

Report to National Executive – Spring 2019 Meeting

The last six months have been a bit of a transition for BCYT. I had been off on leave for much of those six months so my report is limited in length and detail. In my absence BCYT was covered by Brother Stephen Klaver and Sister Crystal Warner. A huge thank you to both for all the work you did on behalf of BCYT.

October 2018 was the BCYT Regional Executive Council Meeting. We were able to provide Mobilization training by the Brother Todd Ferguson. This was well received by the REC. We continue to need to focus resources at OSH training and support. Concerns around mental health, DTAs and personal security continue to be themes at the local OSH meetings as well as regional.

November 2018 was the BC Federation of Labour Convention. CEIUBCYT had a total of 15 delegates there participating for the entire week. It was great to have such a great interest and group participating fully at all levels of the labour movement. We were proud to be the largest contingent among the PSAC delegates.

January 2019 BCYT had a Stewards training course with a focus on Phoenix. This was in preparation of hearing Phoenix grievances at all levels. From this training the region has established a stewards network. The intent is for this network to be able to represent where there is not sufficient capacity in the local or where certain expertise is required. In the coming weeks we plan to have a GD email for this network that will allow us to funnel work to the stewards who have capacity to take something on. We have Piloted this in Fraser Valley and thus far it has been very successful.

BCYT continues to see an increase in the number of administrative investigations. The length of time these investigations are taking continues to be a serious stressor that could be controlled. The toll this is taking on the mental health of the members is significant.

There continues to be a concern around staffing. The use of casuals remains substantial in the region. Further to this there continues to be concerns over nepotism in hiring practices. Several offices continue to hire through unadvertised processes, and there appears to be a correlation between those offices and the amount of new hires that are related or friends with others in the office.

This year as a part of the AGMs we saw a lot of change over in executives. This will result again in an increased need for training for these locals. Many locals are growing their executives as they create equity positions. In the coming weeks I will be looking to schedule training for some of these locals to ensure that they have the support in running the local.

The BCYT Womens Committee again assisted in the sponsoring of events for International Womens Day. For several years the Womens Committee has opted to share their funds with the locals in order to assist with the costs of an event.

Over the coming months BCYT will continue to ensure that we are committed to training our members. This includes our Presidents Conference which will have two days of training which

the members select. It will also be the opportunity for all the West to come together and discuss issues affecting all our regions. I am looking forward to seeing all the work and relationships that will come from bringing these regions together.

In Solidarity,

Vanessa Miller
CEIU NVP – BCYT Region