

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

**Minutes
June 21, 2011**

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

In Attendance: Tracey Shudo (CEIU), Linda Harding (alternate Regional Council, H&S), Leanne Hughes (NAT), Monique Bakker (UEW), Wayne Little (UTE), Melvin Dureen (USGE), Bill Pleming (GSU), Bob Bridgeman (UNDE) Kelly Megyesi (CEIU), Tiffany Bateman (AGR), Angela Marafon (UTE), James Little (PSAC, H&S) and Bob Jackson (REVP BC)

Regrets: Susan Yaciw (UTE), Bert Farwell (UCTE), Faith Clements (UTE), Barry Cunningham (UCTE), Terry Ruyter (UTE), Steven Stewart (UEW), Virginia Vaillancourt (UVAE), Jamey Mills (UTE), Phil Carriere (USGE) and Angela Duhammel (AGR)

Agenda

Roll Call including Regrets
Accepting the Agenda
Review Previous Minutes
Business Arising

Standing Items:

1. Ergonomics
2. Membership Survey

New Business

- a) BC Fed/Codevelopment Canada OHS Exchange to Honduras
- b) BC PSAC H&S Conference
- c) National Day of Mourning – reports
- d) First Aid Training
- e) BRUSH – defining membership
- f) PSAC National H&S Forum for Policy Committee Members

Round Table

Adjournment

Introduction/Roll Call

Sam conducted a roll call and expressed members regrets

Accepting the Agenda

Items accepted as additions – under new business

- g) Emergency Preparedness

Review of Previous Minutes

Members reviewed and approved the previous minutes with the following amendment: Under the heading “Ergonomics – What’s Happening” Public Works and Government Services were incorrectly referred to as Government Works and Public Services.

Standing Items:

Ergonomics

Public Works and Government Services have developed and will soon post a standing offer for the provision of ergonomic assessors. The contracts should be awarded by June 30, 2011.

Questions were raised regarding the following:

- a) the development of the writ
- b) the essential qualifications of the providers
- c) how the assessments will be conducted, and
- d) what certification is required.

From what we have been able to gather, the writ (statement of qualifications) was developed in Ottawa to be used regionally. The providers are required to hold a master science qualification i.e. Kinesiology, Registered Nurse, Physiotherapist, Ergonomist, etc. We do not have any further information regarding the process other than it will definitely apply to Treasury Board Departments. We are unsure if the Agencies will be covered by this commitment.

Basically, this is a tool to be used by Departments when members require ergonomic assessments, this does not interfere with the ongoing work of the Workplace H&S Committee in as much as they continue to monitor and make ergonomic recommendations for our members. The CLC Part II, Regulation XIX continues to provide direction on the reduction of hazards in the workplace (including ergonomic hazards).

TASK – Ensure this is a standing agenda item.

Membership Survey

We remain committed to this project and continue to work on the process. Survey Questions are being developed and a process for conducting the survey examined (online, mail, email, etc). The survey will be directed at Local Presidents and a regional message will be sent to the National Officers in BC prior to us contacting the component locals.

We expect to launch the survey in July/August 2011. Sam is developing the questions which will be reviewed with the Regional H&S Rep and then presented to the BC REVP. We will want to complete our consultations before any survey of our membership is conducted.

Task – Sam to complete questions and prepare survey by mid-July 2011.

New Business

National Day of Mourning (NDoM) – reports

DND/UNDE – Bob reported that they participated in the days events, developed their own poster and used the BC Fed NDoM information stickers

Service Canada/CEIU – some sites participated in the day's events by wearing the PSAC NDoM buttons and displaying the posters in the worksites.

Public Works/GSU – lots of PSAC buttons distributed at 800 Burrard and posters displayed. Management so impressed with our poster they had several framed which will be permanently displayed in the workplace.

CRA/UTE – Likewise good participation in the workplace and continue to build awareness

Some suggestions were made with respect to the buttons. Although everyone agrees that we should continue with the button distribution for next year, we may want to include an attachment to the buttons explaining their purpose and symbolism.

BC Fed/Codevelopment Canada OSH Exchange to Honduras

Linda and Jim gave an overview of the exchange including its purpose, objectives and outcomes. They went provided details of the trip and shared their experiences as well as outlined their ongoing commitment to assisting the Honduran workers.

Video presentation should soon be ready for posting on the BC PSAC website.

2012 BC Regional H&S Conference

The committee discussed the holding of the 2012 BC Regional H&S Conference and that it is expected to be completed before the 2012 PSAC National Convention in April 2012. We are tentatively planning on the conference being held in Vancouver in February/March 2012.

A call out for Organizing Committee members will be issued in July 2011 and we anticipate that the Organizing Committee will be in place before August 2011.

First Aid Attendants

Reviewed regulation XVI regarding the provision of First_Aid attendants in worksites and remote locations>

Brush – defining membership

Tabled to next meeting.

PSAC National H&S Forum for Policy Committee Members

We shared information about the upcoming National H&S Policy Committee Representatives meeting planned for Ottawa on November 22-23, 2011.

Just a reminder that only PSAC members in good standing who sit as union representatives on National Policy H&S Committees are eligible to participate, and that your candidacy will be approved by your component.

Emergency Preparedness:

Majority of Federal worksites participated in the Great BC Shake Out on January 26, 2011. Earlier this year, more than 470,000 people participated in the first BC ShakeOut. The drill will be on the third Thursday of October annually. As an addition to our standing items we will promote participant in these drills and continue to seek input from BRUSH member to determine best practised and ideas that will encourage all PSAC members to be prepared at home and work.

Round Table

Tracey – Issues around sick rooms and when they need to be provided – must be over 200 staff (management and members).

Wayne – Congratulations to both Sam and Linda for securing positions on the Regional Council as H&S coordinator and alternate respectively.

Meeting Adjourned