

**British Columbia Regional Union Safety and Health Committee
(BRUSH)
Minutes
September 28, 2016**

In Attendance: Linda Harding (Chair), Jennifer Horsley (UPCE), Susan Gunn (USGE), Rebecca Davis (CIU), Donovan Lynch (UEW), Bill Fleming (GSU), Leanne Hughes (CIU), Ernest Hooker (UCTE), Coleen Girard (UNDE), Kim Koch (UTE), Brad Klien (UNDE), Marcelo Lazaro (UNDE), Kristy Havard (USGE), Monique Bakker (UEW), Wayne Little (UTE), Bob Jackson (REVP BC) and James Little (PSAC)

Regrets: Johann Ackermann (UTE), Brenda Todd (CEIU), Wes Todd (CEIU), and Don Turner (CIU), Sue Yaciw (UTE),

Agenda

Accepting the Agenda:

Review Previous Minutes

Business Arising

New Business

1. BC Fed Activities
2. National H&S Conference Resolutions and Delegate Selection
3. OSH Committee Investigation and Reports
4. CIU/CBSA Contraventions – HPP Report and AVC
5. Night Vision Goggles – Right to Refuse

Round Table

Adjournment

Roll Call

Linda conducted a Roll Call

Accepting of the Agenda

Additions: December 3rd and 6th
December 10th on water

Review Previous Minutes

We reviewed the previous minutes all tasks have been completed.
Accepted as filed.

Business Arising

New Business

None

BC Fed Activities

The BC Fed H&S Standing Committee has a new chair which is Bob Jackson from the PSAC.

We have sent out information on training from the BC Fed and a Course on Work and Travel.

The BC Fed received a letter from Minister Bond in response to their H&S lobby actions.

Three key occupational issues:

Day of Mourning – the day provides an opportunity to show our commitment to workers and the provincial government is committed to flying the Canadian and provincial flags at half-mast.

Worksafe BC – to develop a Violence Prevention Programs with regulatory amendments.

Federal Proposal for Asbestos – a round table discussion was proposed by the Fed's and the province would like to thank the Fed's for bring up the issues and will take it into consideration. The province must first meet to discuss the proposal.

BC Fed had a successful Summer School and they are already talking about their upcoming 2017 summer school which will occur on June 5-8 and 12-15, 2017. We will send out the new posters as soon as they are available.

The BC Federation of Labour will be holding their 57th Convention on November 28th to December 2nd 2016. The BC Fed Convention H&S report has been passed with 13 recommendations, we would like to encourage all members of BRUSH and convention delegates to support the recommendations. The BC Fed H&S Committee always put on a noon time event on the Wednesday of convention and this year it will focus on mental health. We encourage members and delegates to attend this event.

2017 Day of Mourning – the BC Fed will be looking for volunteers to carrying caskets from the Art Gallery to the Waterfront where the main ceremony will be taking place. They will need 2 people per casket on April 28. We will be providing more information as we get nearer the event.

Task: James to send out information on Training on Work Travel.

National H&S Conference and Resolutions and Delegate Selection

The conference will be held in Montreal from November 18th to 20th, 2016. The theme is "Shaping a New Culture for Our Health and Safety", and it will be structured much the same as previous conferences. The resolutions committee have reviewed the resolutions and of the four submitted by BRUSH one was

ruled out of order, and one was moot as it has already been implemented (Asbestos). The other two received concurrence recommendations.

The resolutions committee report has been finalized with 7 resolutions receiving a recommendation of concurrence and 7 nonoccurrence. Five resolutions were ruled out of order and 2 were referred back to originating body. The committee accepted our BC Resolution, regarding additional funding for education, as the number one priority.

The conference will focus on Psychological Injuries and Mental Health Awareness along with Violence Prevention. There will be a panel on Domestic and Workplace Violence. Guest speakers still need to be confirmed but there will be a focus on the environment and climate change.

There will be 35 delegates from BC at the conference and Bob has agreed to share the list so we can reach out to them. We want to set up a conference call with the BC member delegates to review the resolutions and conference objectives prior to the conference. Bob would also like to possibly have a short regional caucus prior to the resolutions debate which will be on Saturday. We will also be holding a regional caucus as part of the conference on Sunday morning to develop regional strategies and a regional strategic plan.

Task: Bob or Patrick, we would like to get the conference agenda, for distribution prior to our teleconference.

Q. – Wayne: Can we try and include the observers in the discussion.

A. – Bob: Observers will be limited due to space but including them would be helpful.

There will be a presentation on the CSA National Standard on Psychological and Mental Health at the conference as well. Naomi Kline or Dr. Duxbury will be the formal guest speakers

OHS Committee Investigations and Reports

A BRUSH member (Christine Price) raised a question about the appointment of H&S investigators pursuant to section 135(7)(e) of the Code. The question was “Is it common in other departments for management to appoint investigators and, if so, do they appoint people who are union members or just managers?”. Linda asked the question and it was agreed that members would send their responses directly to James who will report at the next meeting.

CIU/CBSA Contraventions HPP Report and AVC (Don Turner)

Unfortunately, Don Turner was not on the call. We will ask Don to provide an update at the next meeting.

In early July a US citizen was trying to enter Canada at the Pacific Hwy border crossing. He was detained at the border by CBSA employees who discovered firearms in the trunk of the car. When questioned the individual pulled out a gun from under his seat and this caused our CBSA members to take action. The

individual sped away from the border into Canada and was chased by the RCMP. The chase ended when the individual drove across a spike belt coming to rest inside the USA. He was then arrested by US Border Patrol.

Two days later a similar incident happened inside the Pac Hwy building when CBSA members discovered a concealed gun on a US citizen wishing to enter into Canada. This discovery occurred inside the Pac Hwy office and in the presents of other travelling public.

CIU members have been asking for better protection at the border and better PPE for their members. Our members want better ballistic protection in Canada. The employer continues to down play the incidents and say that this is a normal course of business for these members.

Management has not held a meeting or conducted an HOIR because they are stating these types of incidents are inherent in their jobs.

The CIU members are frustrated and have approached PSAC and component H&S officers for assistance. An HOIR should be conducted and more H&S training for CIU members has been requested. The PSAC will be holding H&S Training in Sept 2016 in Kelowna.

Public Works employees are also employed at the borders and this should be of concern for those members as well.

CLC Hearings Night Vision Goggles – Right to Refuse (Monique Bakker)

Monique reported that the decision has been settled and the report was produced and sent to BRUSH Members.

It was suggested that when we (PSAC H&S reps) attend CLC appeals/hearing or conduct investigations (HOIR), reports should be filed and if possible those incidents should be shared with the BRUSH Committee. We should consider this as a standing item on our agenda.

December 10th Thirsty for Justice Campaign

December 10th at 11:00 at mile 0 in Victoria will be holding a water campaign and Colleen will provide more information and a poster.

Hoping we can support the event.

Task: Thirsty for Justice website – www.thirstyforjustice.ca

December 3rd and 6th

Area Council meeting will be holding the December 6th vigil on December 3rd in Abbotsford. They are looking for volunteers.

Round Table

Marcello – Health Canada and hearing tests something happening in Esquimalt.

Bill – New hearing test requirements the just is if there is a suspicion or hearing loss potential and there must be an investigation the actual hearing levels workers are exposed to then Health Canada will do an assessment. As of April the things will change.

Monique: She will be taking the course in Surrey (BC Fed)

Task: Bill to send the information to James for distribution.

Next meeting – Early November to discuss resolutions then at 2016 H&S Conference

Adjourned