

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Res. No. 301—Workers Compensation Board

THE ALBERTA FEDERATION OF LABOUR WILL express its outrage at the recent appointment to the Government of Alberta and the WCB Board of Directors, where an employer was appointed to serve as a Worker Representative.

THE ALBERTA FEDERATION OF LABOUR WILL push the Government of Alberta and the WCB at every available opportunity to communicate its demand that Worker Representatives legitimately represent the interests of labour.

THE ALBERTA FEDERATION OF LABOUR WILL also call for a return to the process where unions were asked to endorse a slate of nominees, from which the WCB will make its selection.

BECAUSE in the fall of 2008, the AFL did provide three qualified nominees to the WCB Board of Directors and indicated endorsement of those candidates.

BECAUSE in the fall of 2008, the WCB appointed Mia Norrie as a Worker Representative to the WCB. Norrie is a reputable lawyer with a long history in labour relations. However, Norrie currently works for the Edmonton Police Service as an employer-side labour relations expert.

BECAUSE it is a conflict for a person to represent employer interests in their regular employment and purportedly speak to worker interests at the WCB.

BECAUSE this is the second time in the last three appointments that the WCB has appointed a non-labour person to serve as a Worker Representative on the Board.

AFL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

**M/S/CARRIED
CONCURRENCE**

Res. No. 302 – Cancer Rates at Fort Chipewyan

THE ALBERTA FEDERATION OF LABOUR WILL call on the Alberta government, the federal government and the Alberta Health Services to investigate its methodology used to conduct a study into cancer rates at Fort Chipewyan.

BECAUSE Alberta Health Services promised to involve the community in the study which was launched in May 2008 to investigate long-standing concerns that cancer rates in the area appear to be higher than average, but they were not included.

BECAUSE by examining only cases that are in the Alberta Health Service's registry, the study missed many cases in Fort Chipewyan because people who die at home in a community that is only accessible by air most of the year aren't included in the registry.

BECAUSE the people of Fort Chipewyan have demanded a study into their concerns for nearly a decade and the federal and provincial governments said their fears were unfounded and there was no need for a study.

AFL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

HUMAN RIGHTS & INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE

**M/S/CARRIED
CONCURRENCE**

Res. No. 1140 – Farm Workers

BECAUSE there has been on average 19 farm workers deaths per year in Alberta Since 1977.

BECAUSE the Alberta Ministry of Agriculture only has three people to educate 50,000 farmers and farm workers on farm safety.

BECAUSE the Alberta government has failed to follow the recommendation of provincial court Judge Peter Barley after a public fatality inquiry into the death of farm worker Kevan Chandler and include farm workers under the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

THE ALBERTA FEDERATION OF LABOUR WILL, along with its affiliates, call upon the Alberta Government to immediately bring in legislation that would include farm workers under that Occupational Health and Safety Act.

UNITED FOOD & COMMERCIAL WORKERS LOCAL 1118

**M/S/CARRIED
CONCURRENCE**