

## REPORT OF NATIONAL JOINT HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER 2006 TO APRIL 2007

The work of the committee was focussed mainly on the development of a user's guide aimed at training members of local joint health and safety committees. We expect that this user's guide will be completed in the fall of 2007. The members of the NJHSC suggested that we act as the pilot group for the first training session, which should take place before the end of 2007. Training of the committees is mandatory in order to meet the requirements imposed on the employer pursuant to Part II of the Canada Labour Code. It is the employer's responsibility to ensure that all local joint health and safety committees are functioning efficiently.

Presentations and discussions took place on the influenza virus vaccine. The main objective was to ensure that there would be sufficient vaccine for all members wishing to use that service.

We also discussed the problems which could be generated by a pandemic avian flu. The Corporation had put in place contingency plans to restrain the possible spread of the disease in case of such an event, which we hope will never happen.

We also attended a presentation on a user's guide to help members and management involved in declaring positions to be surplus. This guide is a useful tool for those living this experience, which can be difficult. This guide focusses on the development of individuals involved in these situations.

The problems encountered during fire drills and an actual fire alert at ETC Léo-Blanchette in Montreal were brought to the attention of the NJHSC. It is not easy to evacuate a plant pursuant to regulations, when the plant has such a great number of employees over such a large space; however, the security of employees cannot be neglected. We are happy to see that the report following these events has led to a reassessment of all emergency procedures within this plant.

It was recently brought to our attention that members in Regina who are assigned the production of signage material were working in inadequate locations. We are working on this issue and corrective action should be made in the very near future.

There were changes in UPCE staff representatives on the NJHSC. After numerous years of work on the committee, the co-chairperson, Mr. Pierre Girard, has decided to retire. I would like to emphasize Pierre's contribution to this committee and would like to thank him for all the good work during all those years. I would like to welcome to the NJHSC, Mr. Stéphan Gagnon, Engineer from Quebec, who has joined the committee and attended his first NJHSC meeting in April. His professional skills and his social and union involvement will certainly ensure the further advancement of the committee's work.

Here are the members of your committee:

Pierre Homier, Co-chairperson  
Ginette Chartrand, Member  
Stéphan Gagnon, Member

In Solidarity,

*Pierre Homier*

Pierre Homier  
Chairperson