

Environment Committee Report for Convention 2024

Committee Members : Angela Boscarol, Jeffrey Bryant, Kelly Cammack, Lin-Chuan Chang, Shona Dion, Cristie Estatopulos, Jill Forsythe, Alycia Guile, Alberto Guzman, Timo Hess, Melissa Ieraci, Janice Krieger (retired), Rysa Kronebusch, Charles Latimer, Kim McInroy, Alysha Morris, Amelia Peterson, Jaimie Scott

Our presentation at the last convention in 2021 was meant as a call to action for our membership. It concentrated on some of the biggest issues of the day. We had just gone through a horrible heat dome and the worst wildfire season that decimated the town of Lytton and much of the province, and we were starting to see more and more atmospheric rivers that would flood the lower part of the province. The committee felt that a wakeup call was needed and we were successful.

At our swag table we had a substantial amount of interest from the membership, they loved the environmentally favourable swag we brought with us. After the convention we continued to have many inquiries on how to join our committee. Following the convention, we added many new members, and we continue to grow our committee.

Kelly Cammack and Rysa Kronebusch were Co-chairing the committee and last summer we asked for an expression of interest to select a new Co-chair. Rysa decided with regret to step back from the co-chair position. We are so lucky that she is staying on as our board liaison and guiding us through so many processes that we didn't feel ready to navigate on our own. We had serious interest from some of our youngest and most active members. Ultimately Alycia Guile was selected, and she has been a breath of fresh air. Alycia brings a wealth of knowledge about the environmental movement, infectious enthusiasm, and substantial energy.

We held several meetings in the last three years during which we committed to sending news articles regularly to the communications department through both the weekly newsletters and the Local Voice. We have successfully fulfilled our commitment. There is no shortage of environmental issues and events that we are bringing to the attention of our membership.

This year we decided to put out a more positive message. You should be seeing articles that describe the issue, but they also include a solution that members can action on. As we educate ourselves, we will bring our knowledge to the membership. We are reaching across the bargaining units and engaging our members and their families through contests and family friendly events. We are seeing this come to fruition as evidenced by the event organized at Jericho Beach on World Oceans Day where it wasn't just committee members showing up. As we are writing this, we don't actually know what kind of summer we face. We hope that at convention we can applaud the environmental movement for making a difference and we can take pride in our part of it.

As always we will continue to champion the Bee. We have added elimination of single use plastic to our commitments to you, our members. Saving our oceans is no longer just a wish, it has to become a reality.