

**British Columbia Regional Union Safety and Health Committee  
(BRUSH)  
Minutes  
July 29, 2015**

In Attendance: Linda Harding (Chair) (GSU), Bill Pleming (GSU), Jenifer Horsley (UPCE), Jane Stoneberg (UNE), Tracy Shudo (CEIU), Monique Backer (UEW), Kristy Havard (USGE), Cory Anderson (CIU), Leanne Hughes (CIU), Don Turner (CIU), Bert Farwell (UCTE), Sue Yaciw Don Urrutia (NAT), Wayne Little (UTE), Jennifer Chieh Ho (NAT), Bob Jackson (REVP BC) and James Little (PSAC)

Regrets: Kim Koch (UTE), Colleen Girard (UNDE) and Liz Oliphant (UEW)

**Agenda**

Accepting the Agenda:  
Review Previous Minutes  
Business Arising

**New Business**

1. BC Fed Activities
2. BC Regional H&S Conference
3. Violence and Bullying Awareness Campaign and Training
4. Federal Law Mandates Training for H&S Committees
5. CBSA Complaint Sec. 127.1

Round Table  
Adjournment

**Roll Call**

Linda conducted a Roll Call

**Accepting of the Agenda**

Agenda accepted no additions

**Review Previous Minutes**

The minutes were accepted, no amendments.

**Business Arising**

There were a couple of questions about PPE and open toed shoes in the workplace. Monique asked the question if it is a requirement to wear shoes in the workplace as she is aware of members who remove their shoes at work and walk around in bare or stocking feet.

**TASK:** Provide information on the need to wear proper footwear in the workplace and that bare feet are not acceptable.

## **New Business**

### **BC Fed Activities**

#### The June Meeting

At the last BC Fed H&S meeting representatives from the WCB gave a presentation on Mental Health and Claims Services and held a brief discussion on “findings of facts”.

The regular meeting covered such items as the injured workers forum which was held on June 1, 2015. This forum was modestly attended and there is hope to improve its attendance next year. The BC Fed wants to engage member who are injured workers

The coroner's inquest into the Bavine Saw Mill explosion began on July 13, 2015 in Burns Lake and will have implications provincially not so much federally.

The Golden Tree is set for installation in September 2015.

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

We have the dates - November 14 and 15, these are the dates we will be working with and we have secured a hotel – Sheraton Airport Richmond Inn.

The organizing committee has met for the second time and sub-committees have been established. Work on the conference is proceeding nicely and we are still looking for a theme and ideas on workshops and presenters.

Members were asked to provide input into the process by contacting the BC Regional Rep responsible for H&S at [littlej@psac.com](mailto:littlej@psac.com)

The National H&S Conference will be held in Montreal Nov 3-6 2016.

### **Violence and Bullying Awareness Campaign and Training.**

The PSAC has developed a two day course on Violence (anti bullying) in the Workplace and the course will be offered on September 11/12, 2015 in Vancouver. We intend to have as many participants as possible attend the training and the PSAC National has provided funding for the course.

**TASK:** The PSAC National is trying to obtain worksite violence prevention policies so any member who has a copy of their workplace violence prevention policy are asked to send a copy to the BC Regional Rep responsible for H&S at [littlej@psac.com](mailto:littlej@psac.com)

## **Federal law Mandates Training for H&S Committees**

New Federal law mandates training for health and safety reps

Recent changes to federal health and safety law add specific employer obligations for the training of workplace health and safety representatives.

Since 2000, the *Canada Labour Code (the Code)* has required that every employer “ensure that members of policy and work place committees and health and safety representatives receive the prescribed training in health and safety and are informed of their responsibilities under this Part.”

Some 15 years later, this prescribed training is now spelled out in the new *Policy Committees, Work Place Committees and Health and Safety Representatives Regulations* which replaces the now repealed *Safety and Health Committees and Representatives Regulations*.

This new regulation came into force on July 1, 2015 and outlines specific training content requirements. Employers must ensure the following issues are covered:

- the Code and any regulations made under it
  - the means that allow the committee members and the health and safety representatives to fulfill their responsibilities under the Code
  - the rules and procedures of each of the committees; and
  - the principles of consensus building regarding health and safety issues.

The committee(s) or health and safety representatives must be consulted prior to the development of the training.

<https://www.whsc.on.ca/What-s-new/News-Archive/New-Federal-law-mandates-training-for-health-and-s>

Want to read the new Policy Committees, Work Place Committees and Health and Safety Representatives Regulations?

<http://www.gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p2/2015/2015-07-01/html/sor-dors164-eng.php>

## **CBSA Complaint Section 127.1**

The CBSA has filed a complaint under section 127.1 of the CLC Part II which alleges lack of consultation in the development of new customs booths at border crossings across Canada. This was a recommendation of the investigator of the shooting incident at the Pacific Border Crossing some years ago.

Don Turner, Branch President CIU gave a very good explanation of the complaint, its origins and current status. He has shared information with the BRUSH and we will pass this along to our H&S activists. The issue is about the employer providing a healthy and safe workplace for all which includes bullet proofing the customs booths.

**TASK:** Provide the HOIR report and section 127.1 complaint to members.

## **Round Table**

**Bob:** gave an update on what's happening in the region. He said the next few months will be busy given that Harper is expected to request the Clerk to dissolve the government and call the election for October 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Monique:** Reported on the Emergency Preparedness course that she had recently taken.

Next meeting – October 7, 2015

Adjourned