CLC is printing poll cards.
- Electronic cards available as well.
- Will do two runs since some Labour Councils are still in the process of endorsing additional candidates.
- There will be lots of GOTV engagement from labour councils and affiliates.
- BCTF raised the push from the alt-right to get school trustees elected on a hate slate. They are organized, funded and being trained. Often running under a “parent’s voice” platform.

- NWDLC also expressed concern about the alt right campaigns. Parent’s voice is a registered organization. Janet shared the following website that exposes the people, tactics and messaging behind the movement: <https://unmasktheright.org/> You can also contact them with information.
- Concern that there is a very close race in Vancouver. This will be a highly impactful election. It is shaping up to be a two-way race between Sim and Stewart.

13) Affiliate Rounds

HEU – tentative agreement reached, continuing to work on the repatriation of health care workers. More repatriations to come.

HSA – continuing to work on issues around recruitment and retention, also monitoring the “family connection centres” and the move to a hub model. Previously lots of support done through Child development centres.

BCTF – media is picking up our messaging around staff shortages, ads in some districts calling for uncertified teachers. BCTF is focusing on messaging around the rights of students to a trained and certified teacher rather than on the teacher themselves.

14) Next Meeting Date

Set for October 12th will include a review of Convention resolutions referred to the committee