

REPORT OF THE AFL HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

The 2007-2009 Committee for AFL Health & Safety Committee has met on a regular basis, talking about various health and safety issues.

ASBESTOS BAN

The Committee recognized that achieving a ban on asbestos required many efforts, including education, lobbying, human rights, etc. Consequently the Committee attempted to involve other committees to establish a Ban Asbestos Committee in Alberta. Other Committees felt they did not have the energy to participate. The Committee felt it also did not have sufficient energy and resources to engage this important issue alone. Achieving a Ban Asbestos Committee was put on hold.

OH&S CODE REVIEW

The Committee closely monitored developments with the review of the OH&S Code that occurred during 2008. Each meeting discussed the latest news with Jason Foster, who was the AFL representative on the Code Working Group.

WCB

The Committee supported efforts by the Labour Coalition on WCB to raise a number of concerns at the WCB,

including maximum insurable earnings and Board appointments.

AFL OH&S ACTIVIST HANDBOOK

Near the end of the term, the Committee began reviewing the AFL H&S Activist Handbook. We will be considering whether to update, revise or rework this publication in the next term.

JOINT COMMITTEES

The bulk of the Committee's efforts have gone into an effort to lobby the provincial government to try and get mandatory joint health and safety committees as part of our legislation here in Alberta.

We began by writing all 83 MLAs asking their positions on mandatory committees. We received only 5 responses – and only 3 from Conservative MLAs.

The lack of response spurred the committee to work harder on the issue.

To that end we have established a campaign that many of you are now aware of. This campaign asks the Stelmach government to establish mandatory committees in all workplaces here in Alberta. This is just to come in line with all other jurisdictions here in

Canada. There were 154 deaths as a result of work here in Alberta in 2007 plus many more as a result of occupational disease. This is simply unacceptable to us in the labour movement, but also should be unacceptable to anyone living in Alberta. We will be presenting postcards signed by residents of Alberta on April 28th to

the Alberta Legislature as part of the International Day of Mourning which is celebrated across the country. This day recognizes workers who have been killed or injured on the job. We have been a very focused committee committed to attaining mandatory committees during our term.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Committee,

AFL HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE, 2007 – 2009

Cam Sherk, Chair	UFCW 401
Sandra Zak, Secretary	UNA
Larry Dionne	CUPW Edmonton 730
Greg Krokosh	PSAC
Diane Lowe	HSAA
Roy Milne	USW-ASM 1595
Jason Foster	AFL
Holly Heffernan, Alternate	UNA
Marianne Burstyn, Alternate	HSAA
Gil McGowan (information)	AFL
Nancy Furlong (information)	AFL

Committee Members who served a partial term:

Martin Duckworth, Council Liaison	IBEW
William Marsh	CUPW Calgary 710
Mike Tarnawski	CUPW Edmonton 730
Dale Warner	TWU