



# OH&S STEWARDS BULLETIN

## How HEU OH&S stewards work with the JOHS committee – part two

The *Workers Compensation Act* (part 3, division 4, section 130) addresses 10 duties and functions of the Joint Occupational Health and Safety (JOHS) committees.

In our last bulletin, we reviewed the first five duties and functions with a focus on the roles of HEU OH&S stewards. This bulletin looks at the remaining five.

### Duties and functions of joint committee:

**130** A joint committee has the following duties and functions in relation to its workplace:

- (f) to advise the employer on programs and policies required under the regulations for the workplace and to monitor their effectiveness;

*In order to advise the employer on programs and policies and to know whether or not they are effective, you need to have a basic understanding of the regulations, specifically on issues relevant to your workplace – such as: the regulations on violence, ergonomics (MSI Prevention), working alone, slip/trip hazards, and/or any other regulations related to the work of the department(s) at your work site.*

- (g) to advise the employer on proposed changes to the workplace or the work processes that may affect the health or safety of workers;

*The employer should not be implementing any changes that could affect the health and safety of your members without the advice and input from the JOHS committee. The committee can also advise the employer on changes to the workplace or ways to decrease the risk of illness or injury to employees.*

- (h) to ensure that accident investigations and regular inspections are carried out as required by this Part and the regulations;

*The committee should ensure that every accident/incident, and/or near miss, has been investigated. The result of the investigation should be provided to the committee for review. The committee should ensure that any recommendations that arise out of the investigation are completed in a timely manner. A review of regular inspections should be a standing agenda item. Again, one of the responsibilities of the committee is to ensure that any hazards or problems identified in the inspection are addressed in a timely manner.*

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- (i) to participate in inspections, investigations and inquiries as provided in this Part and the regulations;

*When an HEU member suffers a work-related injury or illness, or is involved in a near miss, an HEU OH&S steward should be involved in the investigation as soon as possible. If the HEU OH&S steward is not familiar with the work being performed at the time of the injury, illness or near miss, then a worker who is familiar with the work should also be involved in the investigation.*

*When WorkSafeBC does an inspection, a worker representative on the JOHS committee should accompany the officer. If there's no worker committee member onsite at the time of the inspection, then the union must designate a worker representative to accompany the officer (Division 3, 3.8).*

- (j) to carry out any other duties and functions prescribed by regulation.

*The first nine duties of the JOHS committee are not exhaustive. Circumstances or future regulation may add to those duties and functions.*

If there are other topics or questions of a general nature you'd like to see addressed in an OH&S Stewards Bulletin, please contact either Della McGaw or Ana Rahmat, HEU's OH&S representatives at [ohs@heu.org](mailto:ohs@heu.org).

For more information, check HEU's website at [www.heu.org](http://www.heu.org).

In solidarity,

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