

November 30, 2009

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

RE: **NRCan Policy Committee on Health and Safety Meeting - November 23, 2009**

The NRCan Policy Committee on Health and Safety met on November 23, 2009 with Brother Daryl Hoelke, Executive Assistant, participating. The following is a synopsis of the discussions.

- The Prevention of Violence in the Workplace Directive has been presented to the staff and training is well underway.
- The Health and Safety training is being provided in the Regions; however, more effort needs to take place in the NCR. There is now the ability with PeopleSoft to record and track training as it is provided.
- A great deal of time was spent on the AED issues. A Consulting Firm has produced a report and the Department is now developing a brief to be presented to the Deputy Minister. This brief will be drafted and shared with the National Policy Committee for its review and input.

Once approved, a project manager will be assigned and, in consultation with the Workplace Health and Safety Committee, determine the more critical areas to introduce AEDs since there is not enough funds to support the introduction of AEDs at all sites.

- A report on H1N1 preparedness was presented. Currently, for the first two weeks of November, there was an absenteeism rate of 22% as opposed to 16% last year for the same period of time.

UEW raised the concern of contractors who do not have the same access to sick leave and who may be at the workplace. This would not necessarily ensure a safe workplace since the NRCan employees could be placed at risk. The situation has been discussed with Treasury Board and it will provide an official response on how to address this situation.

UEW enquired as to when NRCan managers would receive the Directive to remove/impece access to contractors who are demonstrating flu symptoms. NRCan responded that currently a case-by-case assessment is being undertaken by each manager on a need-to basis.

- UEW-STE raised the concern about Workplace Inspection Standards. Several management representatives responded that each Workplace Health and Safety Committee is responsible for designing its specific Standards and should the Committee need some assistance, the National Health and Safety representatives have generic standards which can be used for this purpose and they can also provide assistance to the Workplace Health and Safety Committee in developing a Workplace Inspection Standard.

-2-

The next meeting of the NRCan Policy Committee on Health and Safety is scheduled for February 15, 2010.

Should you have any questions concerning the information provided above, please do not hesitate to communicate with the national office.

Yours fraternally,

William Pynn,  
National President,  
Union of Environment Workers.