

# JOINT OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### 1. Name of the committee

The Committee shall be known as the Vernon Joint Health and Safety Committee (the committee).

### 2. Constituency and composition of the committee

- a) A minimum of 4 members;
- b) Worker Representatives (workers who do not exercise managerial functions) and Employer Representatives (management workers who exercise managerial functions);
- c) At least half of the members must be Worker Representatives; and,
- d) Two Co-Chairs, one selected by the Worker Representatives and one selected by the Employer Representatives.

e) Suggested Committee membership should include the following groups:

- i. At least one representative(s) from each bargaining unit (BCGEU Support Staff, BCGEU Vocational Instructors, and OCFA);
- ii. At least one representative from the Administrative Association;
- iii. A representative from each Portfolio present at that workplace;
- iv. A representative from Campus Planning/Facilities Management.

An individual member may represent more than one group on the Committee.

- f) A quorum shall consist of 50% plus one member on the JOHSC and must include at least 50% JOHSC Workers Representatives in attendance, and at least one Employer Representative. Quorum is required for voting within the JOHSC.

### 3. Purpose of the committee

A joint committee is required by the *Workers Compensation Act* and is made up of worker and employer representatives consulting in a co-operative spirit to identify and resolve safety and health problems in support of a planned occupational health and safety program in the workplace.

### 4. Duties and functions of the committee

As required by section 36 of the *Workers Compensation Act*, the duties and functions of the committee are to:

- a) Identify situations that may be unhealthy or unsafe for workers and advise on effective systems for responding to those situations.
- b) Consider and expeditiously deal with complaints relating to the occupational health and safety of workers.
- c) Consult with workers and the employer on issues related to occupational health and safety and occupational environment.

- d) Make recommendations to the employer and the workers for the improvement of the occupational health and safety of workers and compliance with the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation, and monitor the recommendations' effectiveness.
- e) Make recommendations to the employer on educational programs promoting the health and safety of workers and compliance with the Regulation, and monitor the recommendations' effectiveness.
- f) Advise the employer on programs and policies required under the Regulation for this workplace and monitor their effectiveness.
- g) Advise the employer on proposed changes to the workplace or the work processes that may affect the health or safety of workers.
- h) Ensure that incident investigations and regular inspections are carried out as required by the Regulation.
- i) Participate in inspections and inquiries as provided by the Regulation.
- j) Select appropriate worker and employer representatives to participate in preliminary and full incident investigation processes.
- k) Review and provide feedback on any corrective action reports resulting from incident investigations.
- l) When necessary, request information from the employer about:
  - i. Known or reasonably foreseeable health or safety hazards to which workers at the workplace are likely to be exposed
  - ii. Health and safety experience and work practices and standards in similar or other industries of which the employer has knowledge
- m) Carry out any other duties and functions prescribed by the Regulation.

## **5. Records and reports**

Under the mandate of this joint committee, the employer will make the following records and reports available to the committee upon request:

- Incident investigations reports
- Corrective action reports
- Inspection reports
- OHS-related training records
- Company health and safety program
- Safe work policies and procedures
- Manufacturers' specifications
- First aid statistics
- Time-loss injury statistics

## **6. Meetings**

- a) The employer will supply the resources required to facilitate a meeting, including a note-taker to document the minutes of the meeting

- b) The committee will meet monthly on a mutually agreed upon time, depending on committee member's availability.
- c) Special meetings, when required, will be held at the call of the co-chairs.
- d) A quorum shall consist of a majority of members (as defined in 2(f)). If quorum is not met, the co-chairs will call a special meeting.
- e) The committee co-chairs are responsible for securing meeting rooms, coordinating with administrative staff, and any other logistical issues that may impact the meeting.
- f) Meeting are to be scheduled for 60 minutes.
- g) The committee will add procedures it considers necessary for the meetings.

## **7. Role of the co-chairs**

The co-chairs shall:

- a) Control the meetings.
- b) Ensure the maintenance of an unbiased viewpoint.
- c) Review previous meeting reports and material prior to the meetings.
- d) Notify members of meetings.
- e) Review meeting agendas.
- f) Review meeting reports.
- g) Forward a copy of meeting reports to the employer for distribution.
- h) Prepare recommendation(s) and forward to the employer for a response.
- i) Prepare all correspondence.
- j) Determine the process for alternating the co-chair.
- k) When called upon by the employer, identify employer representatives and worker representative to participate in incident investigations as per rule 4(j).

## **8. Role of the members**

The members shall:

- a) Be selected in accordance with section 34 of the *Workers Compensation Act*
- b) Actively participate
- c) Come prepared and on time for meetings
- d) Maintain confidentiality

## **9. Guests**

- a) Guests may be invited to committee meetings at the request of the co-chair(s).
- b) Guests attending committee meetings must be there for the purposes of:
  - i. Training
  - ii. Making a presentation
  - iii. Consultation

## **10. Agendas and meeting minutes**

- a) The agenda will be set by the co-chairs.
- b) The agenda and any other required documentation will be prepared by the co-chairs and distributed to committee members before the meeting. Whenever possible, the agenda should be emailed five days in advance of the meeting.

- c) A report of the meeting will be prepared as soon as possible after the meeting and will be made available to the employer, joint health and safety committee members, workers, union representatives, and WorkSafeBC.
- d) A copy of the report of each meeting will be posted promptly, in a place readily accessible to employees for whom this committee is responsible. In this work location the meeting minutes will be posted on the board located in the staff room.

### **11. Terms of office**

- a) Committee members' appointments will not have a specific term.
- b) Membership will be reviewed every three years. If there is a drastic change in membership, a special meeting will be held at the call of the co-chairs.
- c) If a member of the committee chosen by the workers is unable to complete the term of office, the Worker Representative is to be selected according to the procedures established or agreed on by the bargaining unit, including their local bylaws and collective agreements if applicable. For workers not represented by a union, the Worker Representative is to be elected by secret ballot, subject to a vote if applicable.
- d) If a member of the committee appointed by the employer is unable to complete the term of office, the employer will appoint another member.

### **12. Participation in investigations**

- a) When an investigation is required, the committee co-chairs will identify a worker representative from the committee to participate in the investigation.
- b) If a suitable committee member is not available, the co-chairs will identify another worker to participate in the investigation.

### **13. Participation in work refusal process**

- a) When the committee is required to participate in the work refusal process, the worker co-chair will participate.
- b) If the worker co-chair is not available, the worker co-chair will identify another worker representative to participate.

### **14. Recommendations to the employer**

- a) Recommendations to the employer must be:
  - i. Directly related to health and safety
  - ii. Doable (reasonably capable of being done)
- b) Informal recommendations that can be actioned by the employer co-chair will be documented in the meeting minutes.
- c) Formal written recommendations will be sent to the employer via email, and the employer will respond within 21 days.

### **15. Decision-making model**

This committee will make decisions based on consensus. If the committee is unable to reach agreement on a matter relating to the health or safety of workers at the workplace, a special meeting will be called to address the matter. If the issue is still unresolved, the co-chairs of the committee will report this to WorkSafeBC for assistance in investigating and resolving the matter.

## **16. Education and training**

All new members appointed on or after April 3, 2017, will participate in an introductory joint committee course. The co-chairs will assist new members in selecting the appropriate training course. The employer co-chair will ensure that the training selected reflects the requirements of section 3.27 of the Regulation.

Every member of the joint committee is entitled to eight hours of education leave. For this committee, individual members can request their entitlement training during regular meetings. Individual members must provide the following information about the training program or seminar selected:

- Length of the program
- Topic and learning outcomes (if applicable)
- Fees
- Rationale for selection

If the committee agrees with the member, it will forward the request to the employer. If the committee does not agree with the training selected, the co-chairs will hold a special meeting with the member to assist in identifying a training program or seminar that supports the duties and functions of this committee.

## **17. Amendments**

These rules of procedure may be amended by a majority vote of the committee members.

