



OH&S STEWARDS BULLETIN

Violence in health care workplaces

The issue of violence in health care is once again in the news following the horrific attack on the physician at Penticton Regional Hospital, and the stabbing of a home support worker in Parksville.

Unfortunately, there are HEU members around the province experiencing violence at work every single day. The vast majority of these incidents are known only by the affected individuals, the employer, and hopefully the joint occupational health and safety (JOHS) committee.

The union's OH&S representatives are asking HEU health and safety stewards to please notify the union when a member is involved in a workplace incident that did, or could have, seriously injured the member.

Send an email to ohs@heu.org with the details of the incident.

HEU sits on various committees that deal with OH&S issues on a province-wide basis, including the B.C. Fed Health and Safety Standing Committee, Provincial Preventing Violence Committee, and SafeCareBC to name a few.

Gathering our members' workplace experiences, especially around violent incidents, makes the union's advocacy work more powerful and effective than simply reporting on impersonal WorkSafeBC statistics from past years. The union will, of course, protect the identity of the individual members.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ana or Della.

For more information, check HEU's website at www.heu.org.

In solidarity,

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