

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

**Minutes  
March 31, 2010**

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

In Attendance: Alice Woods (UCTE), Leanne Hughes (NAT), , Louise Richard (NAT), Bob Jackson (AGR), Tracey Shudo (CEIU), Virginia Vaillancourt (UVAE), Monique Bakker (UEW), Bob Bridgeman (UNDE), Barry Cunningham (UCTE), Linda Harding (GSU), Angela Marafon (UTE), James Little (PSAC, H&S).

Regrets: Wayne Little (UTE), Melvin Dureen (USGE), Bill Fleming (GSU), Gail Jewsbury ((UEW), Susan Yaciw (UTE), Laura Gracie (CEIU, Jim Sidel (DCL).

**Agenda**

Roll Call

Accepting the Agenda

Review Previous Minutes

Business Arising

1. Health Canada Reduction of Service
2. Membership Survey
3. Ergonomics

New Business

- Light station de-staffing update
- BC Federation of Labour H&S Centre - Education
- PSAC Education
- First Aid
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans
  1. Emergency Preparedness
  2. Ergonomics

Workplace Watch

Round Table

Adjournment

**Introduction/Roll Call**

Sam conducted a roll call and expressed members regrets

**Agenda Approved**

First Aid was removed from the agenda

## **Agenda amended to deal with light station de-staffing as the first issue.**

Alice Woods reported that there is no real new news on the Review Process that the Federal Government was to conduct.

Many user groups have requested to be part of the review process and our position is that we do not need a review and that our position remains the same as when we first began this process back in the fall of 2009.

Barry Cunningham reported that the Coast Guard is still spending money on lighthouses and that the capital spending is continuing.

We added this to our list of **Workplace Watch** Items.

## **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. Corrections Services Canada and the RCMP do train members upon request but the first priority are members who's jobs require the training. CBSA does provide CR's with the 2-3 day PAL's course because their job duties required to handle arms (storage and inventory purposes). We will report our finding to the member who requested the information and remove this item from the agenda.

*Ergonomics* – Linda Harding 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 Departmentns at a regional level. This has been put on hold because they are now looking at developing a National structure. This will involve a National public tender process being created and once bids are received some Terms of Agreements will be put in place. Because this is now a National process it is going to take considerably longer to finalize.

**TASK** – Ensure this is a standing agenda item.

## **Membership 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 have not 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.

We are working on a process and the number and type of questions we want to ask in the survey. Kay will need to be involved as well as the National Officers. We will want to complete our consultations before any phoning is conducted. We may wish to send a letter to the locals first and then follow-up with phoning.

## **Ergonomics**

This issue was addressed in our review of the previous minutes.

## **New Business**

### **1. BC Federation of Labour H&S Centre – Education**

BRUSH members have attended both of the H&S Centre pilot training sessions on “H&S Federally Regulated Worksites”. We have not completed our debriefing of the training sessions so it is too early to say whether the training will meet our needs. The early reviews are very encouraging and it appears that this course will be extremely beneficial for our members.

### **2. PSAC Education**

There is a considerable amount of PSAC H&S training being offered in 2010. The bulk of this training is being offered in our target areas and we will also be offering a two and one half day course at this year's Union School.

### **3. Department of Fisheries and Oceans**

Monique introduced some of the new educational opportunities being offered at the DFO. The new training modules were the result of a lot of hard work by both PSAC and PIPS members on the Regional H&S Committee at DFO. The new courses are in Emergency Preparedness and Ergonomics.

Monique will also provide us some new information on Rigid Hull Inflatables.

## **Workplace Watch**

We reminded everyone of the BC Regions “Workplace Watch” campaign. We explained the purpose and objectives of the campaign and asked that members both participate in the reporting of violations but to also spread the news about the campaign to members within their locals.

We provided the website as a resource but informed members to contact their regional representatives for further information and access to resources.

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## **Round Table**

## **Meeting Adjourned**

**Next Meeting June 23, 2010**