

Uniform update

A national uniform committee meeting was held between UCCO-SACC-CSN and NHQ management on May 5th 2011. This committee meeting is held at least twice annually and allows your union representatives and NHQ management to discuss a variety of issues related to both the ceremonial and work uniform.

Maternity Uniform

NHQ has completed several trials across the country of the new uniform which can be worn by our pregnant officers. The uniform's look is in line with the uniform worn by all officers, but it has the ability to stretch and allow the officer to remain as comfortable as possible throughout their pregnancy. The feedback on this new uniform product was quite positive and the CSC will proceed with making it available to all those women who wish to stay in uniform while pregnant.

Dry Tech T-shirt

NHQ gave an update on the status of a new t-shirt that will be made available to staff using their points that will be made of a "moisture-wicking" fabric. UCCO-SACC-CSN was shown samples of these t-shirts several months ago and recommended proceeding based on the numerous requests for this option from our members. NHQ has been informed by Logistic Unicorn that the fabric to make these shirts is currently back-ordered. Unfortunately due to this delay, the shirts will probably not be available for the hot summer months as hoped, but should be available by September or early fall. While we are disappointed with the delay, it is still great news that these shirts will now be made available to our members.

Outerwear

There has been a demand from our members to seriously examine an alternative to the current outerwear of the uniform. It is apparent that there are very viable options out there that would allow one jacket, a 3-in-1 or 5-in-1, to replace the bomber and potentially the rain jacket and parka as well. We had a good discussion around the needs of our officers and the value in going to one versatile jacket to replace the current options. CSC informs that they still have a fairly large supply of the current outerwear (approximately 2 years supply), but now would be the best time to begin looking at finding a suitable option. The union discussed the pilot project recently completed at Mountain Institution and we are just awaiting that final report to allow us to make a more educated analysis of what kind of jacket is required. We ask that if members

have ideas or recommendations for this jacket that they forward these to cxuniform@shaw.ca. While we know we cannot meet every individual's requests, perhaps we can find the best design to meet our collective needs.

Rain pants were also discussed and we would like to canvass our members as to whether they would wish us to pursue this for all members. Please forward your suggestions on this.

A discussion also took place on the need for alternate winter hats (tuques) and a prototype will be developed that will meet the requirements.



Ceremonial Uniform

Management is examining a potential change to the Commissioner's Directive to allow retired correctional officers to keep their ceremonial uniform and wear at official or sanctioned activities. The union will examine this proposal carefully when the draft is provided. Management informed that only about one half of correctional officers have ordered their ceremonial uniform. We remind our members to order this uniform from the supplier's website.

Dog Handler Requests

Union and management discussed the unique requirements for the detector dog teams. While the potential needs are acknowledged by both sides, the uniform committee members agreed that it will be difficult for the national supplier of uniform components to supply items for this group due to the fact that the price would increase significantly for small orders or low demanded items. If replacement or environmental articles are required by this group (ie. boots, or rain pants) it will have to be discussed in other forums how these can be arranged.

Sizing and Material Issues

The union brought up concerns about some of the sizing and delivery difficulties we have been having for our uniform. There have been complaints of wrong sizes being sent, delays in delivery, etc. and we brought these to the attention of management. We were informed that many of the problematic items are perhaps "old stock" that were from previous inventory supplies and that they may be mislabelled or of an inferior quality. We ask that if members are having problems in this regard that they forward them to NHQ management as well as our union e-mail for this committee at cxuniform@shaw.ca.