

**BRITISH COLUMBIA REGIONAL UNION SAFETY AND HEALTH COMMITTEE
(BRUSH)
August 2013**

COMMITTEE MANDATE AND PLAN

The British Columbia Regional Union Health & Safety Committee, referred herein as the BRUSH, has developed this plan.

This committee shall be comprised of Health & Safety activists from across the British Columbia (BC) Region and chaired by the Health & Safety (H&S) Councilor of the B.C. Regional Council. It is expected that the Alternate BC Regional H&S Councilor will also be a standing member of this committee. The Public Service Alliance of Canada (the PSAC) staff representative to this committee shall be the Regional Representative responsible for H&S.

As this committee is devoted to the inclusion and promotion of Health & Safety, it is expected that the majority of decisions will be by consensus. In the rare event that a vote is required all participants in attendance at the meeting where voting takes place are entitled to vote.

In building this document, the committee took into consideration the strategic goals of the PSAC and ways of integrating them into the mandate and plan.

Strategic Goals of the PSAC include:

- link globalization to members lives
- build membership support through effective bargaining
- defend membership rights against employer and corporate strategies
- re-empower the membership and build union
- organize to protect members gains
- defending quality public services

THE BRUSH COMMITTEE MANDATE

Create a safer and healthier workplace through the collective action of union health and safety activists.

Develop and deliver Regional Health and Safety Conferences.

Ensure follow-up on National and Regional Health and Safety priorities as identified at their respective conferences.

Develop ways to involve PSAC members in Health and Safety issues.

BRUSH Terms of Reference
August 2013

Provide on-going communications of Health & Safety issues for B.C. PSAC members through the network and our regional Health and Safety web page.

Promote the training of Health & Safety activists so that they remain effective in all aspects of Health & Safety activities, in both the Union and the Workplace.

Promote commemorative dates that pertain to Health and Safety such as April 28th - National Day of Mourning.

Provide information to the B.C. Regional Council and the Regional Executive Vice-President (the REVP) on all regional matters relating to occupational Health and Safety issues, campaigns, conferences, committees, and education.

Create a vibrant and effective BRUSH committee by increasing the participation of Health and Safety activists in meetings which will be held at a minimum of 6 times per year based on the following schedule; the last Wednesday of January, March, May, July, September and November.

BRUSH COMMITTEE PLAN

Special Days:

National Day of Mourning (April 28th)

Promote activism at all levels of the Union by sending out letters and posters asking members to take part by:

- Attending and encouraging others to attend a Day of Mourning event.
- Write about worker monuments and cover Day of Mourning events on the Regional H&S web page.
- Encourage members to participate in the Canada Labour Congress and District Labour Councils lobby of municipalities to recognize the Day through proclamation and lowering of flags to half mast.
- Ask locals to bring the issue of lowering flags to half mast and stand for a moment of silence in recognition of the Day, to Union Management meetings; and
- Invite social justice groups and Labour Councils to observe the Day

Repetitive Strain Injury (RSI) Day (February 28th)

Educate members on RSI by sending out information on symptoms, stretches, ergonomics and tips on how to prevent RSI's

Education:

Monitor education to ensure that National or Regional Health & Safety issues/courses are a regular part of education schedules.

Ensure that the B.C. Regional Council Education Committee continue with the established commitment that a Health & Safety Course or a course under the Health & Safety program be offered annually, preferably at each B.C. Regional Union School;

Promote through the Health & Safety network, Local Presidents, Regional Vice Presidents and National Vice Presidents; joint union employer training sessions.

Develop and utilize Alliance Facilitators to offer information sessions around Protective Reassignment, Right to Refuse, Security, Duty to Accommodate, etc.;

Promote safe work environments and encourage a proactive approach to Health and Safety;

Continue to promote the regional Health and Safety web page.

Encourage members to participate in courses and conferences held within the PSAC and the broader labour movement (i.e. Federations of Labour, Canadian Labour Congress)

Resource Material:

Communicate the goals/objectives outlined in this document to committees, locals, etc;

Emphasize the importance of a healthy and safe work environment. The PSAC Health and Safety Tool Kits are an excellent resource for each Local. The BRUSH shall ensure that all Local Committees are aware of this tool and how it accessed them.

Promote the PSAC Awareness Kit on Scent-free Environments and the PSAC's commitment to a greater awareness of environmental disability. Ensure that all participants at all PSAC events are aware of our NO SCENTS Policy. Work with Local Health and Safety Committees to promote & adopt scent-free workplaces.

Communication/Networking:

Continue to encourage Locals to have a representative participate and attend the BRUSH Committee meetings and establish communication links with other Health and Safety members.

Post links on the B.C. Regional Health & Safety website of resource tools and

organizations that promote Health & Safety issues.

Publicize our participation in activities that commemorate special days on the website (include article and pictures)

Conferences:

Encourage Local Committee members and Representatives to participate in Regional Health & Safety Conferences.

Maintain an active role in the planning and development of Regional Health & Safety Conferences.

Encourage members to participate in National Conferences within the PSAC and the broader labour movement (i.e. Canadian Labour Congress)

Contact Information:

Contact the BRUSH Chair, Linda Harding or James Little through the PSAC Victoria Regional Office at:

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