



NEM/NLMC

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE AND NATIONAL LABOUR-MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

OCTOBER 2024

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Health Service

The Health Sector seems to want to make our penitentiary more and more like the community. We've had a few meetings and would like to have more on issues such as drug distribution, the harmful needle exchange program, interactive hourly rounds by nurses in treatment centers and the new CD 585 on the national strategy for drugs in institutions. We believe CSC's community-styled approach should not be the approach in a carceral setting. We work in federal prisons with federally sentenced prisoners who have committed serious crimes, not in the community with members of the public. The safety of Correctional Officers, of all Correctional staff, of inmates, and the public are all affected by the policy decisions CSC chooses to make regarding drugs and inmate healthcare. We are on the front lines where its policies can have direct, immediate, and potentially fatal consequences. We are following the Health Sector's initiatives and proposed initiatives very closely.

Frisk Gloves

The issue of purchasing proper frisk gloves has been ongoing since 2016. At that time, a joint union-management subcommittee drew up precise specifications for optimal protection. Among other things, these technical specifications were designed to protect against accidental needle stick injuries during searches. Far too many Correctional Officers in this country have been injured by bodily fluids, and they, along with their immediate families, have experienced high levels of stress during the ensuing period of uncertainty and treatment. We have received samples of a glove that meets these criteria, namely HexAmor® gloves and Mechanics Wear® gloves. When samples of these two gloves were tested by dozens of Correctional Officers participating in a cross-country pilot project, they provided the necessary protection and functionality.

Overall, the HexArmor® gloves rated most favorably. CSC had told us that the supply process was so tight that these gloves would probably be the only ones on the list. Unfortunately, a numbered company, HKK, was awarded the contract by entering the lowest bid. HKK has already sent the first shipment. Not only do the gloves not meet the criteria set by the subcommittee, but they also appear to be of very poor quality. At the October National Labour-Management Committee meeting, the National Executive demonstrated the poor quality of the gloves to the Commissioner by easily pushing a needle through. We are astounded that, despite all the work that we did up front, the employer failed to quality control its purchase to ensure the safety of Correctional Officers, especially considering CSC's insistence on implementing prison needle exchange programs.

Miscellaneous

At the Labour Management forums in which we participated during the fall; we discussed the safety concerns of children in institutions regarding CSC's mother-child program. We discussed ongoing pay system issues, the gradual arrival of body scanners, and the Public Service Employment Survey (PSES). The National Executive encourages our members to participate in the survey, whose results will be shared with the union. We asked questions related to the use of one of CSC's facilities to house immigration detainees, and we discussed CSC's decisions to withhold the union leave in the Quebec region. We discussed vehicle replacements and have been shown this fiscal year's roll-out plan for ordered Detector Dog vehicles as well as Patrol Vehicles. When briefed on the status of new recruits, we were told that 205 recruits have successfully completed the last ten Correctional Training Programs and that 238 recruits are currently in training. The Commissioner informed us of her intention to visit Beaver Creek and Port Cartier Institutions.

Be safe everyone,

In Solidarity,

Your National Executive