

TO: Locals - DFO  
National Executive  
National and Regional E.O. Representatives

RE: National Policy Health and Safety Committee Meeting, DFO

National Policy Health and Safety UMCC met on Wednesday December 11<sup>th</sup> 2013 with Brother Robert Ellis and Service Officer Luc Paquette attending. The following is a synopsis of the discussions held.

### **Medicine balls**

At the last meeting a request from the NCR UEW Local brought up the issue of sports medicine balls being used in replacement of issued workplace chairs by some employees. Further discussion was held and most of the same concerns were brought up again around the table. UEW reiterated its concerns on liability issues in relation to workplace accident for employees who bring their own medicine balls without required certification or Employer approved equipment. The consensus was that the Department will contact other departments, who have dealt with this issue in the past and see what implementations they have enacted with the intent to draft a letter regarding the use of exercise balls as workstation chairs to be signed by both co-chairs and shared with regions.

### **Annual DFO Dive Safety Report**

The annual DFO Dive Safety Report was presented. Because the presentation makes the point to mention that Unions were consulted on this process, UEW, on a point of order, questioned how it was that UEW was not aware of any consultation taking place on this subject matter. If the report is issued from this committee surely the Unions involved should have been made aware. Mr. Serge Marion informed that the consultation occurred at higher levels and included members of the PSAC. In response, UEW confirmed it was happy that consultation occurred but that it was disappointed that communications of such had not been done in a more efficient manner.

### **Regional Committees Update**

Co-Chair J. Thomson read through the Regional Committee minutes and of note; the concerns in relation to comments on sick leave statistics from the Maritimes Region were addressed by UEW at this table. The statistic in this region pop up as a red flag since 4/5 th of employees have taken a combination of all and/or some of their sick leave. UEW pointed out that, with its responsibilities to keep a healthy work environment that; the Department must take this situation seriously and look into the cause to effect which are sending the numbers to such high levels in this region.

### **National Policy Health and Safety Committee training**

Mr. S. Marion presented the members with the National Policy Health and Safety Committee training power point document and read through the basics of what the training responsibilities and obligations from both the Employer and employees are in link with legislation.

### **Annual Radiation Safety Program Report**

The Annual Radiation Safety Program's report was provided. Reports indicate acceptable levels and that, for this year, that in relation to compliance inspections no workplace were affected due to irregular levels or clean up requirements. The only report was a decommissioning in consolidating activities in West Vancouver lab and experimental Lakes area.

March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014 is the proposed meeting date.

The meeting was adjourned at 11h45 am.