

## **MINUTES of Inter-Agency Agriculture Compliance Committee meeting held on March 18, 2019**

### **Location:**

Employment Standards Branch office - Langley

### **Attendees:**

Mike Nielsen, WorkSafeBC  
Rose McDonald, WorkSafeBC  
Bruce Calbick, CVSE  
Steven Bauer, CVSE  
Melanie Zabel, ESB (chair)  
Mary Walsh, ESB

Meeting was brought to order at 9:00 a.m.

Introduced Mary Walsh as the new Director of Compliance and Enforcement for ESB.

### **Roadside Inspections:**

- CVSE will develop the roadside inspection schedule for 2019.
- WorkSafeBC will do risk assessments of the roadside locations and share with other agencies. WorkSafeBC will continue to provide portable toilets at all roadside inspections and bottled water for everyone at some inspections. WorkSafeBC provides first aid service for all workers at roadside inspections, including to workers from the inspecting agencies.
- Driver, passenger, and vehicle safety is the foremost priority at the roadside inspections, however, the agencies are mindful of worker (passenger) dignity. CVSE works to ensure passengers are not kept waiting while the vehicles are being inspected. Arrangements are made to ensure farm workers are transported to their worksites as expeditiously as possible. CVSE allows vehicles that it deems fit for immediate road use to transport the workers to their work location and the vehicle returns to the inspection site for a full inspection. If there is a critical defect with the vehicle, workers are transported to their worksites in an alternate vehicle.
- Agencies endeavour to send multi-lingual inspectors to the roadside inspections.
- ESB will continue to publish quarterly statistics on the website:  
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/employment-business/employment-standards-advice/employment-standards/specific-industries/information-for-agriculture-workers-and-employers/farm-workers-inter-agency-compliance-committee>
- Note: some statistics for each quarter may be updated during subsequent quarters.

### **Education Initiatives for Farm Workers and Employers:**

- ESB will send a letter to all farm labour contractor employers in April of this year outlining requirements under Employment Standards Legislation pertaining to the safe transportation of workers and payment of wages.
- All agencies will consider other education initiatives and outreach activities in the spring of 2019.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 10:30 a.m.

**Next Committee Meeting:**

- Tentatively scheduled for October or November 2019.