

**British Columbia Regional Union Safety and Health Committee
(BRUSH)
Minutes
December 10, 2014**

In Attendance: Linda Harding (Chair) (GSU), Bob Jackson (REVP BC), Bill Pleming (GSU), Jane Stoneberg (UNE), Kim Koch (UTE), Lianne Hughes (CIU), Jim Sidel (DCL), Eric Slowden (UNE), Jenifer Horsley (UPCE), Monique Bakker (UEW), and James Little (PSAC)

Regrets: Wayne Little (UTE), Susan Yaciw (UTE), Tracy Shudo (CEIU), Colleen Girard (UNDE), Liz Oliphant (UEW), Bert Farwell (UCTE), Jennifer Chieh-Ho (UNE), Jim Sidel (DCL), Jennifer Horsley (UPCE) and Melvin Dureen (USGE)

Agenda

Accepting the Agenda:

Review Previous Minutes

Business Arising

Guest Speaker – Bob Kingston, Agriculture Component President – and member of the PSAC National H&S Committee will speak on:

Federal Court Judgment between the PSAC and the Attorney

New Business

1. Emergency Response Team Training
2. Investigation at Kent Institution – Air Quality CCOHS training
“WHIMIS” (after GHS) for Workers
3. BC Federation of Labour Activities
4. BC Regional H&S Conference
5. Hazardous Occurrence Report – CBSA and CIU
6. Day of Mourning

Round Table

Adjournment

Roll Call

Linda conducted a Roll Call

Accepting of the Agenda

Added:

1. Day of Mourning

Removed

1. OHS Resource Material

Agenda accepted as amended

Review Previous Minutes

The minutes were accepted with the following two changes:

- Page 2 Day of Mourning should be spelt "Mourning"

TASK: Resend previous attachments to Monique Backer

Business Arising

None

Guest Speaker – Bob Kingston, Federal Court Judgment between PSAC and the Attorney General

Harassment in the workplace and the definition of Violence and the use of the Canada Labour Code Part XX and the definition of Harassment, Bullying and whether it is considered Violence.

The Agriculture Component and CFIA have been dealing with this for some time and the employer was persistent in presenting the issue as only a workplace issue and not a health and safety issue. They also have included the issue/definition of what a competent person is and whether violence was inherent in the job.

At the end of the day the court of appeal went off in their own direction and dismissed the case in favour of CFIA and countered the Safety Officers Opinion. The decision was appealed to the Federal Court and the issue became whether harassment could cause damage. We argues the case and the judge ruled in favour of the PSAC.

The minister says the new definition of danger includes long term harm.

TASK – Send out the Federal Court Decision.

New Business

Emergency Response Team Training

Members have asked for inform on the availability of Emergency Response Team Training. Specifically and most recently was an enquiry from the Union of Environment Employees. That enquiry was referred to GSU – Bill Fleming who

provided information to the component member directly and then to the BRUSH as a whole.

Bill explained that this training is generally referred to as Building Response Teams, who would be responsible for training team members mostly for BURT Teams. Usually to deal with building emergency's mostly to deal with earthquakes or other disasters.

This team is made up of ex firefighters who have set up an obstacle course in building in Vancouver where they do training in the lower mainland. Now the training is being done by Department of National Defense in Victoria who do direct training as well as train the trainer.

Glen Cooper is responsible for arranging this training and can help with managing training needs.

Bob Kingston: They are just reviewing this procedure for both the building emergency procedures Part 17 as well as the workplace committee's responsibilities. There is also an Advanced Team training. Mostly this training is designed for Emergency Wardens, Fire Marshals and General Building Marshals.

Appears there are two levels of training.

TASK: Provide contact information for DND – Glen Cooper

Investigation at Kent Institution – Air Quality

Reviewed the email from the Work Place Committee Co-Chair at Kent Institution and looked at where we are in this investigation.

The member was referred to Bob Kingston and Bob Jackson and the member now has a much better understanding of how the process works. After lengthy discussion we believe the problem has been resolved.

BC Federation of Labour Activities

We have just concluded the BC Fed Convention and the H&S day (Wednesday) was a great day. The afternoon lunch and learn was well attended 200+ and the evening session was not as well attended but the session was very well received.

Golden Tree to be hopefully set for May 2015, PSAC BC donated 5,000.00 and they are still short about 30,000.00

February 24-26 is the Bottom Line Conference in Vancouver which deals with Mental Health in the workplace. We will talk to Bob Jackson to see if there is any money available to provide a subsidy for members to attend.

TASK: Send link to Bottom Line Conference
Also to see if we can get a subsidy
Send out Can Work be Safe when home isn't

BC Regional H&S Conference

We have only received two application for the organizing committee to date.

TASK: Send out application again as a reminder.

Hazardous Occurrence Report CBSA and CIU

We discussed the availability of the report and the recommendations and how it will affect our members.

TASK: Send out the report. This occurred on October 17th at 10:00am and many federal government employees participated.

Day of Mourning Events

The BC Fed is still making plans as to where there event will happen this year, but it will be in Vancouver

For the PSAC we want to send out pins and posters so we have asked members to provide numbers directly to Linda who will compile a list and we will begin a mail out on or around the end of March 2015

Round Table

Monique – When does the GHS come out how are the departments going to handle its implementation and GSU is looking at the Training at PWGSC and Health Canada is dealing with the harmonization has contracted to CCOHS which will be distributed to the departments and agencies.

Next meeting – January 28, 2014 – Vancouver RO

Adjourned