

Health & Welfare Report

- 1) A moment of silence was given at our General meeting for a member of our new certification at Pinnacle Pellet. Our condolences have gone out to the family and the death benefit sent. This tragedy acts as a terrible reminder to make sure you use jack stands and have your vehicle secured when working underneath.
- 2) A reminder to members of our Pulp unit that when a member is shipped from the gate to the hospital by ambulance, the pulp mill will only pay the fee if it is for a work related incident. Anxiety attack or such event is charged to the individual. Extended Health or the Health Spending Account can be used to cover.
- 3) For Pulp members, a Bulletin has gone out containing the financial reports for the Pulp and Paper Pension Plan for the year ending 2011. The plan achieved better investment results than needed in 2011 and remains healthy. You should be able to find the bulletin and more details on the e-mail/intranet at work.
- 4) The trustees for the Health and Welfare plan at the pulp mills is at last putting on administrative training for the plan for all locals' Health & Welfare Committees. It will be help the committee to help you better understand your benefits from Blue Cross medical, Dental, and HSA, Desjardins Weekly Indemnity and Long Term disability, Life insurance. Etc. (Just a reminder that Pacific Blue Cross is our Extended Health and Dental Provider. Sunlife is the provider after retirement.)
- 5) What is an IME? An Independent Medical Exam or Evaluation is sometimes resorted to when the insurer has unclear medical from your treating Doctor. The insurer has their own medical advisors (Desjardins or WorkSafe) who follow the medical reports from your Doctor. If they disagree with the Doctor's diagnosis, an IME may be requested. The insurer sends you to another Doctor or Specialist for an evaluation. Sometimes this is a faster way to get in to see a specialist. Sometimes it is helpful in detailing your own Doctor's information. Sometimes it is an opposing diagnosis, and then the member is stuck between two plans of action. When this happens, help from the Health & Welfare Committee, or the Disability Coordinator and Disability Committee may be required.
- 6) Did you know the Health & Welfare Committee is a 3 part committee? We act as the Health & Welfare Committee, to help members understand their contractual benefits. We act as the Disability Management Committee to help members and the Disability Management Coordinator when members are returning to work, or need accommodation. We also act as the Employee and Family Assistance Program Committee, to help support the program through education, and awareness, as well as monitor the progress or success of the plan and our provider, Brazzoni and associates. All three committees are joint committees and have equal participation between employer and union. While most of this centres on the Pulp Mill, the committee is available to help members in all the certifications with issues of this nature. Current committee members are Brett MacPherson, Stuart Blundell, and Kevin Beyer
- 7) The WCB committee is a separate committee that is set up to help members with any issues that might arise with compensation through WorkSafe BC. They can help with writing appeal letters, representing members at tribunal hearings and answering questions regarding your compensation cases at Worksafe BC. The Current committee members are Al Sahlen and Bruce Russell