



**PSAC · BC**  
Public Service Alliance of Canada

# **BC Regional Council BCFED Standing Committee Reports**



**BC REGIONAL COUNCIL  
BCFED Standing Committee Reports**

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Name: Jill MacNeill	Date of Meeting: November 10, 2021
Committee: BC Fed Political Action Committee	Location: Virtual (Zoom)

**What was the focus of the meeting? What issues were discussed?**

1. Chair apology for not immediately addressing a racist comment made at the last meeting. The Chair will be receiving training on how to respond to such comments on the spot. BC Fed Statement on Harassment was updated and will be shared with all BC Fed Committees.
2. Government Consultations - Paid Sick Leave – Important to keep up the momentum. A phone action is upcoming. Stay tuned for a major report in relation to Paid Sick Leave. It's important we coordinate our response when government makes their announcement; to speak in a unified voice if any shortfalls, or celebrate if it doesn't.
3. Guest – Debra Merrier - BC Fed Indigenous Committee Co-Chair. Invited to share how the Political Action Committee could support in priorities. Debra's main message was to continue to lobby for items such as clean drinking water, truth and reconciliation, missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls+
4. BC Building Code – discussions have been taking place at the Disability Caucus and a written update will be provided in the near future.
5. Freedom of Information and Privacy Announcement: No questions or comments.
6. Clean BC Update provided.
7. Old Growth Announcement – It appears we need to prepare for this to be a sensitive political issue within the labour movement.
8. Coquitlam City Council – Likely will be a by-election in the next couple of months.
9. Affiliate reports.
10. Next meeting: December 8, 2021 and following that there has been a reschedule to February 11, 2022.

**What action items, if any, were generated from the discussion?**

No action items generated from the discussion.

**How do the activities/issues discussed by the committee relate to the PSAC's priorities?**

I found all topics discussed related to PSAC priorities.

- Clean BC and the Just Transition relate highly to our current discussions.
- Paid Sick Leave for all is important. It would make our communities physically and financially healthier.
- The address by the BC Fed Indigenous Co-chair was of great interest to me considering my role as PSAC's Indigenous Coordinator. It made me think about how I would respond if the question were ever posed to me as PSAC Indigenous Coordinator.

**What is your role and/or what are your responsibilities in the action items stemming from this meeting?**

No actions from this meeting.

**Will you require any resources/support from the PSAC to fulfill your role/responsibilities? If yes, please identify.**

n/a

**How does your participation in this committee assist your union involvement?**

This is the first time I ever participated at a BC Federation of Labour Committee. This increases my knowledge of the BC Fed, expands my network, and aids to amplify PSAC thoughts toward planning and actions for the betterment of our workplaces, union and communities.

**Additional Comments:**

*Please attached copies of any relevant materials distributed at the meeting.*

*Please ensure that you submit this report and supporting materials to the REVP-B.C. within two months of the BCFED Standing Committee meeting along with you claim for any expense incurred for your attendance.*

Name: Terri D'Souza	Date of Meeting: November 3 2021
Committee: Young Workers'	Location: Virtual

## **Agenda**

Intros

Approve minutes from last meeting

TOR update and review

Harrison Winter School and Organizing Institute

Upcoming events or guest speaker ideas

Rounds

Next meeting date

Adjournment

1. Feb 3 agenda approved and adopted
2. Agenda for today's meeting – adopted
3. Terms of Reference
  - Went through terms of reference draft
  - Were supposed to be updated at a previous Executive Council meeting
  - Can get passed at the next Officer's meeting (tomorrow) but may be too soon, will most likely get voted on at the meeting after that
  - To be emailed out for further improvements/suggestions
4. Harrison Winter School
  - Variety of courses
  - A few members are registered for different weeks
  - Organizing Institute is Week 5
  - Officer elections is Week 4
5. Upcoming events or guest speakers
  - Potential guest speaker from an advocacy group on affordable housing
  - Michael – "Nalox at Home": education on the opioid crisis and how to use naloxone
  - Possibility for Camp Jubilee in 2022
    - i. Courses are offered (public speaking, mental health course, union basics)
    - ii. Held by YWC for YW only
  - Another games night – possibly in person
  - Open to suggestions to be brought to next meeting
6. Rounds
  - RK – safety in the classroom, struggle to enforce having students wear masks, moved to bargaining
  - SS – currently in bargaining since Feb, flow of industry is different because of the pandemic, strike vote in the US (LA film industry) for hiring students/scabs/fighting for lunch breaks and 10 hour turnaround time between shifts. Could be big strike if agreement is not ratified
  - TD – PSAC has multiple groups going into bargaining, BC regional council just held their meeting
  - MG – skills development symposium – 3 day education event for directors and staff in student unions across the province. Pushing on mandatory certification for trades.
  - AW – new president elected at convention, YW event coming up, trying to reenergize YW group

- EC – not much YW events going on at the moment, working on encouraging YW to join trades, working on developing social media presence
  - RA – lobby day Nov 22-23, campaign for sick leave going on for 30 years, Gov't gave workers 3 days, coming to an end so shifting to injured workers – WCB reform campaign is kicking off internally for Nov 22-23, campaign plan in the works, Organizing Institute in Feb, convention is 2022, BC NDP convention Nov 19-21
7. Next meeting date
- Change to Thursday monthly meetings
  - Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> 630-730 PM
8. Meeting adjourned – 752 PM

**BCFED Members**

Rick Kumar – Co-chair BC Teachers Federation in Surrey

Shauna Supeene – IATSE Co-chair

Reah Arora – BCFED Director of organizing and campaigns

Michael Gauld – Secretary/Treasurer of the BC Federation of Students

**Present**

Terri D'Souza – PSAC BC Young Workers' Coordinator

Emily Craddock – PSAC BC YWC alternate

Ernest Cacayan – YW rep

Alex Walenciak – HAS YW

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Name: Terri D'Souza	Date of Meeting: December 2 2021
Committee: Young Workers'	Location: Virtual

### **Attendance**

Rick Kumar – BCFED YWC Co-chair (BCTF)  
 Shauna Supeene – BCFED YWC Co-chair (IATSE)  
 Reah Arora – BCFED Staff Member  
 Bridget Barker – CUPE  
 Alexandria Walenciak – HAS

1. TOR Amendments
  - Condensed from the TOR from 2 years ago
  - TOR adopted
2. Events
  - Camp Jubilee – next year, need more committee members in order to organize it → tabled for next meeting
  - Potentially another virtual social event → tentative March
  - Grant's Law sit-in → tabled for next meeting, will be in person
  - Regional Conference – Camp Jubilee is somewhat of a regional conference
  - National Young Workers Conference – contact other federations across the province, invite to games night to make connections at first, want to invite unionized and non-unionized young workers to event → date and details to be finalized at Jan meeting
3. Guest Speaker Ideas
  - Want speakers doing similar work to the BCFED
  - Gender inclusion workshop held by BCFED – potential to have Adrienne Smith Law to be a guest speaker
  - Presentation from Access rights group → to be held late Feb/early March
4. BCFED In Person
  - BCFED was supposed to be back in the office, but not now due to new COVID-19 variant
  - Potential to meet in informal location that requires proof of vaccination
5. Social action in-person event ideas
  - Combine social action committee and YW committee
  - Clean parks, toy drive/donations, paintball, laser tag, bowling, archery tag were some ideas generated

**Next Meeting Date** – Jan 13 2022 @630 PM, potentially in person pending BCFED approval

**Meeting adjourned at 745**

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Name: Terri D'Souza	Date of Meeting: February 23 2022
Committee: Young Workers'	Location: Virtual

### **Attendance**

Rick Kumar – BCFED YWC co-chair, BCTF  
 Shauna Supeene – BCFED YWC co-chair, IATSE 891  
 Kyra Sekhon - HEU  
 Erica Carr - HEU  
 Bridget Barker - CUPE BC YWC  
 Michael Gauld – BCFS  
 Katherine Poch  
 Alexandria Walenciak – HAS  
 Reah Arora – BCFED staff member  
 Terri D'Souza PSAC BC

1. Meeting Time
  - Time off work and commuting to in person meetings are a factor
  - Meeting still open to those not on the mainland, however those not on the mainland may not be able to be brought in for meetings and may have to attend virtually
  - Meetings to be moved to during the day → potential for Wednesdays 1-2:30pm
2. Grant's Law
  - Grant's Law was inducted after a death at an overnight shift at a gas station
  - Grant's Law protects workers from working an overnight shift alone for safety
  - YWC to hold event to raise awareness on Grant's Law and to see it reinstated → sit-in at a gas station
    - o Twitch stream last year was great but in-person event is more effective
    - o Need new petition, poster, Facebook event, Eventbrite invite, live stream the event on Facebook, sit-ins across the region
    - o Date: Saturday June 4<sup>th</sup>
3. Guest Speaker Ideas
  - Naloxhome
  - Alive after 5ive
  - Rent Strike Bargain
  - OH&S for a module in the lens of a young worker

**Next meeting** - TBD based on poll to be sent out

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Name: Terri D'Souza	Date of Meeting: March 16 2022
Committee: Young Workers'	Location: Virtual

**What was the focus of the meeting? What issues were discussed?**

- Guest speaker Sheila Moir (BCFED) talked about Grant's Law
- Grant's law sit-in planned for June 4<sup>th</sup> from 9PM to 6AM at two locations (Vancouver and Burnaby)
- Discussed committing to working with WorkSafe BC on Grant's Law
  - Can collaborate with Workers or Colour caucus and OHNS

**What action items, if any, were generated from the discussion?**

- Lobby the Minister of Labor on issues related to late night retail
- Getting a report from the WCB on inspections and statistics related to late night work
  - Highlight these stats during the Grant's law sit-in
  - Create a shareable infographic
- Draft a survey for the Grant's law sit-in based on the last survey
- Gain access to BCFED social media to live stream the sit-in
- Create an event invite and poster for Facebook for the sit-in
- Invite local young worker/international student groups to the event

**How do the activities/issues discussed by the committee relate to the PSAC's priorities?**

- Grant's Law – young workers in precarious work situations

**What is your role and/or what are your responsibilities in the action items stemming from this meeting?**

- Participate in the upcoming Grant's Law sit-in
- Discuss past Grant's Law sit-in with the REVP

**Will you require any resources/support from the PSAC to fulfill your role/responsibilities? If yes, please identify.**

- Participation in the Grant's Law sit-in (all ages)
- Any resources from past Grant's Law sit-ins

**How does your participation in this committee assist your union involvement?**

- Can engage my young worker committees to participate in these events
- Can bring the perspective from the PSAC BC YWCs to the BCFED YWC
- Participating in union related events and causes
- Networking with other young union activists in the province

**Additional Comments:**

- First meeting attended during work hours requiring leave

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## Report to PSAC B.C. Regional Council on Participation at a BCFED Standing Committee Meeting

Name: Warren Wulff	Date of Meeting: 08 December 2021
Committee: Climate Change Working Group	Location: Zoom

### What was the focus of the meeting? What issues were discussed?

This was my first meeting with the group and fortunately for me and PSAC it was an initial meeting to re-focus the group and try to set it on firmer footing by establishing priorities and request that BCFED Executive Council make us a standing committee rather than a working group. This would give us greater prominence and hopefully clout within the FED.

The meeting gave an opportunity for BCFED affiliates to provide an update on climate change-related work they are doing, including sending delegates to COP26 and involvement in the BC government's Climate Solutions Council. This Council will be writing a legislatively-mandated report on how well the BC government is doing on the climate file. From the BCFED perspective, climate change impacts on workers is the focus, whether that be direct climate impacts (e.g., flooding) or indirectly as we look to phase out oil and gas (i.e., a just transition). There are many NGOs that can speak to the science and the economy at large, so we need to focus on workers and a just transition for them.

There are some first indications of collective agreement language around climate change. BCTF attempted this at their recent bargaining conference but the language failed to make it into the demands. CUPW is looking at air quality thresholds being put into their CA so they are not at risk when doing letter-carrying duties. There is a sense around the table that more sharing of CA language is necessary so we are coordinated in this approach across organized labour.

The FED feels that the BC government isn't putting workers' voices first when it comes to consultations between labour and government. There was discussion of how to get more than just the President of BCFED invited – i.e., to get some real workers who are impacted by climate change into the room with the Ministers.

The BCGEU has done extensive polling of their membership when it comes to climate change and it is clear that their membership is more concerned than the general public. They are next going to do focus groups with members to get a sense of their understanding of climate change, their concerns, and what their union should focus on.

Discussion was also had on the importance of speaking to workers who work in carbon-intensive industries and getting their unions on side for a just transition. Labour will have a difficult time as long as it's primarily the public sector unions who are pushing the climate change file. This could be a focus for this committee.

Finally, we discussed the importance of re-focusing this working group and starting afresh; to get us recognized as a standing committee within the FED (this was moved and approved at this meeting) rather than just a working group, which has far less clout and access to resources. Also, the working group has been very inactive in the past few years and we hope to make it a real driving force for climate justice. We will be meeting in early February for a ½ day strategic planning session regarding issues such as:

- Scope of the climate standing committee (e.g., policy advice) and its governance
- Ability to inform/direct the FED Executive Committee on any such policy advice
- Survey of membership on climate change
- Educational opportunities
- A clearinghouse/coordination point for labour-related climate change actions
- Coordination of patterned CA bargaining language
- How to input standing committee policy to the provincial government and BCNDP

After the February strategic session is complete, we will have monthly meetings going forward, with the exception of during July/August or in late December.

**What action items, if any, were generated from the discussion?**

All action items are in preparation for the February strategic session:

- A date will be set this month for the February strategic session.
- Members will be expected to continue to read and learn on climate change and labour so we have knowledgeable input come our session in February.
- Engage with one's union to determine priorities.

**How do the activities/issues discussed by the committee relate to the PSAC's priorities?**

According to a September 2020 press release,<sup>1</sup> the PSAC is committed to climate justice and a just transition for workers to a low-carbon future. This was also a significant discussion point at the recent PSAC BC Activists' Summit. I do believe that PSAC priorities need to be further refined on climate change, but the discussion of this BCFED committee is aligned with the climate emergency and the urgency required to address it, which impacts everyone, everywhere, including PSAC and its members.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://psacunion.ca/psac-fight-climate-action-and-just-transition>

**What is your role and/or what are your responsibilities in the action items stemming from this meeting?**

I will reach out to Jamey Mills and the RC Environment Committee to get PSAC perspectives on these proposed working group changes and path forward. At this time I have no defined role within the working group – governance is to be discussed at the February strategic planning session. I will of course continue to read up extensively on climate change so I can provide a knowledgeable voice.

**Will you require any resources/support from the PSAC to fulfill your role/responsibilities? If yes, please identify.**

Starting in February, I will require monthly leave-with-salary requests to attend Zoom meetings. Times range from 1 hour to ½ a day. Future resources and support will be needed as determined, but it could include some travel (e.g., Victoria or to meet with carbon-intensive workers) depending on what actions we propose to take.

**How does your participation in this committee assist your union involvement?**

Climate change affect everyone so my participation in this committee would naturally affect all aspects of my union involvement. However, it does allow me to learn a great deal from what other unions are doing and this will enable me to bring this information back to the BC Regional Council Environment Committee for further discussion and guidance.

**Additional Comments:**

I am very grateful to have attended this meeting, because it allowed me (and the PSAC) to get in on the ground floor during the retooling phase for this working group and have significant say on setting priorities.

*Please attached copies of any relevant materials distributed at the meeting.*

*Please ensure that you submit this report and supporting materials to the REVP-B.C. within two months of the BCFED Standing Committee meeting along with you claim for any expense incurred for your attendance.*

Name: Warren Wulff	Date of Meeting: 16 March 2022
Committee: Climate Change Standing Cmtee.	Location: Zoom

**What was the focus of the meeting? What issues were discussed?**

The BCFED Climate Change Working Group was recently upgraded to the Climate Change Standing Committee, which means that members are set for two-year terms, are expected to report at convention, review relevant convention resolutions, implement BCFED policies, recommend initiatives, and lobby.

The focus of this meeting was to officially meet for the first time as a standing committee and determine terms of reference for the committee's work going forward. Neal Adolph of the United Way came in to facilitate discussion. The committee examined existing terms of reference and chose those elements that suited and edited them for a climate change focus. This was done using a lot of whiteboarding and discussion.

The main ideas that came from this brainstorming were:

- Working with community organizations
- Intersectional approach (Indigenous inclusion, Truth & Reconciliation lens, gender)
- Union mobilization for climate change
- Developing sample collective bargaining language for climate change
- Recommendations to BCFED governing bodies
- Being an information exchange to propagate good ideas for action
- Bringing awareness & education back to the union affiliates
- Government lobbying
- Developing an educational program for union members

Committee member DJ Pohl will be our chair. Finally, we discussed the fact that BCFED convention is only eight months away.

**What action items, if any, were generated from the discussion?**

Future meeting dates need to be set. The draft terms of reference created at this meeting will be massaged by BCFED staff to bring it into the same language structure of other standing committees. The finalized draft will be sent to committee members for review and approval before being sent to BCFED executive council for approval.

**How do the activities/issues discussed by the committee relate to the PSAC's priorities?**

PSAC has a vested interest in climate change just by existing on this Earth. Further, our members are often involved in climate change issues through their jobs and activism and it is valuable to work with BCFED to develop a plan for how workers can mobilize towards climate action and justice.

**What is your role and/or what are your responsibilities in the action items stemming from this meeting?**

As a committee member, my role will be to attend meetings and liaise between my union (PSAC) and the BCFED. BCFED staff member Rob Cottingham has been assigned to support our work.

**Will you require any resources/support from the PSAC to fulfill your role/responsibilities? If yes, please identify.**

At this point no extra resources are required, as meetings are via Zoom until further notice. However, I will be expected to attend BCFED convention in eight months. I hope to be a PSAC delegate, but if not, I will still be required to attend for when the committee reports to the convention. At that time I will require LWP and other benefits (e.g., travel) to ensure participation.

**How does your participation in this committee assist your union involvement?**

I am personally invested in climate change action and my participation in this committee will assist me with my work on the PSAC BC RC Environment Committee and allow me to move into activism work aligned with climate justice.

**Additional Comments:**

It is really important to get PSAC at this meeting and on the ground floor of the establishment of the Climate Change Standing Committee. Climate change is the defining existential threat of our lives and it is vital that we focus on climate change solutions that work for working people, including sustainable living and a just transition for workers if they are impacted by necessary changes.

I will note that committee lacks members from unions representing natural resource industries, and this was mentioned several times as something that needs to be corrected, so the committee's work is actually inclusive of all workers and views and not just seen as a "white collar" union club.

*Please attached copies of any relevant materials distributed at the meeting.*

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Subject : CLC January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Education Meeting

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the CLC meeting.

There was a great group of very knowledgeable activists involved. We began the meeting with introductions. Discussions mainly centered around the cancellation of Harrison Winter school and looking for alternatives.

The group was very much in favour of the possibility of a spring school.

Meetings will be monthly and there will be a collaborative approach to courses/training in BC. We will be forming a members group within WhatsApp which is a great first step in the process. As chair of the PSAC BC Education Committee, I hope to be an active participant and continue my attendance with the group.

In solidarity

Kelly Megyesi  
PSAC Regional Council  
Education Committee Chair