



## 2018 - 2019 AGM Report VIUFA - Workplace Health and Safety FPSE Rep

Once again 2019 was an interesting year for me as your representative on the Workplace Health and Safety Committee of FPSE. Below are some topics ongoing.

### 1) Emergency Evacuation Procedures

Thank you so much to everyone who tried to integrate a reminder to your students on emergency evacuation procedures in your syllabi and first introductory classes. I'll keep the information from last year's report in this year so that you can again add it to your material. With a couple new buildings on Campus the map is changing a little bit. They are still finalizing a muster point for Building 210. Health and Safety will always have the latest official map on their website:

<https://adm.viu.ca/health-and-safety/building-evacuations>

You can check the nearest wall-mounted evacuation plan in your area for escape routes. There should be one on every floor of every building. Contact me or Health and Safety if you can't find yours.

In your blurb to students you could include something like:  
**"The evacuation procedure for this classroom is to exit the door, turn \_\_\_\_\_ and proceed to the nearest exit. Our assembly point is Letter \_\_\_\_\_ located \_\_\_\_\_."**

### 2) Improvements in Reporting coming soon with Aurora

To report an injury at work or behaviour that causes you to worry or be uncomfortable, you should use the incident report forms available on the website. However, they aren't the greatest! Especially if your report doesn't fall into the 'bodily injury' (first aid, broken bones etc.) kind of category.

Health and Safety is aware of this and encourages everyone if they have questions to contact their office if they want to report something. You can also contact me, and I can help as your VIUFA representative. Both H&S and I will strictly adhere to privacy and confidentiality.

The good news is we can expect a simpler and more responsive system once the "Aurora" migration is complete (likely in 2020). I have been informed that new systems and portals will be in place that will allow you to complete the forms online in a much more streamlined way. These new systems should help both for initial input of a report and for tracking by all involved.

### 3) Incidents this year

The major incident this year of course was the tragedy at the Library. This deeply

affected many people including students, staff, faculty and others on and off campus.

In March 2019 I and the other FPSE WHSEC reps completed a SafeTalk Suicide Awareness workshop. It was one of the best workshops I've done and left me feeling I could do a little bit to help my fellow humans. I highly recommend one of these workshops if you are inclined. Information is available on the web or contact me for more information.

#### **4) Building 200**

For the past number of years there have been air quality and "sick building" concerns with Building 200 (Registration). Employees have had ongoing complaints about feeling as though they have cold or allergy-like symptoms while in the building. These concerns were addressed by H&S in 2017 when they did an air quality testing for mould spores specifically. The results did not indicate concern in the specific area tested but there were questions raised about the testing itself as it was supposed to be done for 24 or 48 hours but was mistakenly ended after only 2 hours.

I have initiated discussions with H&S to conduct a full test of Building 200 to determine if there is any mould in or entering the building. It is not an easy or cheap process to test a building the size of Building 200 but I would hope it can be done soon.

#### **5) AV Security**

I have been sitting on the Audio Video Security review committee for a few years now. The pace of new installations has slowed as money seems to have dried up somewhat. The systems that have been put in are seeing some success in reducing bike theft in particular. I remain focused on ensuring that the rights and privacy of VIUFA members are respected and I believe there continues to be a sensitivity to employee privacy under the Law at the Committee by all at the table.

Thank you for your time and attention and I look forward to the opportunity of working for you again in 2019/2020.

Respectfully Submitted  
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