

Mine Mill Health & Safety Committees



Local 598/CAW Newsletter

Issued by Mine Mill Local 598/CAW

November 2007

Any opinions or views expressed in this publication are those of the contributor and are not necessarily the opinions or views of Local 598, the CAW or the Newsletter Committee and neither Local 598, the CAW nor the Newsletter Committee accepts responsibility for them

Smelter Report

By: Dwight Harper,
Full-Time H&S Co-Chair

The Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) developed “Common Core for Basic Smelter Operations” back in 1999, but it didn’t become a legal requirement for Smelter employees until 2005.

All workers at the Smelter require at least “four” common core modules and those in production require “eight” in order to qualify for a Certificate of Achievement from the MTCU – for Smelter Common Core. There are “**NO**” exceptions. (This includes contractors who are on site for extended periods of time or who have been implanted into the various crews)

Currently, only employees hired after Common Core became a legal requirement, comply with the legislation. Those hired before (like myself) are currently in non-compliance and for us training is required. All workers must receive the minimum “four” modules and there is no reason why this training can’t be completed.

The MTCU is looking at establishing a tripartite sub-committee to re-visit the Modular Training Standards for the Smelter Common Core, but that could take some time to develop. In the interim, Xstrata Nickel must develop a path forward to meet their legal obligations.



Craig Mine JHSC News

By: Glenn Staskus, Co-Chair,
Full-Time Co-Ordinator

To the workers at Craig, I would like to take some time to explain how a group of people brought together to discuss differences between the Union and Management left with a better understanding and closer to being on the same page. The Relationship Building Program was facilitated by the Ministry of Labour and held the week of October 29th, 2007.

I would like to congratulate the MOL on a process that not only helped us define our areas of concern, but then jointly come up with ways that we could resolve them. Monitors, both union and management, will report progress and help to deal with problems should they arise. As workers, Health and Safety advocates and Union Stewards, the message was clear that we would like work places that were healthier, with environments clean and free of hazards. In other words, **Health & Safety Above All Else**. It will require a firm commitment from all levels of management with clear direction and expectations to the front line.

As a site, we continue to improve our safety performance and we all should be congratulated for an accomplishment of going a year without a lost time. I believe strongly that the person that has the most control ensuring you arrive home at the end of the shift is you. We also have to look out for our fellow workers and have the responsibility to repair or report deficiencies. As a Committee, we will continue to inspect and make recommendations on how to improve conditions; look for better controls on dust and air quality heat; continue to review procedures; commission new equipment that arrives on site and be a part of investigations for the purpose of prevention.

The future for us all has changed and the focus now is moving towards a sustainable future that we can all be a part of. We hear that the Onaping Depth will move forward and that our workers will be at Nickel Rim this coming summer with a complete transition by 2009. Many things are still left to be decided so don't listen to rumors.

In closing my message to everyone is "let's focus on today and make our work places safe and getting home sound at the end of the shift". Choose to have a good day today and better day tomorrow, while as a Committee, we will continue to work towards improving conditions at Craig.

Working Together Safely Everyday.