

**British Columbia Regional Union Safety and Health Committee
(BRUSH)
Minutes
June 26, 2019
DRAFT**

In attendance:

In person; Linda Harding (Chair), John Henwood (CIU 20040), Jen Horsley (UPCE 20095), Sharon Barbour (Staff)

By phone: Rick Levigne (UNDE 21018), Adam Jackson (UHEW 20417), Karen Sutton (CIU 20045), Marcelo Lazaro (UNDE 21016), Wayne Little (UTE 20028), Brad Klein (UNDE 21016), Ernest Hooker (UCTE 20220), Monique Bakker (UHEW 20147), Leanne Hughes (CIU 20042)

Regrets: Kirsty Havard (USJE 20091)

Agenda:

- Roll Call
- Territorial Acknowledgement
- Minute of Silence for Workers Killed and Injured on the Job
- Accepting the Agenda
- Review Previous Minutes
- Treasurer's Report
- Business Arising
- New Business
 - BC Fed Activities
 - Resolutions to the PSAC BC Convention
 - PSAC National Health and Safety Conference
- Round Table
- Next Meeting
- Adjournment

Meeting called to order at 5:36 by Linda Harding

- Linda conducted Roll Call, indigenous Territorial Acknowledgement, and a Minute of Silence for Workers Killed and Injured on the Job
- **Accepting the Agenda**
 - Adopted without changes
 - Motion Karen Sutton / Seconder Brad Klein
- **Review Previous Minutes** (December 4, 2018)
 - Adopted without changes
 - Motion Monique Bakker / Seconder Marcello Lazaro
- **Treasurer's Report** – Treasurer Wendy Tangye wasn't present, so Linda updated the group;
 - The bank account has been set up and allotment cheque (\$3571) deposited
 - Budget was created for \$3250 so we have some extra funds
 - We purchased buttons and posters for day of mourning but they weren't received in time to be distributed. They do not have dates on them so they can be used in the future
- **Business Arising**
 - Day of Mourning
 - Linda spoke at the New Westminster Day of Mourning ceremony. Close to 100 people attended.
 - Steelworker's spoke was personal and heartfelt
 - Did anyone else participate in the other ceremonies across the province?
 - Linda updated on the other ceremonies across the province from the BC Fed meeting
- **Bargaining Update**
 - Marcello provided an update on health and safety issues at the bargaining table
 - The team is struggling with the Treasury Board on key issues including the MOU on Mental Health and Childcare issues
 - The Treasury Board has agreed to 10 days of Domestic Violence leave but further work is required on the language.

New Business

- **BCFed Activities**

- Linda has attended meetings the last couple of months and brought updates about what has occurred at those meetings and her activities with the BCFed
 - Day of Mourning – was debriefed
 - There have been consultations on WCB Policy submissions and due dates, but most of the topics don't apply to us as federal workers. Linda felt that one of the most applicable of the topics was the Hi-Vis apparel review
 - Monique mentioned that she would like more information on Repetitive Strain, as she feels our members should know their rights around this issue
 - The Policy Practice Consultation Committee (PPCC) is moving up the review on Bullying and Violence to 2020, and Combustible Dust review will be in 2021
 - Wildland Firefighters (forest fire) will now be included under Part 31 of the Provincial Regulations, but there is no date set for this review, hopefully within the next couple of years. We should be taking note of this, as it could set precedent for our own federal firefighters
 - Part 21 – Aligning Provincial to federal regulations
 - Regulations part 6 may also affect our members in CFIA as it deals with substances including pesticides – submissions for this review are due July 26. Gives employees timelines as to when they are allowed to return to a worksite (inside and outside of greenhouses) after pesticides have been sprayed
 - Update to the Health and Safety Lobby – originally it was just going to focus on individuals lobbying specific MLAs, but a full lobby as has been done in previous years in Victoria is now being looked at for the fall
 - The Compensation Review is coming up. Janet Patterson is doing the review, there will be a number of hearings scheduled. If you are interested in participating you will need

to register on the BCFed website. Please make sure to contact Linda for speaking notes so that we stay on message for Labour

- Rick (?) thought that we should also pay attention to the upcoming Mental Disorders and Bullying Legislation (Bill 14), while it is Provincial Legislation, the compensation side does apply to us. It has some specific changes around Mental Disorder (Health) claims, and establishes criteria around PTSD and mental health. PTSD would be related to an emotionally shocking event, there is no longer the requirement that it be an unusual or distinct event. It would apply to correctional officers, police officers, firefighters, paramedics, nurses, health care assistants and emergency dispatchers. Adam asked for clarification if it was police officers or peace officers? Linda said that it is police officers, so would not apply to our border officers. Marcello noted that we need to get ahead of this and start looking at including border officers, it is much the same as for federal firefighters who are currently not covered for presumptive cancer the same way civic firefighters are under WCB

- **Resolutions**

- The call out for resolutions for the BC Regional Convention can be expected to come out in the fall, likely after our September Regional Council meeting, we should be looking at coming up with a few resolutions.
 - Linda asked if anyone had any ideas. Linda suggested that Marcello and Brad should look at the Hearing Tests issue that we had discussed previously at BRUSH meetings. Monique thought that there should be costing included with resolutions, but Linda didn't think it would be necessary for this resolution. Marcello agreed with Linda, as it would most likely be a resolution to lobby the government. Monique mentioned that Regulation 20 should be included. Karen mentioned that Okanagan Women's Committee had put out a callout for resolutions and had included a reference sheet on what makes a good resolution, Sharon said she could send that out with the minutes.

- **National Health & Safety Conference (update)**

- It will be taking place November 29-December 1, 2019 in Montreal
- Theme is "Mobilize for healthier, safer and respectful workplaces"
- June 7, 2019 was the application and resolutions deadline. Our committee did not submit any resolutions as we did not have a meeting between the call out and submission dates
- The Component breakdown of available seats has gone out
- Linda asked if anyone had applied? John, Karen, Marcello, Jen and Wayne all indicated they had applied
- Monique asked if when people who are attending get the resolutions package could they share it with the committee?
- Linda is not part of the Resolutions committee this time around, so doesn't have any advance knowledge to offer on what will be debated. Linda is on the steering committee
- Linda asked Sharon if she had already been asked to facilitate, she indicated she had not yet, but has been given to understand that she will be, time has already been set aside in her calendar
- Marcello asked if applicants would be notified if they are not selected. He also mentioned that it had taken a while for his application to be confirmed, he didn't receive an email right away. Linda said she wasn't certain, but would check what the process is. Marcello noted that it would be nice to know so applicants can make plans. Linda said that she knew that the Components had to have their ranked lists of applicants in by July 12, so she expected that applicants would be notified by the end of August
- Monique asked if anyone could bring up at the conference if the NJC/JLP Health and Safety course was being considered or created. Linda indicated that this was something that would have gone to the last National Triennial Convention, wouldn't likely come up at the Conference. Marcello said that he was told that the JLP course is nearly ready and should be available in the fall

- **Round Table**

- Brad – nothing
- Wayne – going back to Marcello's question about being notified about application, he said that he got his right away. Also, it's going

to be a long hot summer, so the CRA is easing off on contacting collections for people in fire danger areas

- Earnest – nothing
 - Marcello – nothing
 - Karen – thanks to Marcello for sharing the bargaining info, it's good to hear it first hand
 - Rick – nothing
 - Leanne - nothing
 - Adam – Linda asked if it was his first BRUSH meeting – he indicated yes, Linda welcomed him
 - Monique indicated that she had meant to introduce Adam. Also, that she was still working on organizing her files due to the changes at the office, she is still looking for the file on hearing tests and will forward it to Marcello when she locates it. She has been scanning documents and past BRUSH topics
 - John – nothing
 - Jen – nothing
 - Sharon – nothing
- **Next Meeting** – September 25, 2019
 - **Adjourned** 6:38 PM