

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

**Minutes
January 6, 2010**

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

In Attendance: Alice Woods (UCTE), Leanne Hughes (NAT), Wayne Little (UTE), Louise Richard (NAT), Bob Jackson (AGR), Tracey Shudo (CEIU), Melvin Dureen (USGE), Virginia Vaillancourt (UVAE), Monique Bakker (UEW), Gail Jewsbury ((UEW), Susan Yaciw (UTE), Kelly Megyesi (CEIU), Lorraine Plummer (NHU), Paul Croes (CEIU), Bob Bridgeman (UNDE), Al Johnston (NHU), Bill Fleming (GSU), Linda Harding (GSU), James Little (PSAC, H&S) and Kay Sinclair (REVP BC).

Regrets: Laura Gracie (CEIU), Angela Marafon (UTE), Anita Hoffman (CEIU), Grace McIvor (NHU), Jim Sidel (DCL), Barry Cunningham (UCTE), Sargy Chima (CEIU), Bonnie Heidt (UVAE).

Agenda

1. Roll Call
2. Accepting the Agenda
3. Review Previous Minutes
4. Update on National H&S Conference
5. New Business
 - Member Survey
 - Health Canada – Reduction of Service
 - Light station de-staffing update
 - Local 60 “Greening the Environment”
 - Environmental Issues and H&S
 - Sick Leave
 - Education
 - First Aid
6. Round Table
7. Adjournment

1. Introduction/Roll Call

Sam conducted a roll call and expressed members regrets

2. Agenda Approved

First Aid was added to the agenda under New Business

3. Review of Previous Minutes

Members reviewed the previous minutes and issues arose in two areas: Armed Members and Ergonomics.

Armed Members – Jim, Sam and Melvin were to look at current education programs with in departments and agencies for available non-armed members training opportunities. This task has not yet been completed and the group will report at the next meeting.

TASK – Jim, Sam and Melvin will review available education programs offered by departments and agencies.

Ergonomics – Bill Fleming offered some insight to some of the recent developments around ergonomics at Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC). It appears that PWGSC is moving towards establishing contractual arrangements with outside service providers for the provision of both level I and II ergonomic services for Treasury Board Departments at a regional level. The terms of agreements were to be put out for tender nearer the end of January 2010, however looks like probably this summer. The purpose of which will be to establish a standing offer rate with the providers such that departments and can draw down from an account. The next step is to draft Terms and Conditions to be followed by tendering and awarding of contracts.

TASK – Ensure this is a standing agenda item.

4. Update on National Health and Safety Conference

The national H&S Conference was held in November 2009 and was focused on H&S and the Environment.

There was a diverse array of speakers on several differing topics including; bullying and harassment, global warming, the environment impact of the tar sands and stress. There were three workshops offered; Enforcement, Workplace Committees and the Environment as a H&S Issue.

The conference concluded with a Regional Caucus in which H&S Activist from BC gathered to develop a three-year regional H&S plan. This plan was developed in consideration of our BC Regional planning session that took place at the BC Regional H&S Conference. The outline of the BC plan will be shared with the members of the region shortly and include; Membership Networks, Education and the Co-ordination of a H&S Campaign.

New Business

1. Member Survey – As part of the National H&S Conference, BC Caucus we discussed the issue of membership networking. It became very clear that although we have a very large BRUSH committee that we haven't done a great job at identifying and connecting all of our regional H&S activists. We decided to conduct a regional H&S membership survey in an effort to identify local H&S activists. Before we proceed with a survey, we need to send a message of our intention to the National Officers and this should come from Kay. Some of the questions we could ask in our survey might be: what is your number one H&S issue, how are members appointed to your workplace committees, who are the workplace representatives, how much education do they have and/or need. We may wish to send a letter to the locals first and then follow-up with phoning.

2. The Health Canada Reduction of Service

Sam reported on the work that she and Wayne Little have accomplished.

Wayne provided an update of developments at Canada Revenue Agency has amended its policy on workplace accommodation and have negotiated the provision of health services (ergonomic and fit to work assessments) with and outside service provider. Should be complete by March 2010.

Corrections Services Canada in the lower mainland has contracted its air quality and ergonomic services with a company in Langley at a rate of \$175.00/hour.

Bill Fleming provided PWGSC's perspective (above).

3. Light Station De-staffing

We reminded participants that the de-staffing of light stations remains an issue for our members and we should remain vigilant. Alice Woods gave a short presentation at the National H&S Conference, which was well received, and we continue to encourage members to put pressure on their MP's. Our goal is to defend quality public service and the safety of our members and the Canadian public.

4. Greening the Environment – Local 60 webmail.

Agriculture Component – Local 60 has challenged other BC locals and the Regional Office to reduce their amount of paper use. The local has created its own webmail, which members can use to communicate with the local, and it appears to be working very effectively. This generated a broader discussion around our reduction strategies and how we can improve our recycling, reduction and reusing strategies.

5. Environment and H&S

The question has been raised as to whether the environment should be addressed as a H&S issue. This issue was addressed at the National H&S Conference and it appears that based on those discussions the two issues are so closely connected that we should develop a unified approach to health safety and the environment.

6. Sick Leave – Treasury Board Policy (April 2009)

The interpretation, implementation and administration of the new Treasury Board Leave with Pay Policy (April 2009) as it relates to Dental/Medical Appointment

TASK – Sam to produce the new Sick Leave Policy

7. Education

We held a discussion around education and the member's needs. In doing so, we attempted to prioritize our training objectives.

- Workplace Committee Training
- Canada Labour Code Review
- Other H&S Issues; Ergonomics, Hazard Prevention, Air Quality etc.

The BC Federation of Labour is developing a pilot project on training workers in Federally Regulated Worksites. The pilot training will take place on February 16 and 17 in Vancouver and we have four members of the committee auditing the training. We hope that this is the beginning of a new era in BC Fed training and that we will be able to rely on this training to reach our diverse membership.

The BC Fed H&S Centre also offers training on a wide variety of H&S subjects and they make that training available to affiliated members throughout the province. We should be encouraging our members to participate when ever possible.

Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting March 24, 2010