



**March 25 BC Regional Union Safety & Health Committee
Minutes – Final Version**

Participants;

Mariah Moraes (USJE), Christine Austin (AGR), Ernest Hooker (UCTE), Jennifer Horsley (UPCE)
Kareen Stanich (AGR), Karen Sutton (CIU), Zoe Johnston (USJE), Kirsty Havard (USJE), Melody Hildahl
(UPCE), Linda Harding (UNE – Chairperson), Sharon Barbour (Staff)

Linda opened the meeting with a territorial acknowledgement and a moment of silence.

The agenda was adopted (Ernest / Jen) and the minutes of the December meeting were approved. (Jen / Karen).

A treasurer's report was not available.

Business Arising

Sharon spoke about the work of the sub-committee that had been struck to work on the recommendations from the BC Caucus at the National H&S Conference last fall. The subcommittee had focused on the desire to communicate with members more often, and we had already been sending information to the distribution list; e.g. impairment, recent email on CCOHS etc.

The members were asked to advise Sharon if there was additional information they would like distributed.

The group discussed the Joint Learning Programs upcoming pilot project on H&S training – the JLP has developed two courses – one on the Canada Labour Code and one on effective H&S committees – and the courses will be rolled out as pilot project over the coming years.

BC Fed activities

Recent meetings had been cancelled.

Linda attended the Farm Workers Memorial March 7 – they had it in the community centre theatre where they showed a video and had speakers including MLAs and BC Fed leadership. The group walked from there to the monument, laid flowers and observed a moment of silence. Linda felt it was a good memorial service.

Day of Mourning

The group talked about how the Day of Mourning will look vastly different than it was in the past because of the COVID-19 shutdown. In person activities will not be held and because PSAC Regional Offices have been closed, it will not be possible to distribute the BRUSH Committee's Day of Mourning posters and pins.

The group discussed their thoughts on how BRUSH could encourage observing the Day of Mourning.

The PSAC sends a communique to all staff on day of mourning. Perhaps the committee could send something asking people to take a moment on the 28th to reflection those who have lost their lives or been injured at work.

We could email out the posters and provide a Facebook frame. We could ask people to take photographs and create a collage with Promosaic – a free online software.

Sharon will follow up with Patrick.

COVID Specific Round

Karen

At CBSA there are many questions about C19 that aren't being answered. Our members are the front line workers when people come off the plane. The media is saying they haven't been provided information. We have numerous cases of officers who have been exposed. That has raised many more questions. Their reality is changing on a regular basis.

Jen

Purolator is putting in a lot of half measures and not addressing a lot of the concerns. They were still requiring sick notes and we just learned today that it's no longer required. The union has been left out – the employer is sending communications to employees, but it's all generalized. How to properly put on gloves etc. we don't have any hand sanitizer.

Christine

Many Research Centers received an urgent request to inventory disposable PPE – at this stage they're trying to get a sense of what we have – and there may be a request to pool any surplus for other use.

Mariah

Trying to secure PPE products we are classified as emergency services. Unless you're willing to order over \$300 000 worth of products, they won't talk to you. We are looking at distilleries for hand sanitizer

– smaller companies – Killex germ killer. It's out there but you need someone to find it and think a bit differently to procure it.

Linda

PSPC perspective -we have a dedicated unit for COVID-19 – I'm ordering for our local units someone at a provincial level orders larger, but it takes longer to filter them to our level

Kirsty

Corrections is frustratingly slow to move. They've been procuring more laptops to allow telework and there are many questions about immunocompromised members. Corrections Canada offered limited PHAC

Closing Round

Mariah – stay safe stay healthy lean on your networks for support – all here to brainstorm together –

Melody – nothing to add - stay safe everyone

Christine – RCMP may want to reach out to AC to ask about the alcohol stores we have that could be sued to make hand sanitizer.

Jen – I did want to mention UPCE one member tested positive in Antigonish Post Office – possible exposure 13 CUPW attended funeral and were exposed we are waiting to hear most have been working from home so local president doesn't think there is anything

Corine – nothing to add, good phone call, stay safe

Karen – I attended a Workers Compensation Appeal Tribunal (WCAT) hearing early March with Sharon and appreciated her representation. It's nerve racking and can be emotional and there isn't a lot of info on what to expect / what gets discussed etc. Thank you for the resolution presented on WCB training / info so people know what to expect with WCB files etc. That info needs to get out there. Stay safe.

Zoe – Everyone's doing a fabulous job. Thanks for letting me call in. One key thing I was dealing with a pharmacy – they're not allowed to wear gloves or masks – diligent and aware – if you have to go in maybe have it delivered to you directly instead of going in – they're exposed to everyone. I deal with save on pharmacy – they told me that the plexiglass has been ordered and they will be behind a barrier

Kirsty – thanks for the information. I will keep what Sharon said in mind. I will be more concerned when people will be directed to go to work – there eventually will be an outbreak – they're not ready for this – they're just starting to tell people to wash their hands – they're very slow to move – it's just a matter of time to try to protect the members that have to go in

Ernest - People want to take care of their clients but this is all about us – we need to know that our employers are doing the right thing and taking care of us soon. We will see fatigue pretty soon. History shows that people won't carry on over time... you will have another onset. We need to be regimented.

Linda – Changes to health care plan - senior management will be sending information out – I wanted to pick up medication early and was told I couldn't pick them up for another ten days – insurer has changed that and communications should be coming out.... You can stock up.

Appreciate everyone taking the time out for the meeting – everyone's been busy. Really good discussions tonight – I'm hoping that this will build momentum and we will continue to have more people on the calls.

Next Meeting JUNE 03 2020

530 or 6pm depending on in person or conference call.

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