

December 2022

We sit on the edge of the end of a year and the start of new beginning or new year. Before we wrap up the year, I would like to follow up on an item of business from our spring and fall meetings of 2022. This newsletter will address the very important item of accident and incident investigation mutual aid.

I would be remiss if I did not start this newsletter without acknowledging that we are fast approaching what is often thought of as the “holiday season.” A privilege not enjoyed by every organization, but the DNA of the Labor Division and the Labour Movement in general is our vast diversity. In deference to this diversity, it is my hope that if you celebrate at this time of the year that you will find happiness and reason to celebrate. The growth of the division also equates to welcoming of traditions and customs that do not celebrate at this time of year, but nonetheless, I hope for safety and happiness for all. There will also be those that will not celebrate this year due to illness and loss and so much more. I ask for kindness and respect and that we be gracious and supportive of each and everyone of us.

In Solidarity

Paul Chaney, Labour Division Chairperson

Discussed at both our spring and fall meetings of 2022 was a need for mutual aid in the area of incident and accident investigation. To be clear, this is not about teaching, instructing or training investigators. It is about establishing a process for mutual aid to those involved in investigations. It needs to also be said that there will be significant differences in terms of what can and cannot be investigated across the membership and the country. Factors that impact this will range from the regulatory environment to collective agreement language. Nevertheless, the plan is to seek out those interested in such an initiative. Those interested in subscribing to assistance and those able to provide assistance should indicate their interest.

At present the plan to activate this plan is to subscribe to an instant messaging program. At present no choice on program has been made and the plan is to consult over what will be most useful. In the interim people are being asked to indicate their interest by dropping a note to divisions@nsc.org.

It cannot be emphasized enough, but in closing, we know that less than adequate investigations lead to worsening outcomes for incidents and accidents that recur due to the failure to address issues in a timely manner. On behalf of the Labor Division, thank you and thank you on behalf of those that will be less likely to experience injury, disease or worse because you stepped up to ask for help or to offer help.

Paul