

**British Columbia Regional Union Safety and Health Committee
(BRUSH)
Minutes
May 23, 2018**

In attendance: Linda Harding (Chair), Bill Pleming (GSU)
By phone: Johann Ackermann (UTE), Ernest Hooker (UCTE), Monique Bakker (UHEW), Karen Sutton (CIU), Desiree Ng (CEIU), Jim Sidel (DCL), Marcello Lazaro (UNDE)
Staff: Deanna Kimball (PSAC)

Agenda:

Roll Call

Accepting the Agenda

Previous Minutes

Business Arising

New Business:

1. BC Fed Activities
2. Terms of Reference Amendments
3. PSAC National Convention
4. PSAC Regional Representative H&S

Round Table

Next Meeting

Adjournment

Roll Call:

Linda conducted a Roll Call and called meeting to order at 5:30 pm

Accepting the Agenda:

Added item #4, accepted

Review of Previous Minutes:

Linda noted that there was a follow up item from the previous minutes March 28, 2018 - Sharing the links from CAREX with the committee. Accepted with the correction of misspelled name

Business Arising: none

New Business

1. BC Fed Activities:

Linda attended the BC Fed meeting earlier in the day. There was a debrief about the National Day of Mourning event held at Jack Poole Plaza. Despite the rainy conditions, the event was very well attended and there were good speakers. Linda noted that there were other events on the Friday as well.

The BC Fed committee spent time reviewing their recommendations and resolutions from 2016 in order to assess what still needs to be completed in their mandate from 2016. Linda reported that 80% of the mandate from 2016 has been completed. They will be looking for what language PSAC uses regarding the CSA National Standard on H&S, so they can incorporate that into their resolution language.

ACTION: Linda requested that BRUSH committee members advise her if folks from their departments have taken the Mental Health First Aid training. She will be reporting back to the BC Fed committee with this information.

2. Terms of Reference Amendments

Linda will review the changes that have been discussed and will send out the TOR document with changes in red. This will be available before the July meeting. Some committee members had suggestions regarding the number of meetings that need to be held and when. Linda asked that committee members send their suggestions in writing to her so she can incorporate them into the TOR for discussion at the July meeting.

3. PSAC National Convention

Linda attended the PSAC National Convention and reported back on two resolutions of interest to the committee. Finance Resolution (FIN 002) regarding an increase in funding for the Regional H&S conferences was adopted. Regarding Resolution 119 about H&S Conferences (increase from 300 to 350 delegates with increased funding to match), the resolution was not heard, and therefore was not passed.

4. PSAC Regional Representative, Health & Safety

Linda reported that Sharon Barbour, is the new PSAC H&S Regional Rep for B.C. Sharon will start at the beginning of July. Linda is looking forward to working with Sharon as well she gave her thanks to James Little.

Round Table

- **Linda:** Will be attending a Fatigue Risk Management Symposium on June 7. This may be a good topic to explore for the Regional H&S Conference;
 - The H&S event for the BC Federation of Labour Convention with the collaboration of the BC Fed Women's committee, will focus on prevention of domestic violence. The Ending Violence Association of BC and the "Be More than a Bystander" BC Lions campaign will have speakers at the event;
 - Linda would like to see more agenda items be put forward by BRUSH Committee members for future meetings.
- **Monique:** Transport Canada deemed that the vehicle collision in which a member in the North (Sister Ann Strutt) passed away in was an accident.
 - Linda asked for BRUSH Committee members to advise her if there are workplace fatalities in their workplaces. At the BC Fed H&S committee they have a minute of silence for those who have passed away in a workplace incident.
- **Karen:** reported that there has been a lot of flooding in the Okanagan. As a result, there were ports that had evacuation orders in place. Also, Osoyoos port was asked to restrict water usage by the city. This was a concern as there are a lot of officers and only two bathrooms. There ended up not being a lot of problems, but these events did raise concerns and have prompted discussions about having better plans in place for flood season in the future;
 - There is a lack of participation on the OSH committees. It seems to be a result of the shifts folks are on. Linda and Karen will chat in order to strategize on how to resolve this issue.
 - Would like to see the Representing Members with Mental Health Issues PSAC course offered in the Okanagan.
- **Marcello:** There have been a lot of new members hired through the veteran's act, that have PTSD. The workplace is not equipped with assisting these new members. There has been push back by the union and workers on the Employer to ensure workers have proper training and supports in the workplace. They don't seem to be taking it seriously. It would be good if the PSAC and Component also pushed to build more awareness about mental health issues in the workplace in order to reduce the stigma around mental health. Perhaps the BRUSH can be an advocate for more training across Components. The federal government does not seem to be addressing the issue seriously. On top of this there has been a lot

of reductions in the workforce by attrition, so there are not enough workers for all the work.

- **Bill:** emergency preparedness week and mental health awareness in May was successful. At 800 Burrard, all the building tenants got together and had booths in the main lobby on different topics (Emergency Preparedness, Occupational H&S, and Mental Health). The week was split up with time for each topic. For the mental Health Awareness portion, one of the activities included asking folks as they arrived at the building to write on a post-it note their answer to, "How do you feel?". There was a wide range of responses that were displayed.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 25, 2018

Adjournment at 6:20 p.m.