

June 7, 2010

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 May 17, 2010. Brother Nick Humphreys, Regional Vice-President, B.C./Yukon Region, and Sister Manon Desormeaux, Service Officer, attended. Below is a brief summary of discussions that took place.

Business Arising from Previous Minutes:

AED Program - The Department advised that the AED Program is still at the analysis phase and the business case will be presented to the Deputy Minister.

Ergo Coach Training on Ergonomic Assessments – UEW expressed its concerns about Ergo Coaches not having either the qualifications or the time to perform complete evaluations. The Department agreed to take under consideration the best practices of other Departments.

New Business:

Health and Safety - Impact of Budget Reduction on Training:

The Department advised that all mandatory health and safety training will be scheduled and further indicated that there were no indications that any training would be put on hold.

Disaster Preparedness Training:

UEW expressed concerns regarding the lack of additional training on disaster preparedness following the Haiti and Chile events and believes that in order to deal effectively with catastrophes such as those noted, a more rigorous plan of action needs to be developed. The Department advised that it would consider the best practices of other Departments and build on them based on different regions and specific needs.

Next Meeting: September 20, 2010.

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.