



UNION INFO—May 2013

National Labour-Management Meeting

May 9, 2013

On May 9, 2013 the Union met with Commissioner and discussed the following subjects.

The Commissioner welcomed the new National Executive to the NLMC table and reiterated his firm commitment to working with us on present issues on the table and future challenges that arise.

National President Kevin Grabowsky stated that the Union's priority following the National General Assembly in Moncton is to finalize a respectable collective agreement for our members.

We asked if the offer was still on the table to discuss pertinent issues around maximum-security institutions. The commissioner stated he was firmly committed to a dialogue with all the maximum-security wardens and presidents. He promised to come back to us with a proposed date with the intent of co-developing an agenda from which to work.

The Union also pointed to some concerns around the clustering of minimum/medium/maximum sites and thanked Mr. Toller for resolving one particular issue. The employer asked that we alert them of any issues with this DRAP initiative especially if it runs contrary to discussions we had to preserving certain principles to which we agreed.

Both parties discussed our upcoming NLMC in June which will include all the Regional Deputy Commissioners. We talked potential agenda items for this meeting including: population management in relation to the new units, general security and safety issues, the joint inmate discipline report, shift briefings and CD 550 (double bunking assessments), to name a few. We agree to co-develop a short agenda for this meeting, with the intent of focussing on some big picture items.

The Commissioner also listed some upcoming priorities for the new fiscal year:

 Minimizing double-bunking numbers as new units come on line as well as the use of interregional transfers to fill empty beds;

 A focus on gang management and in particular segregation space issues;

 A focus on a national population management plan;

 Simplifying policies for consistency and simplicity (some format changes).

The Commissioner also mentioned that there are no hidden reductions in the budget estimates, in other words there should be no additional surprises with the *Deficit reduction action plan* already announced by the government. He also indicated that the closures would be on target with the exception of Kingston Pen's, which may be delayed one month.

The employer also indicated that our request for all women offender sector's correctional officers to carry OC spray still presents issues for them. We objected to this and provided rationale as to why all primary workers should be carrying OC, in particular for swift response time in the event of a spontaneous use of force. The Commissioner committed to reviewing our request and promised to come back to us on this within two weeks.

We mentioned our concerns around the fact that the employer is intending to remove containment fences at institutions like Collins Bay and Fenbrook. We believe this was previously clarified with the Director of Technical Services, with the understanding that the fences would remain.

The Commissioner reiterated his commitment to tour certain institutions namely Archambault, Warkworth, Sask Pen and Springhill sometime between now and the end of June. He promised to inform the Union of when these tours would occur.

Finally, we agree to end the meeting early and opt for bilat meeting with the Assistant Commissioner, Correctional Operations, Mr. Macaulay, to try and address many outstanding issues that have been piling up on the agenda. We similarly met with the Labour Relations department on the previous night to follow-up on outstanding issues.

Your National Executive

Next meeting: June 6, 2013 with the Regional Deputy Commissioners