



UNION INFO—Feb. 2011

National Labour-Management Meeting SCC and UCCO-SACC-CSN

On February 3, members of the national executive and the union advisor from Ontario met with the Commissioner and his management team.

In his opening remarks, the national president mentioned his recent tour of three of the five regions. He expressed surprise and concern about problems at Joyceville Institution, where the infrastructure is outdated and in very poor condition. Necessary investments in building maintenance are long overdue. On another note, the locker room and showers at Edmonton Institution for Women are not very sanitary for correctional officers and, in some instances, three correctional officers have to share the same locker.

The national president also commented on the murder of a correctional officer in Washington State. An event of this nature is always painful for all correctional officers.

Here is a summary of the topics covered.



National deployment standards

Despite its cancellation, some institutions and some regions continue to follow a bulletin issued last summer regarding meal breaks and the number of correctional officers required in units during this time. The senior deputy commissioner asked the substitute director of deployment to follow up as he expects managers to follow directives. Regarding deployment-related consultation documents, we requested a broader discussion than simply sending our comments to CSC. The employer agreed and a meeting will be arranged.



Population management

As requested, we received the protocol for a working committee on population management. We submitted our comments to the employer, as well as the names of two union representatives who will sit on the committee, Ryan Deback of RPC and Jeff Wilkins from Springhill Institution. The employer told us that ADCIOs submitted the same comments we did and that, surprisingly, the Quebec regional administration asked the union to submit the name of a representative for Quebec. The ball is rolling for this committee and a meeting will be arranged shortly. A point to note: the national president announced that a meeting with the employer to develop gang training for CSC employees will be held February 16 and 17 in Montréal.



Double bunking

The Prairies regional president reiterated the urgent need to act in his region, where several institutions are plagued with double bunking. The employer assured us that the transfer list is being completed, but that there are some compatibility problems to resolve. We asked the CSC to act quickly as this is a problem that has been dragging on for the last four months and continues to worsen. The Deputy Commissioner of Security will send a status report on when we will see these transfers taking place.



Security in case of fire

After studying the issue with members of his management team, the Commissioner told us that he decided to conduct exercises “on paper” before doing “physical” exercises in order to verify the preparation in case of fire during morning shift. We emphasized that training does not always go according to the 2-1-1 principle at certain institutions; Grand Valley, for example.



Shift Exchanges

We are waiting for an answer about whether correctional officers are permitted to exchange shifts with more than two hours difference between the shifts. The employer will give us an answer.



CO1s replacing CO2s on the units during leaves (sick, annual, etc.)

This item has been on the agenda for months, with the same answer over and over again, being that Mr. Erickson will send us, for consultation, the criteria a CO1 must possess in order to replace a CO2 on the units. We still await the material.



Grievance management

We urged the CSC to comply with the adjudicative interpretation of article 49.07 of the collective agreement, concerning acting pay for work as an instructor (Lavigne, Timson and other decisions). We pointed out that this would avoid clogging the grievance system. We invited the employer to sit down with the union in order to reach a settlement on grievance cases challenging the fairness of overtime allocation, the subject of several recent decisions by the Public Service Labour Relations Board. These decisions (the Weeks decision being the latest example) thoroughly enlighten the parties in this matter. The employer is open to discussion, but the next step remains to be determined.



UNION INFO—Feb. 2011

National Labour-Management Meeting SCC and UCCO-SACC-CSN

Escort vehicle

The Atlantic regional president requested that an escort vehicle follow the ambulance whenever a medical escort leaves Dorchester Institution. Given the institution's location, an escort vehicle would provide return transport for the inmate or correctional officers, if necessary. The Senior Deputy Commissioner will contact the region's ADCIO about this issue.

Medication distribution

The National President raised the length of current consultations, not only for this Commissioner's directive, but also for all other directives under consultation. He said he was shocked to learn that standing orders in certain institutions left room for interpretation over whether correctional officers could distribute medication. Standing orders should not contradict the intent of a Commissioner's directive. We reiterated the union's position that correctional officers should not distribute medication to inmates. The head of health services thanked us for our comments and we offered to meet with her to outline our position on the matter. A meeting will be arranged between the Commissioner, the head of health services and UCCO-SACC-CSN.

