

**British Columbia Regional Union Safety and Health Committee
(BRUSH)
Minutes
June 10, 2015**

In Attendance: Linda Harding (Chair) (GSU), Bill Pleming (GSU), Jenifer Horsley (UPCE), Jane Stoneberg (UNE), Tracy Shudo (CEIU), Brad Klien (UNDE), Don Urrutia (NAT), Johan Ackerman (UTE), Liz Oliphant (UEW), Bert Farwell (UCTE), Floyd Knelson (UTE), Wayne Little (UTE) Leanne Hughes (CIU) and James Little (PSAC)

Regrets: Kim Koch (UTE), Colleen Girard (UNDE), Jennifer Chieh-Ho (UNE) and Bob Jackson (REVP BC)

Agenda

Accepting the Agenda:
Review Previous Minutes
Business Arising

New Business

1. BC Fed Activities
2. BC Regional H&S Conference
3. Violence and Bullying Awareness Campaign and Training
4. PSAC National Convention Resolutions

Round Table
Adjournment

Roll Call

Linda conducted a Roll Call

Accepting of the Agenda

Agenda accepted no additions

Review Previous Minutes

The minutes were accepted, no amendments.

Business Arising

TASK: CBSA Investigation Report obtain and mail to members.

An education meeting was held with the BC Fed H&S centre representative Gord Leckner. The purpose of the meeting was to try and increase our (PSAC's) member's participation in courses offered by the centre. The meeting was attended by Luc Deb Linda James and Gord Leckner (BC Fed) and Bob Jackson sent his regrets. We will continue to look at way in which to support (financial and otherwise) members who choose to attend these courses as well as looking at ways in which we can use the centers educational materials for our purposes.

There is an online Bill C4 Course and we had asked members to register and take the course.

TASK: We would like to ask member participants to take the online Bill C-4 course and provide feedback at the next meeting.

PSAC online learning site:
<http://learn.vubiz.com/ChAccess/PSAC/Default.asp>

New Business

BC Fed Activities

Asbestos Video and Education

The BC Fed Educational Schedule is now posted and there are some very good opportunities for furthering member education.

We held a meeting with Gord Lechner, Luc, Deb, Linda and I regarding delivering subsidies to PSAC members to allow them to attend at little or no cost.

Linda reported on the success of the BC H&S Centre young workers training.

Linda reported on the activities of the Centre and its funding and how we should improve our participation.

We also had a discussion about E-cigarettes and how they are being treated like real cigarettes. There is likely more to come on this issue, but for right now it appears that E-cigarettes will be treated with the same respect as real cigarettes.

Injured workers form, The Alberta Workers' Health Centre Presents in conjunction with the BC Fed is looking for donations to their cause. They are looking for 3,500.00 and possibly referral to the BC Regional Councils Donations committee.

We have received a link to a Video on the effects of Asbestos.

TASK: Send out the link to the BC Fed Asbestos video and to Patrick Bragg to post on Website.

Link

<https://youtu.be/nCLlqLztLeo>

BC Regional H&S Conference

We have the dates - November 14 and 15, these are the dates we will be working with and we have secured a hotel – Sheraton Airport Richmond Inn, same as the 2012 conference. Organizing committee has had its first meeting and we are working hard on making this a very positive event.

Tracy: Raised the issue of whether we had a review of the hotel done by a member with disabilities to ensure that this is a suitable hotel for our purpose. It was reported that the PSAC has held many events at this hotel and to have never received any complaints from disabled members, and although a formal review was not conducted the PSAC is committed to ensuring members are accommodated while attending PSAC sponsored events.

The National H&S Conference will be held in Montreal Nov 3-6 2016.

Violence and Bullying Awareness Campaign and Training.

The PSAC has developed a two day course on Violence (anti bullying) in the Workplace and the course will be offered this fall, date to be posted later. Members should refer to the PSAC BC Education site for further details.

TASK: The PSAC National is trying to obtain worksite violence prevention policies so any member who has a copy of their workplace violence prevention policy are asked to send a copy to the BC Regional Rep responsible for H&S at littlej@psac.com

PSAC National Convention Resolutions

We reviewed the list of convention resolutions with an emphasis on resolution CS-050 Constitutional Recognition of Regional Health and Safety Committees.

This resolution was almost ruled out of order by the National President because it was viewed that the national PSAC cannot direct the regions what to do (in terms of establishing committees). However it was ruled in order as the national PSAC has given direction and has done so in several different circumstances. Linda spoke strongly in favour of the resolution at convention and the resolution passed with a 2/3 majority.

Other regions have wanted this and had been asking to join our BC Committee (BRUSH) which currently is the only recognized regional H&S Committee.

Now that it has passed it will have very little or no change for us in BC as we already have a well established committee, other regions may ask us for assistance in establishing there committees.

PPE – Footwear

Who is responsible for ensuring proper footwear is worn in the workplace is it the employers or the workplace committee's responsibility? Is this a dress code issue or a H&S issue?

We had a lengthy discussion on this issue and concluded that its management's responsibility to manage the issue and our H&S activists should respond accordingly.

The DND has developed a policy on open toed shoes and we are hoping to obtain a copy of the policy. It appears that the DND are in the midst of deciding this issue.

Small Appliances

On a different issue we discussed policies regarding small appliances. Apparently, Public Works is developing a policy on the issue which will be issued in the fall.

TASK: Go to National H&S Officers to find out what is the procedures on this issue.

Round Table

Don: How are members selected to attend the BC Regional H&S Conference? Linda explained the application process and informed members that we will be making a call out later this summer.

Brad: Diesel generator on a barge at DND in Esquimalt – fleet maintenance facility. The off gas was directed to the air handler and exhausted directly into the building. There was a refusal to work on this and the event happened after renovations were done to the HVAC and it will be very expensive to repair. The Workplace H&S Committee along with management is well aware of the diesel emissions at the Base in Esquimalt and there was an investigation because the emissions were coming into the buildings and fumigating the members in those buildings. Preventative measures have been put in place and the employer is looking at a permanent solution to the problem.

Next meeting – July 29, 2015

Adjourned

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