

September 17, 2010

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

Re: **DFO National Policy Health and Safety Committee**

The DFO National Policy Health and Safety Committee met on September 9, 2010 with Brother Terry Fanning, UEW RVP – NCR, and Sister Paula Dignan, Service Officer, attending. The following represents a synopsis of the discussions that took place.

Review of Action Items

DFO had committed to report on *WCB injury costs* and stated that although injury rates have gone down over the last 3 years, costs were going up. The Department is working on getting an accurate analysis of why. The aging demographics could be a factor as well as the costs of old injuries and injured employees requiring better accommodation and getting back to work. Although preliminary research has been undertaken, the report was not complete because the data requires further analysis.

With respect to *Regional OSH Committee reporting and training*, a letter signed by both management and the Bargaining Agent Co-Chairs of the NPHSC was sent to the Regions which were not respecting the CLC standards for training and reporting. The response to the letter outlined what steps were being taken to rectify this situation. There was a discussion about the importance of receiving detailed H&S statistics and the need to coordinate the data for reporting to Treasury Board.

Separate committees were established regarding PPE in DFO and CCG. UEW advised the NPHSC that the priority was to be able to advise UEW members of issues related to PPE and that often UEW members worked both in DFO and CCG and that having separate meetings dealing with related issues makes effective communication difficult.

Regulation XX Violence in the Workplace

DFO tabled a second draft of the departmental Violence Prevention in the Workplace Directive. UEW requested that the note regarding the Directive to be reviewed in conjunction with the Fishery Officer's Code of Conduct be removed. UEW advised that no particular distinction needed to be made to a particular group of employees for a Directive applicable to all.

Should you have any questions or concerns relating to the issues noted above, please do not hesitate to communicate with the national office.

Yours fraternally,

William Pynn,
National President,
Union of Environment Workers