

**British Columbia Regional Union Safety and Health Committee  
(BRUSH)  
Minutes  
October 22, 2014**

In Attendance: Linda Harding (Chair) (GSU), Bob Jackson (REVP BC), Bill Pleming (GSU), Wayne Little (UTE), Susan Yaciw (UTE), Todd Smith, Monique Bakker (UEW), Paul Croes (CEIU), Grace McIvor, and James Little (PSAC)

Regrets: Tracy Shudo (CEIU), Colleen Girard (UNDE), Virginia Vaillancourt (UVAE), Liz Oliphant (UEW), Bert Farwell (UCTE), Jennifer Chieh-Ho (UNE), Jim Sidel (DCL), Jenifer Horsley (UPCE) and Melvin Dureen (USGE)

**Agenda**

Accepting the Agenda:

Review Previous Minutes

Business Arising

Guest Speaker - Jeff Bennie, PSAC National H&S Officer on  
The proposed Hazardous Products Regulation (HPR) to implement the  
Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals  
(GHS) for workplace hazardous chemicals

New Business

CCOHS training "WHIMIS" (after GHS) for Workers

BC Fed H&S Resolutions

BC Federation of Labour Training

Ebola Advisory

Radon Gas

BC Regional H&S Conference

Shake Out BC

Events in Ottawa

Round Table

Adjournment

**Roll Call**

Linda conducted a Roll Call

**Accepting of the Agenda**

Added: Added Shake Out BC

Events in Ottawa and a moment of silence in recognition of those soldiers  
who have recently lost their lives.

Agenda accepted

### **Review Previous Minutes**

The minutes were accepted with the following two changes:

- Page 2 Day of Morning should be spelt "Mourning"
- Second last Page change (sp) Victoria
- Liz Oliphant last name
- Jennifer Horsley
- Chieh Ho
- page 5 National H&S - "WHMIS"
- Radon
- Victoria
- Tony Clement last page.

Moved and Seconded

### **Business Arising**

None

### **Guest Speaker – Jeff Bennie, PSAC National H&S Officer**

The proposed Hazardous Products Regulation (HPR) to implement the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) for workplace hazardous chemicals.

Jeff provided a brief overview of the changes coming into effect in June 2015. This agreement has been reached at the United Nations with the idea to establish a global system at harmonizing WHMIS and Canada wanted to harmonize with the United States instead of the Global System.

Back in June of 2014 Bill C31 was introduced and contained in the bill was the changes to the Hazardous Products Regulation which applies federally as well as provincially. In August the Hazardous Products Regulation was introduced which creates an entirely new system which will include new pictograms. Also moving from nine to thirteen heading for labels on the safety data sheets.

A lot more information will be provided on the safety data sheets. Implementation period will be over the next several months, and should be complete by the end of 2015.

There is an e-learning system in place with the CCOHS and that information will be sent out shortly.

**TASK** – Send out the WHMIS (after GHS) for Workers

## **New Business**

### **CCOHS Training WHMIS for Workers**

Health Canada in collaboration with the CCOHS has released a new e-course entitled WHMIS (After GHS) for Workers which will be sent out to all BRUSH members

### **BC Fed H&S Resolutions**

Reviewed the committee recommended resolutions in their priority.

### **BC Federation of Labour**

Improving Return to Work Outcomes being held in Victoria on Tuesday October 7, 2014.

Fairly generic and not jurisdictional specific so this is a good opportunity for members to get some really good RTW education.

### **BC Fed Training**

### **BC Fed Safety Palooza in New Westminster**

**TASK** – Send out link to Safety Palooza and BootCamp

### **Ebola Advisory**

Linda reviewed the many advisories that have been posted and we will send out the information as received. Denis St. Jean has lots of information on Ebola and infectious diseases. Although the likelihood is extremely remote we will keep members posted.

**TASK** – Send out link to CCOHS and other Advisories

### **Radon Gas**

What about members exposure to Radon Gas, this was discussed at the National Standing Committee on H&S. Denis St. Jean has produced a document on Radon and we will share it with the members of the BRUSH committee.

Report on CCOHS link in respect to Federal Buildings talks about exposure limits as far back as 1988.

## **BC Regional H&S Conference**

Due to other commitments within the region and the upcoming federal election in 2015 we are now planning a conference for the fall of 2015. We would like to strike a steering committee of about 6-7 members. We would like to start the process and have the committee in place by the end of this year.

Bob – National H&S conference was tentatively scheduled for the spring of 2017 but the National H&S committee wants to move that to November 2016 in Montreal at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel. We really need to ensure that member participants have an active interest in H&S.

## **Shake Out BC**

This occurred on October 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am and many federal government employees participated.

- UTE local participated in Victoria there was an awareness but not as big as in the past
- UTE local participated in Kelowna and a procedures checklist was emailed to everyone
- GSU local downtown Vancouver participated with over 800 members, and reviewed preparedness kits and radio checks etc. Over 25,000 members participated across BC.
- Grace not involved
- Monique no involvement nothing from management
- Todd's local AGR participated at CFIA

## **Events in Ottawa**

A real wake up call for all of us and certainly has a safety component. The NCR was locked down and we need to learn from this experience. There is also an EAP factor in all of this and we need to be cognizant of the fact that these types of thing can happen in Canada.

Bob – He was in Ottawa today and the Federal buildings were locked down as well as 233 Gilmore Street (PSAC Building) and Robyn sent out a very clear message on protocol for members and staff. This was a wakeup call and will result in a springboard for a call to action.

## **Round Table**

**Bob** – Discussion items from the National committee meeting, a one day or e-learning session on Bill C-4. Asked for suggestions to improve the National H&S website as well as the newsletter.

**Monique** – We should do a survey and get members motivated on the sick leave issue.

Next meeting – December 10, 2014 – Vancouver RO

Adjourned