

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

September 22, 2021

Well it has been a very sunny summer and I enjoyed 5 weeks of vacation, which I am very grateful. Transitioning back to the college in September has had its challenges but welcoming a vision of familiarity and change. I have been busy connecting with members as some have expressed fear returning to the workplace. Referring to the college resources is the best we can do during this challenging time or seeking support from their family physician.

### Workshops attended:

- Challenging Racism Workshop – September 17, 2021

### Joint Early Intervention Program (JEIP)

- Monthly JEIP meetings continue reviewing those who are on medical leave and following up with members that may need support completing Manulife applications and Canada Pension Plan Disability (CPPD) paperwork. CPPD forms are now available on line.
- GTRW support with welcoming members return to work after an extended leave of absence.

### Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee (JOHSC or JOSH)

- Inspection Report from WORKSAFEBC now has been approved and committee variation is valid for 3 years from July 13, 2021, approved by William Roff. The JOSH committee is trending in the right direction. The Act will be posted for 1 year.
- I was absent for August 2021 meeting, on vacation.
- The JOSH Committee now has a Recording Secretary, Linda Markowsky, Facilities Operations Assistant starting in October 2021.
- Building Inspections continue monthly in various areas on both campuses, reported by committee members volunteering.
- A casual position of Occupational Health & Safety Coordinator to help Patrycja Fatla has been filled by Melany Beatty.
- Investigations have been typically over investigated. Patrycja and Melany will review to identify where we do not need to investigate.
- JOSH Champions are a valuable asset to ensure all members contribute to supports where needed.

We are needing our union members to support one another and listen to their concerns on COVID. Referring to the following resources is helpful:

- Campus Return FAQ's: <https://camosun.ca/about/covid-19-updates/campus-return-faqs>
- Employee FAQ's: <https://camosun.ca/about/covid-19-updates/employee-faqs>
- Faculty Guide to full return to face-to-face classes:  
<https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-09/covid-faculty-guide-21.pdf>
- BCCDC Return to Campus Public Health Guidance: [http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID\\_public\\_guidance/Public\\_Health\\_Guidance\\_Campus.pdf](http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID_public_guidance/Public_Health_Guidance_Campus.pdf)

Be kind to one another ☺.

Stay Safe and Healthy  
In Solidarity,

April Atkins  
Occupational Health and Safety Coordinator, CUPE Local 2081