

Joint Occupation Health and Safety Committee Report to the TFEU Annual General Meeting – May 23, 2013

The Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee met on June 21, 2012, October 18, 2012, December 4, 2012, January 17, 2013, February 21, 2013, March 27, 2013 and May 16, 2013. There is one more scheduled meeting before the summer break on June 20, 2013.

The yearly workplace inspections of all departments have been ongoing and will be completed by the end of June.

There were five WCB accident/incident report filed this year. These reports originated from staff and teacher member incidents at BCTF meetings. Two committee members followed up with the affected members and determined if any actions were required to prevent or make members aware of potential risk situations.

The committee reviewed the Proactive Indoor Air Quality Monitoring Program report dated May 31, 2012. The results of the testing were all well within acceptable limits. The Indoor Air Quality Testing is done every 14 months to rotate through the seasons. The next one will be done in July 2013.

The committee looked at a number of issues and made recommendations during the year which included:

- concerns related to air quality
- increasing the number of members of the Ergonomics Team due to an increase in workload (the team now consists of five members: four TFEU and one CEP members),
- recommendation that the topic of email protocols/role of staff be incorporated into annual Rookie FLI training,
- odor in the quiet room (furniture cleaned),
- the use of top shelves in the workrooms for storage purposes
- the use of masks and gloves by staff for replacing toner cartridges in the workrooms (supplies were restocked and areas not equipped prior were given the appropriate supplies)
- occupational health safety anti-bullying policies (BCTF policies and procedures address all requirements under the WCB regulations)
- electromagnetic hypersensitivity syndrome (the committee will be reviewing at a future meeting)

The committee also reviewed the *CSA Standards for Psychological Health and Safety in the Workplace* introduced in November 2012. The committee has formed a workgroup (members to include three H&S committee reps, and reps from the Respectful Workplace Group and EFAP (FGI)) to look at the new OHS policies in conjunction with the Federation's existing policies and procedures.

The committee reminds members that if they see a situation that requires attention they should act on it and not wait. Please report it to your supervisor, maintenance or a member of the committee. Your committee is available if you have an issue which you feel requires attention.

Submitted on behalf of the Joint Occupation Health and Safety Committee

Alison Gignac
Liz Hines
Louise Spencer
Dean Zachariuk