

June 27, 2011

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

RE: **National Policy Health and Safety Committee Meeting, DFO**

The National Policy Health and Safety UMCC met on Thursday June 9th, 2011 with Brother Terry Fanning, RVP- NCR, and Brother Luc Paquette, Service Officer, attending. The following is a synopsis of the discussions held.

Action items from previous meeting

The Department is revising the process relating to the Directive on Violence Prevention in the Workplace and comments gathered from the regions are being incorporated into the Directive.

DFO's Health and Safety Training Manual will be reduced from 20 to 8 chapters. A review will be undertaken in the summer/fall of 2011 and the results will be presented to the NPHSC.

There is a working group set up for the review of Automated External Defibrillators. UEW will be part of this working group that will look at all aspects surrounding this issue. A first meeting is scheduled to take place in September.

Regional OHS Programs

The Department identified some problems in tracking employee training updates with the People Soft application. UEW advised that there is a corporate tool that also does this type of tracking and that it might warrant a look at the difference in applications and see if it could be used.

Disabling Injuries

UEW addressed the frequency of the Health and Safety inspections and Regional H&S committee meetings. It is important to flag the ones that do not meet the federal legislation requirements because of serious liability implications.

UEW also made the recommendation that the annual report on Disabling Injuries include statistics on the types of injury. This would be helpful in the analysis of injuries as it would help address whether there are commonly-shared types of injuries either at a National or Regional level so that efforts can be concentrated in either training or taking proper steps to limit and/or eliminate the hazard.

Safe Drinking Water

The Department is taking steps to phase-out plastic drinking water bottles where there is potable drinking water. This is to be done in a timely fashion and will respect legislation obligations where potable water is not available.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 20th, 2011.

Yours fraternally,

William Pynn,
National President,
Union of Environment Workers.