

**British Columbia Regional Union Safety and Health Committee  
(BRUSH)  
Minutes  
September 28, 2016**

In Attendance: Linda Harding (Chair), Jennifer Horsley (UPCE), Susan Gunn (USGE), Bill Pleming (GSU), Faireta Reid (CEIU), Ernest Hooker (UCTE), Shane Polack (UVAE), Coleen Girard (UNDE), Tom Jackson (CIU), Desery Ng (UNE), Monique Bakker (UEHW), Marcello Lazaro (UNDE), Brenda Todd (CEIU), Wes Todd (CEIU), Christy Havard (USGE) Leanne Hughes (CIU), Wendy Tangye (UEHW), Dan Hermary (UNE), Jim Sidel (DCL), Bob Jackson (REVP BC) and James (PSAC)

Regrets: Johann Ackermann (UTE), Wayne Little (UTE), Brad Kline (UNDE), Bert Farwell (UCTE), Donovan Lynch (UEHW) and Sue Yaciw (UTE),

**Agenda**

Accepting the Agenda:

Review Previous Minutes

Business Arising

New Business

1. BC Fed Activities
2. National H&S Conference Regional Report
3. 2017 PSAC National H&S Policy Committee Forum
4. Resolutions to BC Regional Convention
5. BRUSH Delegate Selection to BC Regional Convention
6. H&S Education
7. Asbestos Building Registry

Round Table

Adjournment

**Roll Call**

Linda conducted a Roll Call

**Accepting of the Agenda**

Accepted as amended.

**Review Previous Minutes**

We reviewed the previous minutes most tasks have been completed. We need to complete the Hearing Test distribution – needs to be distributed to members.

Accepted as filed.

## **Business Arising**

### **New Business**

#### **BC Fed Activities**

The BC Fed Convention was held recently and the H&S portion was very well received. There were some minor issues with the logistics around the Lunch and Learn.

Bob Chaired that portion and although it was not in an ideal location there was some good debate on resolutions.

The BC Fed Course Guide has been distributed to members of the BRUSH and there are some very good Federal Courses upcoming and this would be a good opportunity for members in remote areas. They are also promoting an ESL Course for anyone who does not have English as a first language and might be helpful for individuals who are new Canadians or recently immigrated to Canada.

#### **TASK: Send out the Notice on ESL from BC Fed**

Worksafe BC – to develop a Violence Prevention Programs with regulatory amendments. Linda sits on the sub-committee which will make a presentation to Work Safe BC. February 2017.

#### **National H&S Conference Regional Report**

We have produced a DRAFT copy of the report. The conference was held in Montreal from November 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The theme is “Shaping a New Culture for Our Health and Safety”, and it will be structured much the same as previous conferences. The resolutions were debated and both of the BRUSH primary resolutions were passed.

Most of the concurrence resolutions were passed with the exception of one which was rather poorly written.

Marcello: Wished there was more time for resolutions

Kristy: More time for Union Business and less time on presentations/workshops.

Farida: Enjoyed the conference and participants some of the material was overly simplistic.

Monique: We might want to distribute the workshops based on member's level of experience.

Dan: Thought there would be more time for resolutions and the debate. Is the material available on the website or by mail?

BOB: Indicated that the debate is just a debate and we all gather to hear the arguments. This is just one level of the union organization and there are other forms to get resolutions to the PSAC National Convention and other venues for debating those resolutions. Bob also indicated that the material is available on the Website or by request.

The conference focused on Psychological Injuries and Mental Health Awareness along with Violence Prevention. There was a panel on Domestic and Workplace Violence.

We also held a regional caucus as part of the conference on Sunday morning to develop regional strategies and a regional strategic plan.

### **2017 PSAC National H&S Policy Committee Forum**

Bob talked about the purpose and objective of the forum and indicated that the focus will be on Hazard Prevention and we need to train our members in how to deal with becoming a greater force at the table.

The Components have been asked to select their delegates and we are trying to keep the numbers at a reasonable size. The meetings will be held in the PSAC Office to cut out some of the expense and we are hoping for a great outcome.

A BRUSH member (Christine Price) raised a question about the appointment of H&S investigators pursuant to section 135(7)(e) of the Code. The question was “Is it common in other departments for management to appoint investigators and, if so, do they appoint people who are union members or just managers?”. Linda asked the question and it was agreed that members would send their responses directly to James who will report at the next meeting.

Monique: She wants the agenda prior to the conference so we can raise concerns with those that are participating.

Bob: Should be available but members should talk to their components because this is for policy committee members at the highest level of the organization.

### **Resolutions to BC Regional Conference**

We want to review the BRUSH resolutions that were passed at the National H&S Conference and recommend they be submitted to the BC Regional Convention.

We looked at the two resolutions and #5 and #2 and we also looked at #1 which was poorly worded but should be debated at the Regional Conference.

What we should do is to look at these resolutions so we can prepare something in advance of the next meeting so the members can vote on them. Likewise, members should present their own resolution which we can debate before submitting to the BC Regional Convention.

**TASK: Distribute Resolutions from the H&S Conference as indicated above.**

### **BRUSH Delegate Selection to BC Regional Convention**

Formal notice that the Delegate selection will happen at the next meeting.

## **Education**

CLC Part II Course will be taking place in Victoria on March 11/12, 2017 please encourage your members to apply.

### **Asbestos Federal Building Registry.**

We now have access to the Federal Building Registry and members should check to see if their buildings are registered and if members are aware that asbestos is in their building and not on the registry they should report to the PSAC for referral to Treasury Board.

Leanne: Has to be a current building and not old building that may have contained asbestos.

Marcello: DND has a large registry of problem contaminated buildings. He will check to see if its public knowledge and he can obtain access to that data base.

**TASK: Send the link to Work Safe BC Exposure Registry.**

### **Round Table**

Marcello: For the BRUSH Delegate you need to be a member of the BRUSH.

Frieda: She will be attending the CLC Winter School in Harrison

Next meeting – March 1, 2017

Adjourned