

Provincial Framework on OH&S in Health Care Working Group Joint Communication

BC HEALTH CARE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY SOCIETY: WORK UNDERWAY

January 27, 2021

BC's new provincial occupational health and safety organization has been officially incorporated as the BC Health Care Occupational Health and Safety Society. The new non-profit society was established by a joint union-employer Working Group as part of commitments flowing from the 2019-2022 provincial health sector collective agreements and Physician Master Agreement. Its mandate is to develop a provincial framework, systems and programs aimed at improving workplace health and safety across the BC health care sector.

In December 2019, the Ministry of Health announced a commitment of \$8.5 million over three years to fund the establishment and operation of the new provincial organization, which is governed by a board of directors representing employers, the six health sector bargaining associations, Doctors of BC and non-voting members from the Ministry of Health and WorkSafeBC.

As recommended by the Provincial Framework on Occupational Health and Safety in Health Care Working Group, Health Minister Adrian Dix appointed Roberta Ellis as the independent Board Chair effective December 31, 2020, and following incorporation and approval of a constitution and bylaws for the society, the first board meeting was held December 10, 2020. The second board meeting was held on January 25, 2021.

Next Steps

After reviewing the history of the establishment of the society, the Board organized its meeting calendar for the next six months and is establishing interim infrastructure for the society.

The Board has established a search committee to recruit a CEO who will work in consultation with the Board to set overall strategy and establish the organization's permanent infrastructure. As well, the Board has approved terms of reference for a Technical Advisory Committee to provide technical support, advice and recommendations to the CEO and the Board.

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Board of Directors

Board Chair

- Roberta Ellis

Employer Directors (appointed by HEABC)

- Cameron Brine, Vice President, Employee Experience, Fraser Health
- Claire Brown, Vice President, Corporate Services, Provincial Health Services Authority
- James Hanson, Vice President Clinical Operations, Central and North, Island Health
- Karen (Baillie) Biggs, Chief Executive Officer, Menno Place
- Dr. Shallen Letwin, Vice President, Clinical Operations, Interior Health
- Dr. Stacy Sprague, Executive Director, Employee Safety Health & Wellness, Vancouver Coastal Health

Union Directors (appointed by health sector bargaining associations)

- APADBA: Corey Froese, Provincial Director of Safety, Ambulance Paramedics of BC
- CBA: Brent Camilleri, Coordinator, Negotiations, BC Government and Service Employees' Union
- FBA: Lynn Bueckert, Assistant Secretary-Business Manager, Hospital Employees' Union
- HSPBA: Jeanne Meyers, Executive Director Legal Services & Labour Relations, Health Sciences Association
- NBA: Moninder Singh, Director, Occupational Health & Safety, BC Nurses' Union
- RDBC: Harry Gray, Executive Director, Resident Doctors of BC

Doctors of BC appointment

- Rob Hulyk, Director of Physician Advocacy, Doctors of BC

Board Observers (non-voting)

- Ministry of Health: Evan Howatson, Executive Director, Labour and Agreements Branch
- WorkSafeBC: Chris Back, Director, OH&S Consultation and Education Services

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ROBERTA ELLIS, BOARD CHAIR: CURRICULUM VITAE



Roberta Ellis has wide-ranging experience in government and corporate organizations, recently retiring as Senior Vice President of WorkSafeBC.

Born in Scotland, Roberta earned an MA in English and Diploma in Religious Education from Edinburgh University. Committed to continuing education she has participated in the executive education programs, including the corporate director program at the Stanford University Business and Law Schools.

Her board and governance involvement in national, community and not-for-profit organizations includes: two terms as Governor, Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety; Director, Canadian Institute for Health Information; Director, University Women's Club of Vancouver; and Director, Crown Corporation Employers' Association of BC. More recently, she chaired British Columbia's Industry Training Authority, and served as a board member of BC Infrastructure Benefits Inc.

Early in her career Roberta served as Chair of the Manitoba Advisory Council on the Status of Women. She was appointed Civil Service Commissioner and Pay Equity Commissioner in 1985 to lead the implementation of Canada's first proactive pay equity legislation. She has been the recipient of the Manitoba Lieutenant Governor's Medal for Excellence in Public Administration and the Canadian Public Personnel Management Association's President's Award.

Her leadership responsibilities in Manitoba included serving as Deputy Minister of Labour, President of the Premier's Economic Innovation and Technology Council, President & CEO of the Aerospace Training Canada International partnership, and Associate Deputy Minister of Health with responsibility for labour relations and human resources.

Roberta joined WorkSafeBC in 1999 as Vice President, Prevention Division, with responsibilities for occupational health enforcement and compliance and industry engagement. Under her direction, WorkSafeBC built strong employer and labour stakeholder support, contributing to significant reductions in workplace injuries. In 2004, Roberta assumed new responsibilities as Vice President, Review Division, leading the implementation of systems that improved timeliness, quality and finality in decision making, as well as establishing a division to focus on fatalities, serious injuries, fraud and misrepresentation.

In 2010, she was appointed Senior Vice President, Corporate Affairs, responsible for the Review Division and Fair Practice Office, Policy and Regulation Development and Research, Corporate Communications and Government Relations, Corporate Planning and Corporate Security. In 2012, Corporate Human Resources was added to her portfolio.

Roberta retired in July 2016, and was honoured by UBC's Partnership for Work Health and Safety and WorkSafeBC with the establishment of the Roberta Ellis Award for Excellence in the Study and Practice of Occupational and Environmental Health.