

October 13, 2010

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

Re: **NRCan Policy Committee on Health and Safety (PCOHS)**

Brothers Chuck Davis, UEW RVP, Ontario Region, and Nick Humphreys, UEW RVP, B.C./Yukon Region and Sister Paula Dignan, Service Officer, participated in this meeting on September 20th, 2010. The following represents a synopsis of the discussions that took place.

OSH Committee Reporting

NRCan safety and security advised that all OSH Committees were canvassed to determine whether or not they are meeting the CLC requirement of nine meetings a year and if there were any significant broad range issues they were dealing with that could be reported to the Policy Committee on Health and Safety. UEW advised that this information sharing is beneficial to determine trends in safety issues across the department.

Flu Clinics

The Department has contracted the VON (Victorian Order of Nurses) to set up the flu clinics. OSH advisors are aware of this and outside the NCR, schedules are to be determined directly between the worksites and the VON. Costs will be covered by the Safety and Security group.

Scent Policy/Directive/Guidelines

A sub-committee of the Policy Committee on Health and Safety will review this issue and make recommendations as to what type of departmental instrument, policy, directive or other will be put in place to deal with scents in the workplace.

Disaster Preparedness

The Department reported that this was part of their Emergency Management Program including business continuity and emergency response plans. As a result of the earthquake in Ottawa, it has been determined that an incident that affects more than one building requires a better communications component in the emergency plans and a new draft is being worked on.

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.