

Social Justice Committee Agenda/Minutes

Date: December 16th, 2024 – 3:45 PM

Attendance: Tara McKinley, Elliot Fox Povey, Jessica Barker, Amber Grant

1. Role of Chair

- Tara McKinley has assumed the role of Chair of the Social Justice Committee.

2. New Members

- Jessica Barker and Amber Grant will be proposed as members and voted in at the next CVTU meeting.

3. Sanctuary Schools Initiative

- Previously stalled, the committee agrees to revisit and review the progress of this initiative.
- Tara will meet with Tobias Lemay (involved in the original initiative) to discuss next steps.

4. Use of CVTU Social Justice Logos

- The committee will request high-resolution versions of the CVTU Social Justice logos and related images for use in official communications.

5. Upcoming Initiatives

- Discussion on which initiatives to prioritize.
 - Should the committee focus on one initiative at a time or work on multiple concurrently?
 - Concerns about time and personal resource allocation were raised.

6. Zone Meetings & Attendance

- Tara will schedule a meeting with Nic Schofield ASAP.
- Ell plans to attend the summer conference, while Tara will attend other opportunities.

7. Executive Meetings

- Tara would like to attend CVTU Executive meetings and will coordinate with Nic.

8. Queer CVTU Staff Member Support

- The committee agrees that supporting queer CVTU staff is a priority initiative.
 - A list of questions will be presented to the CVTU executive:
 1. Can the district SOGI committee be converted into a Union group, or is there a BCTF parallel process?
 2. How can we better support queer members?
 3. Should specialized union reps be appointed for queer and other marginalized group members?
 - Ell will research examples and leaders in this area to set forth as examples.
 4. How can we connect with and support newly formed BCTF SOGI groups?

9. Training for Staff Reps

- The committee agrees that more training is needed for staff reps, particularly around specialized situations.
 - Mentorship is valuable, but additional workshops are needed to reduce pressure on CVTU executives.
 - Focus on equitable training and increasing opportunities to learn about members' rights.

10. Health Newsletter

- Proposal to either contribute content to the “Health Newsletter” or create a new SJ newsletter.
 - Content will be reviewed by members every 2-3 months and may include myth-busting, positive stories, and relevant information.
 - Consider incorporating mini surveys for feedback.
 - Amber is willing to take this on.

11. Restorative Justice & District Work

- Discussed overlap with district work, accountability, and follow-through on goals.
- Jessica is interested in leading this initiative.
- What local and provincial groups can we learn from and align with?

12. Adjournment

- The meeting ended at 5:10 PM. Members expressed optimism about the committee's direction.