

**British Columbia Regional Union Safety and Health Committee  
(BRUSH)  
Minutes  
March 28, 2018**

In attendance: Linda Harding (Chair), Bill Pleming (GSU), Jennifer Horsley (UPCE)

By phone: Johann Ackermann (UTE), Ernest Hooker (UCTE), Monique Bakker (UHEW)

Staff: Luc Guevremont

**Agenda:**

Roll Call

Accepting the Agenda

Previous Minutes

Business Arising

New Business:

1. BC Fed Activities
2. Terms of Reference Amendments
3. PSAC National Convention
4. National Day of Mourning

Round Table

Next Meeting

Adjournment

**Roll Call**

Linda conducted a Roll Call and called meeting to order at 5:30

**Accepting the Agenda**

Linda apologized for the lack of written agenda and previous minutes as the Rep in attendance at the last meeting has been on leave. A member asked about the status of the Regional Representative Health & Safety vacancy. Linda informed the committee that the competition was not completed yet.

## **Previous Minutes**

In the absence of minutes, Linda gave a verbal summary of the last meeting including:

- An update on the activities with the BCFed including a presentation on work & health as it relates to depression;
- A discussion on the National Day of Mourning (April 28<sup>th</sup>). It was mentioned that this year's Vancouver event will be held at Jack Poole Plaza;
- And a lengthy discussion on the Terms of Reference. The committee's hope was to have a draft of the proposed changes to vote on at the March 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## **Business Arising**

Linda informed the committee that she will ask James to send out the links to CAREX to the committee.

## **New Business**

### **1. BC Fed Activities:**

Linda attended a lobby of politicians in Victoria with Kelly Sidhu ahead of International Women's Day. Five (5) meetings with various ministers were held. Linda also met with Janet Routledge and with opposition MLAs which she found very adversarial. Issues raised included the update of employment laws to include intimate partner violence leave, an end to exemptions to the minimum wage that see some workers like restaurant servers and farm workers paid less than the minimum benefits, improved sexual assault services for women at BC health care facilities especially outside major urban area (e.g. many have to wait too long to have showers so not to destroy evidence etc.). Greens wouldn't meet with the lobby group.

Linda also attended a vigil remembering women farm workers killed in 2007 in a tragic car accident.

Linda reported on the Bottom Line Conference hosted by the Canadian Mental Health Association on March 3 and 4, 2018. There were a number of speakers. Some of the topics included Women Changing the Workplace with Madam Justice Michele Hollins which she found quite emotional and well received, Living and Working in the Digital World, The Meaning of #MeToo Movement, How to Get Ready for Cannabis in the Workplace with Dr. Dave Hepburn (author of "The Doctor Is (In)-sane"), From Moral to Medical and Beyond, Mental Health in the Future Workplace, Into the Fire and Out Again (on PTSD). Linda suggested to start thinking of topics for the next H&S conference.

Regarding federal asbestos, Linda mentioned that the BCFED had sent some recommendations.

Linda also attended a 2 day strategic plan meeting in January. The meeting included the sharing of best collective agreement language on domestic violence, email requests for reporting fatalities, the sharing of current campaign information on H&S events etc. Linda reported that it was a productive 2 days and when she receives the report electronically she will share with everybody.

## **2. Terms of Reference Amendments**

Linda explained that due to the lack of minutes, to the fact that many regular members of BRUSH were at the TB National Bargaining Conference, year-end etc. Linda mentioned the Terms of Reference will be ready prior to the May meeting and that she will send them out when ready.

## **3. PSAC National Convention**

Linda informed the committee that she will be attending the PSAC National Convention and that delegates had just been sent an email for access to Convention Committee reports. Regarding Resolution 119 about H&S Conferences (increase from 300 to 350 delegates with increased funding to match), Linda advised that the Committee noted it was important and recommended concurrence. However, this resolution was not part of the Committee's priorities. Members were encouraged to support this particular Resolution and to raise it at the upcoming meeting of BC delegates to the PSAC Convention on April 7<sup>th</sup>.

## **4. National Day of Mourning**

The main event in Vancouver will be held at Jack Poole Plaza. There are events planned all across the Province and members are encouraged to participate in ceremonies closest to their neighbourhoods.

Linda added that there will be approximately 50 caskets this year and that the BCFED was looking at volunteers to assemble the boxes (Ceremony at 11:45 AM but no march this year). Monique is interested in helping and will communicate with them. There was discussion regarding previous posters for this day (can be downloaded from PSAC website under Events) but we haven't heard from national yet regarding this year's posters.

## **Round Table**

- Jennifer: Purolator collective bargaining started and some H&S demands are included.

- Monique: was not yet informed regarding the tragic car accident in the North and will advise the committee when received.
- Bill: emergency preparedness week and mental health awareness in May. At 800 Burrard, all tenants are getting together (OHS ctees) to combine events (can add it to the minutes when find out what the theme is).

### **Next Meeting**

The next BCFED meeting and BRUSH meeting are scheduled for May 23rd.

Adjournment at 6:15