

Minutes

BRUSH June 24, 2009

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

In Attendance: Gary Shwaluk (AGR), Wayne Little (UTE), Tracey Shudo (CEIU), Melvin Dureen (USGE), Virginia Vaillancourt (UVAE), Monique Bakker (UEW), Gail Jewsbury ((UEW), Susan Yaciw (UTE), Leanne Hughes (NAT), Angela Marafon (UTE), Susan James (CEIU), James Little (PSAC, H&S) and Kay Sinclair REVP BC

Regrets: Bob Jackson (AGR), Kelly Megyesi (CEIU), Janelle Ho-Sing (PSAC), Jamie Mills (UTE), Floyd Knelsen (UTE), Sargy Chima (CEIU)

Guest: Jayne Johns (PSAC)

Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Political Action Lobby – Jayne Johns
3. Review of Previous Minutes
4. Terms of Reference
5. 2009 BC H&S Conference Report
6. H&S Website and Communications
7. 2009 National H&S Conference
8. Education
9. Round Table

1. Introduction - Sam

2. Guest Speaker – Jayne Johns

The BC PSAC Region has undertaken a Member of Parliament lobbying campaign focused on the overall goals and objectives of the PSAC's Think Public Campaign and designed towards engaging our members. The idea is to establish relationships between MP's and our members in hopes that our members will have confidence in continuing the dialogue with their MP's. The core issues for this campaign are; Bill C-10, Food Safety, Fish Campaign, cuts to EI, Student Hiring and Think Public.

3. Review of Previous Minutes

Members reviewed the previous minutes and there were no additions or amendments required.

4. Terms of Reference

Sam summarized the Draft Terms of Reference and opened the floor for discussion. There were a couple of amendments suggested, such as, fewer acronyms, more on education, membership and frequency of meeting.

Meeting will be held quarterly, March, June, Sept and December on the fourth Wednesday of the respective month. This will be added to the ToR.

5. Review of 2009 BC Regional H&S Conference Report

The report of the 2009 BC Regional H&S Conference was circulated by e-mail and members had an opportunity to review the final DRAFT. No comments or suggestions for amendments were received. We can now publish the report.

6. 2009 National H&S Conference

One of the main purposes of this meeting was to remind the BC H&S activists of the opportunity to apply for the 2009 National H&S Conference.

Kay Sinclair REVP BC is chairing the steering committee, which is currently working on developing the conference objectives and organizing guest speakers. The registration forms should be out soon, the resolutions deadline will be July 31, 2009 (not a lot of time), and they must come from a constitutionally recognized body i.e.: Area Council, Local, Woman's committee etc.

Members were advised that, like previous H&S conferences, we will be holding a BC Caucus at the end of the conference to develop a Regional Action Plan. Members were asked to be prepared to assist in the development of that plan.

7. Education

There will be no Union School this year and although this has always been a venue for delivering H&S education, that opportunity will not be available in 2009. Further to that we requested the opportunity to hold H&S training in the North and Interior and it has been determined that the funds are not available in 2009. We hope that we will be able to provide this training during the beginning of the new education cycle, which begins in 2010.

We also discussed the need for better national H&S training and how the Joint Learning Program could assist with the delivery of a national H&S program.

Round Table

Wayne Little – Raised the very important issue about Health Canada and its newly announced decision to amend its Public Service Health Program (PSHP)

and the devastating effects this decision will have on our members. For the most part the Fit to Work Assessments and Ergonomic Assessments will no longer be performed by Health Canada and the Treasury Board and Agencies will need to find alternate service providers for these services. Wayne and Sam will work on developing an information campaign on the issue.

Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting September 23, 2009