

Mine Mill Health & Safety Committees



Local 598/CAW Newsletter

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JOINT HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

By: Glenn Staskus,
Union Health & Safety Coordinator

I would like to take a few minutes to congratulate all of the workers for an award that has been given to the employees of Xstrata Nickel.

The MASHA Conference was held April 16th and 17th of this year, and we received an award in the category of mines and smelters with over 250 workers. This award recognizes the overall improvement to our safety record. We should all feel a sense of pride in this achievement, as it is the result of the hard work that was accomplished safely by so many workers at Xstrata Nickel.

Several years ago, I had the opportunity to listen to a former NASA astronaut, who outlined his experiences with the space agency. He told us of the problems that NASA faced and how the decisions that were made led to the space shuttle Challenger disaster and the loss of too many young and talented people. He spoke about making choices and voicing concerns as being part of a courageous leader.

As I look back at last year, I can't help but wonder how many millions of good decisions were made by so many in harsh environments and in unforgiving circumstances.

We know well how schedules and tonnage can increase the level of stress in the work place, but making sound decisions while facing these pressures is at the heart of courageous leadership, watching out for your safety, asking questions, making sure you are trained for the jobs you do and watching out for your fellow worker is what it

takes to be a courageous leader.

I would like to personally thank the men and women that work below the collar every day, in some of the harshest and most difficult of environments – all those that keep our hoists and conveyances in safe condition so we can travel to our work place with a sense of confidence – all the workers in the Mill and the Smelter that process the material brought from under the ground and, finally, everyone else for their role in making last year one that should be celebrated. The hard work was yours – the honour is ours.

We also learned during the conference that we are seeing a rise in the injuries to young workers with five years of experience or less, so I'm asking the Company to show courageous leadership and invest the dollars required to ensure that our new and young workers have solid quality training before they are asked to perform work.

Lastly, I would like us to all collectively lobby the governments to provide mandatory health and safety training in our schools so that young workers are taught the rights afforded to them prior to commencing work.

Our goal is to ensure that work place tragedies are avoided and our young get the chance in life that they deserve. Take the time to speak to your sons and daughters about safe work and the choices that they will have to make.

Working Together Safely, Everyday...

**LOCAL 598 ENVIRONMENTAL
COMMITTEE**

We are pleased to announce the Sudbury Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers Union, Local 598/CAW has formed an Environmental Committee, which will be promoting healthy communities and workplaces. Although we are still in our infancy, our Committee looks forward to establishing a working partnership with Xstrata Nickel in raising public awareness in the community concerning environmental initiatives and supporting the ISO 14001 standards at our sites.

The first meeting was held in December and since then, the members have met monthly to discuss a variety of topics including Xstrata Nickel's current recycling program. As a result of the discussions, we are working on encouraging the expansion of the program to include all types of battery recycling (household, computer, radio etc.) at all of the sites wherever possible leading to a significant diversion to landfill sites. Batch recycling will also be beneficial at the site to eliminate even more waste in lunchrooms.

Blue boxes have been ordered for the Hall and papers will now be shredded and deposited into clear bags. They will be collected by Mine Mill personnel and delivered to the Frobisher Street location for recycling.

Partnerships with the City of Greater Sudbury through Earth Care are being established. The fourth annual Greater Sudbury Earth Day Festival was held on Saturday, April 19th, 2008.

I have included the email addresses of the members if anyone has concerns or would like to bring forth new ideas to our committee for consideration.

Lisa Schroer (Chair)
lschroer@xstratanickel.ca or lisachris@persona.ca

Guido Marandola (Co-chair)
g_marandola@hotmail.com

Ronda Gilchrist-Geeza (Secretary)
cissy@cyberbeach.net
Orazio DelMastro
O.DelMastro@xstratanickel.ca or

duster@persona.ca

Carole DelMastro
lucandcarole@personainternet.com

Dwight Harper
dharper@xstratanickel.ca

Upcoming meetings will be posted on all bulletin boards and employees from all sites are welcome to attend at the Mine Mill Hall.

Central Services Report

By: Guy Sonier

Central Services has gone through a lot of changes in the last little while. But before we get into that, we would like to welcome Wayne Halinen to our group. Scott replaced Eddy Lowe who has accepted a supervision position. Thanks Eddy for the time and effort you put towards the JHSC at Central Services.

Wayne has been with the Company for 28 years and will bring a wealth of knowledge to the Committee.

Like I said, Central Services has gone through a lot of change lately and I have to say we welcome all of them. The attitude and morale has improved greatly. As of April 1st, Central Services has gone 216 days without a lost time. Good job by everyone.

We adopted the Positive Attitude Safety System (PASS) late last year and I have to say that it was not easy for some co-workers to accept something new. But on a positive note, with all the good changes happening, the PASS System is starting to be accepted more and more.

Remember Brothers and Sisters, spring has sprung so please remind the kids that the water levels are dangerously high and so are the ditches. Safety begins at home.