

October 8, 2009

To: Locals – NRCan
National Executive
National and Regional E.O. Representatives

RE: **NRCan National Policy Committee on Health and Safety**

The NRCan National Policy Committee on Health & Safety met on September 15, 2009. Brothers Nick Humphreys, Regional Vice-President, BC/Yukon Region, Chuck Davis, Regional Vice-President, Ontario Region, and Sister Manon Desormeaux, Service Officer, participated. Below is a brief summary of discussions that took place.

1. **Business Arising from Previous Minutes:**

- ***Prevention of Violence in the Workplace Policy:*** Training is scheduled to start in October 2009.
- ***AED Program Implementation Plan:*** The Department is in the final stages of the proposal and wants to ensure the product fits the requirements. The proposal will be specific and actionable and will recommend the equipment to be purchased.
- ***Status on the Radon Testing Program:*** While the testing is completed in the NCR, it is continuing in the other Regions. A report is being created which will include a compilation of the results. However, there are no issues to report.
- ***Pandemic Update:*** The Department reviewed the current situation relating to diagnosed cases. An update of the actions taken so far (e.g., a vaccination campaign for the seasonal flu starting in November and a business continuity plan) were shared.
Management advised that hand sanitizers would not be deployed in offices because the most effective way to fight the flu virus was through hand washing. However, hand sanitizers could be deployed in some specific areas.

Management advised that it takes the issue seriously and this starts with an awareness campaign. Management is advising sick employees to stay home.

UEW is concerned about contractors, students, or any employee not covered by the collective agreement who would not stay home if sick. Management advised that this was a good point and didn't think it had been discussed. The issue will be addressed and a follow-up will be provided at the next meeting.

2. **New Business:**

Health Canada – Public Service Health Plan: The Department advised that Health Canada changed its process regarding office ergonomics and the Sectors are now responsible for their own costs. The Department advised that it is monitoring this closely and currently preparing a contact list of Ergonomics Professionals.

Training: The Department advised that it is having difficulties getting employees and managers trained on Health and Safety. However, the delivery issues have been corrected.

Next meeting: November 24 2009.

Should you have any comments or concerns regarding the foregoing, please do not hesitate to contact the national office.

Yours fraternally,

William Pynn,
National President,
Union of Environment Workers.