



PSAC · BC
Public Service Alliance of Canada

BC Regional Council BCFED Standing Committee Reports



**BC REGIONAL COUNCIL
BCFED Standing Committee Reports
For the Period May to September 2023**

CONTENTS

Report on BCFED Health and Safety Committee meetings:

June 13 meeting attended by Tracy Arrowsmith 4

July 11 meeting attended by Tracy Arrowsmith 7

Report on BCFED WOmEn and Gender Rights Committee meetings:

June 23 meeting attended by Priscilla Lam 10

Name: Tracy Arrowsmith	Date of Meeting: 2023-06-13
Committee: BC Fed OH&S Standing Committee	Location: Zoom

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

Policy Practices & Communication Committee

- Update provided on Bill 5 implementation of asbestos licensing and certification. 25 training providers interested only 5 submitted requirements.
- Proposed amendments to violence and harassment regulation out for public consult end of June.
- Report on pre consultation meeting for policy on Bill 41 duty to co-operate and duty to re- employ.
- Provisions of Bill 41 to be enacted in early 2024
- Board is developing a policy on how to deal with the obligations and both ER and EE sides have questions regarding who will adjudicate decisions
- Update on WCB decision to withhold investigation report for the Kelowna crane accident. Response from IUOE and USW.
- Worksafe BC will not be releasing the results of their investigation
- Regulation review was done and some changes were made to address crane issues
- Submissions due on June 22 for Part 5 Emergency Procedures PPCC members BC Federation of Labour OH&S Standing Committee Agenda June 13, 2023 Page 2 and Part 6 Combustible Dust.
- Joe Pinto is leaving as head of compensation services and David Young will be replacing him.
- Pre consultation in June on new reg for worker participation

BCFED Workers Deserve Better campaign next steps

- Now working with the PRRD on a regulatory requirement for the prevention of Psychosocial factors that cause psychological injuries.
- Currently no regulations are in place
- Need to continue to focus on addressing potential psychological issues
- Ministry of Labour will likely continue expanding presumption
- There is a model from Queensland Australia that can be used
- section 35 changes are in the works.

Guest Speaker Todd McDonald

- Lead for Prevention Services at Worksafe BC
- Moving to a worker centered vision
- Need to hold people accountable
- Service is to protect workers from H/S risks
- Focus on workers rights
- Need to restructure risk reduction strategies

Injured Workers Day

- 40th Anniversary event had over 30 participants
- History of Injured Workers Panel with Mod. Janet Patterson
- Info presented regarding Psychological Injury, Mental Health

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

No action items at this time

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

- Focus on employee rights surrounding health & safety!

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

No responsibilities at this time

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

I would like more guidance from the PSAC Office as to what the role of the PSAC representative on this committee is and what is expected of me regarding participation and contributions.

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

- Helps to understand H&S issues going on in other union workplaces
- Lots of information provided regarding WorkSafe BC
- Ideas and information shared surrounding upcoming H & S campaigns from many organizations

Additional Comments:

- PSAC Update provided by Tracy
- Workers are starting to back to in-person work.
- Workers off 8-11 days on strike.
- Ensured workers had first aid available on the picket lines.
- Workers can go to work with COVID-19, union is encouraging workers to stay home if sick.
- Looking into offering Mental Health First Aid courses to members via BRUSH

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: Tracy Arrowsmith	Date of Meeting: 2023-07-11
Committee: BC Fed OH&S Standing Committee	Location: Zoom

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

Policy Practices & Communication Committee

- PPCC meeting was held June 14, 2023.
- Chronic pain and mental disorders policies posted for public consultation. Submissions due October 6. Will work with worker WCB advocates to respond.
- Policy on cancer as a compensable injury. Waiting for info from research project. Consultation in the fall of 2023. (Cancer that arises from an injury)
- Report on pre-consultation on new regulation for hazard identification and risk management.
- Fall meeting with WCB on Health and Safety Associations concerns.
- WCB designing an app to assist with identifying heat stress hazards. WCB had 250 action requests in 2022 for heat-related concerns.
- Majority of concerns raised by outdoor workers
- Many workers/employers do not know their rights/responsibilities regarding heat and smoke related issues
- OHCOW info sent to committee with heat stress resources for inside and outside workers

BCFED Workers Deserve Better campaign

- Focus on psychological injuries prevention regulation.
- Looking to form a sub-committee to focus on psychological injury
- Need to review S135 of the WCB Act and match requirements for injury to the requirements for physical injury
- The government has indicated they will continue with expanding presumption to other workers.
- Ministry of Labour consultation on psychological injuries out end of August and will be important the BCFED and affiliates to respond.
- BCFED will meet with Minister of Mental Health and Addictions Jennifer Whiteside on Sept 6 to discuss opioids, chronic pain and mental health.

Upcoming Events

- BCFED Executive Council Lobby, Victoria, November 20-21, 2023

PPE for All

- IUOE has been looking into PPE that fits all types and manufacturers are being pushed to offer a larger variety of PPE

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

No action items at this time

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

- Focus on employee rights surrounding health & safety!

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

No responsibilities at this time

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

I would like more guidance from the PSAC Office as to what the role of the PSAC representative on this committee is and what is expected of me regarding participation and contributions.

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

- Helps to understand H&S issues going on in other union workplaces
- Lots of information provided regarding WorkSafe BC
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Additional Comments:

- Contact Ishani at BC Federation of Labour Health & Safety Centre for any training needs. Can also assist with setting up Mental Health First Aid.
- Tracy provided update regarding betting BRUSH Committee back up and running & encouraging participation. Also mentioned PSAC National Equity Conference as H & S often gets discussed amongst the equity groups.

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.

Report to the PSAC BC Regional Council on Participation at a BCFED Standing Committee Meeting

Name: Priscilla Lam

Date of the Meeting: June 23, 2023

Committee: BCFED Women and Gender Rights Standing Committee Location: Virtual

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

The focus of the meeting is getting updates for different affiliated unions.

Priscilla provided update for PSAC Women Committees.

1. Sister check in Initiative and working with the 4 Women Committees in BC
2. Vancouver Area Council BBQ and donation for Women Shelters
3. Participating in Vancouver Island (Victoria) Pride Parade and Vancouver Pride Parade

Carousel are calling upon supporters to be at Carousel Theatre in person on July 4, 8am. Community safety is being taken into consideration for this.

What actions items, if any, were generated from the discussion?

Help is needed with the Carousel event. Donation for women shelters are needed and will be collected in Vancouver Area Council BBQ on July 29, 2023.

Also, there is an offer from the Peace Bearers to provide Marshall Training to organizations who may be organizing "flying picket squads" or ways to support within their own affiliate.

There will be a request coming for affiliates to comment on what actions affiliates have taken with regard to resolutions from the BC Fed Convention and other WGR resolutions. We have also been requested to send any IBPOC-related resolutions to Kassandra for sharing.

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

PSAC Women committee is working on promoting Sister Check In initiative. The initiative is to help promote and support sisters.

Report to the PSAC BC Regional Council on Participation at a BCFED Standing Committee Meeting

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

My role in the Women & Gender Rights Standing Committee is to provide updates for the 4 Women committees and their activities. Encourage other affiliates to provide ideas and share what they do for their women committees.

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

There will be resources/ support from the PSAC to fulfill my role and responsibilities. What we need to actively promote different events happening and email sent for reminders. Posters might need to be created as well.

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

This is the first time that I participated in a BCFED standing committee meeting. It gives me opportunities to understand other affiliates and what they are doing to help resolving and supporting Women issues. Also, it gives me the opportunity to better understand the events in BC area.

Additional comments:

N/A

Please attach copies of any relevant materials distributed at the meeting.

Please ensure you submit this report and supporting materials to the REVP BC Office within two months of the BCFED Standing Committee meeting along with your claim for any expenses incurred for your attendance.