

2021 WINTER UPDATE REPORT – APRIL ATKINS, OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY COORDINATOR

January 25, 2021

Hard to believe we are now in 2021. My role as the Health and Safety Coordinator offers support to our members, especially during the challenging times we are all experiencing during a worldwide pandemic. Being actively involved with the JOHSC and JEIP Committees gives me the opportunity to reach out and offer support where needed.

Joint Early Intervention Program (JEIP)

- Attended four Return to Work virtual meetings for members transitioning back to the workplace from medical leave.
- Assisted a member with their Canada Pension Plan – Disability (CPP-D) form.
- Reached out to members where assistance was needed offering support and understanding of their situation on leave.
- Monthly JEIP meetings reviewing members on leave continues to be respectful, informative and addressing support when needed.

Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee (JOHSC or JOSH) – Worker Co-Chair

- **Evaluation Tool** – The co-chairs of the JOSH Committee, Julie Oakley and myself have reviewed this annual evaluation tool to ensure our committee is on-track with delivering an effective meeting and addressing areas where we can improve. Meeting with members on Wednesday, February 17th to review the 2020 draft on the Evaluation Tool.
- **JOSH Minutes/Agenda** – The committee now has JOSH Champions where our committee members support roles, helping tasks needed.
- **Building Inspections** – Inspections of the college's buildings are not complete for 2020. We have a deadline date of March 31, 2021 to ensure all Building Inspections for 2020 are complete. Several buildings need inspection requiring committee volunteers to help. The problem is we are all busy, therefore need more support from our Worker Representatives to find time to help.
- **Review of Incidences** – This sub-committee of Julie Oakley, Ben Richman, Patrycja Fatla Elisa Behn and myself meet one week prior to each JOSH Meeting to update the Incident Chart on the next JOHSC Agenda.
- **Incident Reports** – Attended several meetings with co-Chair Julie Oakley to review WorkSafeBC Inspection Reports with the employees who submitted their claims via ZOOM meetings.

- **First Aid concerns** – Addressed in the December 2020 JOHSC meeting to have more First Aid attendants trained.
- **Challenges** – Need worker reps to make the time and become JOSH Champions in committee roles. To also make the time to help in Building Inspections where needed.

Shop Steward

- Continue to be available when needed to support our membership during challenging times.

Workshops that I will attend

- **Difficult Conversations** – Monday, February 1, 2021 – Workshop offered by Camosun.
- **TELFIN TFE WILNEW (TTW)** – Understanding Indigenous Peoples – Thursday, January 28, 2021. A series of 5 workshops

The JOHSC Worker Co-Chair position ends April 2021. I would also like to invite anyone from our CUPE membership to consider the position as the Health and Safety Coordinator for CUPE Executive elected at our next AGM Meeting in March 2021. Please contact me directly if you have any questions regarding these positions.

Stay Safe and Healthy
In Solidarity,

April Atkins
Occupational Health and Safety Coordinator, CUPE Local 2081