

**Public Service Alliance of Canada
British Columbia Regional Union Safety and Health
(BRUSH)**

**Minutes
February 06, 2013**

Chair: Sam Wiese (Regional Councilor, H&S)

In Attendance Bob Bridgeman (UNDE), Sargy Chima (CEIU), Terri Lee (CEIU), Kelly Megyesi (CEIU), Virginia Vallancourt (UVAE), Lisa Nelson, Wayne Little (UTE), Bert Farewell (UCTE), Leanne Hughes (CIU), Monique Bakker (UEW), Barry Cunningham (UCTE), David McNeary, Melvin Dureen (USGE), Jenifer Horsley (UPCE), Steve, Grace McIvor, Laura, Leanne Hughes (CBSA), Tracy Shudo (CEIU), Paul Crowe (CBSA), Linda Harding (alternate Regional Council, H&S), Dave Thompson (PSAC), James Little (PSAC, H&S),

Roll Call:

Accepting the Agenda:
Review Previous Minutes
Business Arising

Standing Items:
1. Ergonomics

New Business

- 1) PSAC National H&S Conference
- 2) SWAG – First Aid Kits
- 3) Working Alone Procedures
- 4) Sexual Harassment in the Federal Public Service
- 5) Mental Health
- 6) Boarder Guard Update

Round Table

Adjournment

Introduction/ Roll Call

Sam conducted a roll call.

Accepting the Agenda:

Motioned by Sam to accept agenda, seconded by Leanne, carried

Review of Previous Minutes:

Minutes reviewed and motioned by Sam to accept as presented, seconded Tracy S. carried.

Business Arising:

Proposal was made to deal with item number six on the agenda as the first order of business. All agreed.

New Business item # 6

Leanne Hughes gave an update on the CBSA member who was shot at the Pacific Boarder Crossing. Bob Jackson BC REVP had visited the worksite shortly after the incident and reported that the CBSA had been very good at helping members deal with this critical incident.

Leanne said that the CIU component president Jean-Pierre Fortin and local president Dan Sullivan both visited the worksite very shortly after the incident and has had ongoing discussion with members and CBSA Staff. He assured the full support of CIU to Sister Lori Bowcock who was injured in the shooting. She is expected to make a full recovery.

Standing Items:

Ergonomics:

We talked a little about the ongoing issues around the PWGSC standing offer on ergonomic assessments. Several component locals are reporting problems with requests and assessments. Some issues with the qualifications of the assessors although they were all vetted by PWGSC and should be fully qualified.

Monique said the DFO has a Vendor Performance Form that they use to evaluate contractors and she said she would send it to us to include in the minutes. The form is a FP_5082 and is attached to the minutes.

New Business:**PSAC National H&S Conference:**

The National H&S Conference is scheduled for April 2013 and the delegate selection process is as follows. Each Component gets 7 delegates and then each Region gets 7 delegates and the balance is then allocated to the Components on a pro-rata basis.

The focus of the conference is on Mental Health with workshops on Harassment and Bullying as well as a review of the CSA standard on Psychological Health. We have yet to receive the resolutions but hear that there are about 17 resolutions for debate.

Swag:

Linda H. has worked hard on organizing the purchase of First Aid Kits for distribution to members at health and safety events. We are in a bit of a quandary over the logistics of the purchase and how the items will be paid for and how many we should order. Looks like we could use upwards of 5000 units although that might be cost prohibited. Some question about the logo we would use as well. Needless to say we have a little more work to do but the issue is moving in the right direction.

Working Alone Procedures

We asked participants to identify if they were aware of any departmental Working Alone Procedures. We have had reports that members are being required to work alone without any protocols in place in the event of emergencies.

It appears that some managers are assessing the risks and then defining limitations and restrictions which maybe causing our members concern. It has been reported that some managers are asking members to self-identify any medical conditions and then restricting members from work based on those reported conditions.

We canvassed the BRUSH participants to gain a clearer understanding of the protocols and most all participating members reported their department or agency have Working Alone Procedures. We asked members to share those with the BRUSH committee and that we would review at our next meeting.

Sexual Harassment:

Kelly M. asked that this item be put on the agenda and unfortunately we were having communication problems with Kelly. Tracy provided an overview of what we believe Kelly was trying to communicate and that is that individuals who are accused of harassment and some who have been charged and convicted have not been removed from their positions with the employers.

Kelly suggested everyone read Robyn's report to Parliament and after hearing from Bob Kingston on the issue she wants us to distribute the document created by the Agriculture Union on Harassment and Bulling in the Workplace. Copy attached.

Mental Health:

This was the main topic at the BC Regional H& S conference. The current mental health of members working for the Federal Government given the DRAP, WFA, and SERLO has increase stress levels beyond tolerable. The perception is that nothing is being done by the Union. The members are looking for more information on Mental Health and they want help form their union. The PSAC has recently developed and introduced a training course Representing Members With Disabilities and it is being offered in several locations within the region. I have been asked to provide any and all information to the committee that we currently have on mental health and psychological well being. I will attach the information I have and ask that it be posted on the website.

Round Table:

Wayne L. – Mental Health a huge issue and EAP is costing the employer a lot of money. June 14 the union is sponsoring a soft ball tournament during National Public Service Week.

Monique B. – EAP is not available and members have run out of benefits. Suggestion was to go to BC Family Services.

David M. – Thanks as this was my first BRUSH meeting.