

Joint Occupation Health and Safety Committee Report to the TFEU Annual General Meeting – June 3, 2014

The Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee met on June 20, 2013, October 17, 2013, November 21, 2013, January 16, 2014, February 27, 2014, and May 7, 2014. There is one more scheduled meeting before the summer break on June 19, 2014

The yearly workplace inspections of all departments have been ongoing and will be completed by the end of June.

There were five WCB accident/incident reports filed at the 2013 AGM which were investigated by the committee this past year. Four of these reports originated from teacher members and involved electromagnetic sensitivity and harassment and bullying. Committee members followed up with the affected members and determined if any actions were required to prevent or make members aware of potential risk situations. The Fall Representative Assembly passed a motion regarding the appointment of two health and safety representatives to assist staff at RAs and AGMs in conjunction with the appointed employer health and safety reps for these meetings. The fifth report involved an incident where a person was escorted from the BCTF building.

The committee reviewed the Proactive Indoor Air Quality Monitoring Program report dated August 2, 2013. The results of the testing were all well within acceptable limits. The Indoor Air Quality Testing is done every 14 months to rotate through the seasons. The next inspection will be done in the fall.

The committee looked at a number of issues and made recommendations during the year which included:

- Cleanliness of coffee makers
- Ash Street Exit Stair Safety
- Maintenance cell reception in P1 and P2 parking areas
- Air quality issue in Legal Services
- Broken canopy glass at the entrance to BCTF building
- electromagnetic hypersensitivity syndrome (recommendation)
- Sign in/out at switchboard process (recommendation)
- review of the *CSA Standards for Psychological Health and Safety in the Workplace* (subcommittee)
- review of Bill 14, WorkSafe BC's regulations re bullying and harassment in conjunction with the BCTF Respectful Workplace Program (subcommittee) to determine compliance
- Notice of Compliance by WCB related to training of staff around bullying and harassment

For further details the Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee minutes are posted on the BCTF bulletin board in the staffroom.

The committee reminds members that if they see a situation that requires attention they should act on it and not wait. Please report it to your supervisor, maintenance or a member of the committee. Your committee is available if you have an issue which you feel requires attention.

Submitted on behalf of the Joint Occupation Health and Safety Committee

Alison Gignac
Liz Hines
Louise Spencer
Dean Zachariuk

lh/tfeu