

Minutes of the Health and Safety Committee

March 18, 2015 - Gatineau Regional Office

Present:

Vickie-Lynn Smith (UTE) (committee chair)

Behiye Cinkilic

Dennis Mah (UNDE)

Denise Camus

Gary Bosloy (UNDE)

Marc Beland (REP)

Mark Scott

Imre Bene

Carol Istvandi

Donna Shalla

Regrets

Ron Clark

Aline King

Joanne Robinson (UNDE)

Roch Laramee

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 17:45 by Vicki-Lynn.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved.

Welcome

Vicki-Lynn welcomed everyone.

Regional Health and Safety Conference

Vicki-Lynn asked if anyone had ideas for the conference

Alina King proposed Chronic Fatigue Syndrome as a topic.

Work-life balance was suggested as a topic.

Mark Proposed the following theme and topics for the conference:

"Health and Safety Legislation - Use It or Lose It"

The keynote speech could be by someone like Denis St Jean who could talk about the assaults on worker rights to a safe workplace.

Workshops, panel discussions, etc. could cover topics like:

- Filing complaints with Labour Canada (when to do it, how to do it, how to get results)
- How to read legislation
- Applying legislation to workplace situations
- The relationship between legislation, regulations, guidelines, and policies.
- HRSDC OPDs and IPGs, how they relate to enforcement, and how they can be used by activists.
- Overview of the latest changes to the labour code and their effect on H&S in the workplace.
- The GHS

His rationale was to create more health and safety “technicians” – activists who know legislation and can apply it to workplace health and safety situations.

The committee endorsed Mark’s proposed theme.

Air quality was listed as a possible topic.

It will not be possible to book the location until after the PSAC convention establishes the budgets.

Round Table

There was a health and safety meeting at Portage 4. A safety officer from Montreal attended the meeting. There were 3 employer and 3 employee co-chairs representing different departments. The employer representatives did not show respect to employee reps, The Safety Officer said that the Kitchens were kitchens and that the garbage had to be emptied daily. The Safety officer cited several sections of the Labour Code and supported the positions of the employee reps. The committee should be broken up so that there are workplace committees for each department.

A workplace inspection found workstations with carts at their entrances which causes issues in the event of an evacuation.

In a new building there are air quality issues related to VOC’s that they are having a hard time resolving. The safety committee did not inspect the building prior to it being occupied.

Workplace committees have had issues since policy committees were created in 2000. Many people do not understand the role of policy committees. The role of policy committees is not to supervise workplace committees.

The CRA building on Heron has several problems, one of which is asbestos. The Current on CBC has a report by Julie Ireton about an electrician who has been off for several years because of respiratory issues. The CRA did not tell the employees about possible exposures to asbestos.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/asbestos-at-federal-building-was-a-surprise-to-electrician-1.2983620>

Next meeting

The next meeting will be April 15, 2015 in the Gatineau Regional Office.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 18:50