**REPORT OF THE HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**OF THE PSAC ATLANTIC COUNCIL**

**CORNER BROOK, NL**

**JUNE 8, 2018**

**PRESENT:** Les Smith

 John Ivany

 Terry Sacrey

 Chris Di Liberatore

 Jill Power, Co-Chairperson

 Brian Oldford, Co-Chairperson

 Colleen Coffey, REVP - Atlantic

 Nancy MacLean, Staff Advisor

1. **Welcome**

This is the first in person meeting of the Committee. The members are excited to continue to fulfil the mandate as prepared during the February 12, 2018 conference call.

1. **3 – Year Mandate and Plan**

The 3 – Year Committee Mandate and Plan was developed during the February meeting. The document has been posted on the PSAC Atlantic website.

1. **Bill C – 65: Harassment and Violence in Federal Workplaces**

Bill C-65, An Act to amend the *Canada Labour Code* *and Part XX of the Canada Occupational Health and Safety Regulation* (harassment and violence passed second reading on January 29, 2018. The Bill was referred to the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities (HUMA). The Labour Program is consulting stakeholders on the regulatory amendments. The purpose of the consultations is to gather input on the proposed regulatory amendments. The Labour Program will be leveraging various vehicles for the consultations, including face-to-face round tables, WebExs and an on-line survey.

The Public Service Alliance of Canada, being a major stakeholder, has made a formal written submission to Parliament. Sisters Nancy MacLean and Monique LaPlante participated in the round table that was held in Moncton on April 26, 2018. It is anticipated that the amendments will come into force during the fall of 2019. At the current time we do not know what the final legislations will look like but the PSAC is working with HUMA to ensure it reflects our members’ needs.

Until the amends come into force the PSAC will continue to train our members on the current legislative requirements.

1. **Nova Scotia Regulation on Post – Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)**

The Nova Scotia Department of Labour and Advanced are amending the Nova Scotia Workers’ Compensation Act and introducing legislation for workers who have been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder. The proposed legislation will:

* clarify that PTSD is presumed to be a result of an incident arising out of the course of employment.
* Define who is eligible for presumptive PTSD benefits
* All coverage for other occupations to be added
* Outline and establish wo can diagnose PTSD and the time limits for eligibility

The consultation process will soon be announced. The Nova Scotia Federation of Labour and the Public Service Alliance of Canada will be making for submissions on the regulation. For more information visit: <https://novascotia.ca/news/release/?id=20170927003>.

1. **Education**

An Introduction to the Canada Labour Code Part II was delivered in Halifax on April 7 – 8, 2018. It was previously reported that health & safety training would be part of the Atlantic Union School curriculum. The Union School delivers advance training to the participants. It was recognized that very little training has taken place outside of Nova Scotia. Therefore, a decision was made by the Education Committee that advanced health & safety training not take place at the 2018 Union School. Given this decision, the Atlantic Council Health & Safety Committee once again ***recommends to the Atlantic Council Education Committee that health & safety training be part of the basic weekend program in each Atlantic province and that the training take place at least once per 3 – year cycle.***

1. **Convention Resolution – Increased Funding for Health & Safety**

A resolution to increase funding for health & safety was passed at the PSAC National Triennial Convention in May. This is excellent news which will allow great mobilization, education and membership engagement. The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS Regional Health & Safety Conferences are currently unfunded as compared to other regional conferences; and

WHEREAS Health & Safety has been established as a national priority by the Public Service Alliance of Canada; and

WHEREAS the Federal government has attacked Occupational Health & Safety in later years; and

WHEREAS over the course of the previous few years, the federal government has meddled in Health & Safety matters;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the PSAC allocation for Regional Health & Safety Conferences be increased to the same level as the funding allocation for the Racially Visible Regional Conferences.

1. **National Day of Mourning 2018**

The PSAC Atlantic Region purchased wreaths for the National Day of Mourning ceremonies in each of the Atlantic provinces. The ceremony commemorates those workers who were injured or killed on the job. A special thank you to Chris D iLiberatore (Halifax), Lola Parsons (St. John’s), Laurie Ann Wesselby and Charline Gautreau (Moncton) and Les Smith (Charlottetown) who laid wreaths on behalf of the PSAC Atlantic Region.

1. **Report from the Atlantic Caucus – 2016 National Health & Safety Conference**

The Atlantic Region held a caucus during the last PSAC National Health & Safety Conference held November 18 – 20, 2016 in Montreal. There were a total of 49 participants present at the caucus. The members were divided into small workshops with the discussion being led by members of the Atlantic Council Health & Safety Committee. Participants were asked the following questions:

1. Given the topics covered by the speakers and the workshops, what should be the priority in the Atlantic Region?
2. What actions can be taken in the Atlantic Region to strengthen our health and safety work around occupational health and safety issues and to support our activists?
3. Can you provide us with practical ideas on how to build support on the issue of improving mental health in the workplace?
4. Please identify any additional objectives resulting from the workshops, focus groups, panel discussion and/or resolution sessions.

The membership responses have been compiled and the Atlantic Council Health & Safety Committee will be working to implement many of the recommendations over the next 3 - year cycle. Many of the recommendations focused on education and the building of membership resources.

1. **Roundtable**

A roundtable was held to provide committee members with an opportunity to share any thoughts or to seek additional clarification.

Respectfully Submitted on behalf of the Committee

Jill Power, Co-chairperson

Atlantic Council Health & Safety Committee