



# SafeTalk



## Steelworkers Attend FCM in Edmonton



The United Steelworkers had a booth at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities convention recently held in Edmonton, Alberta. USW representatives discussed with FCM delegates what the Stop the Killing campaign was about and why endorsing our resolution was important.

Hundreds of delegates to the annual Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) convention in Edmonton, Alberta stopped at the USW booth to find out more about the Stop the Killing campaign, and almost all were very supportive of our efforts. Mayors and Councillors from across Canada attend the five-day event. Unfortunately, our motion didn't make it to the floor but we succeeded in being ranked high should they have had more time. Hopefully the new FCM executive will consider our resolution.

We would like to thank Local 1-424 for the draw donation and Scott Ruston, Jessie Uppal, Sylvia Boyce, Mario Fortunato and Ron Corbeil for staffing the USW booth.



Former IWA first-vice president and current Mayor of Merritt BC Neil Menard stopped by the booth to say hello to District HSE coordinator Ron Corbeil



Assistant to the District 3 Director Scott Lunny, spoke at the CUPE BC convention asking for support of the USW call for a public inquiry.

Delegates at the CUPE BC Convention unanimously passed a resolution of support for the USW call for a public inquiry into the 2012 sawmill explosions at the Babine Forest Products mill in Burns Lake and the Lakeland mill in Prince George BC.

## Coming Events

- July 13 Carl Charlie/Robert Luggi Inquest, Burns Lake BC
- July 20 - 21 Aboriginal Workshop, Winnipeg Man.
- September 9 - 11 SFL Health & Safety Conference, Saskatoon Sask.

## Forest Industry Employers and Workers Host Health & Wellness Conference



Participants listen to Local 480 Safety Chair Gord Menelaws and Teck, Trail smelter Human Resource Manager Chris Gelay discussed the health and wellness program at the Trail smelter.

Approximately 70 participants attended the 1st Annual Forest Industry Health and Wellness conference in Burnaby BC. Participants heard from a number of speakers who described what makes for a good health and wellness program as well as the benefits, both human and financial. All of the presentations will be made available soon.

## Project Manager Guilty of Five Criminal Charges in Scaffolding Collapse Deaths

A Toronto project manager who sent his crew up 13 storeys without being properly secured was convicted Friday in their deaths, more than five years after their scaffolding collapsed and sent them plummeting to the ground. Vadim Kazenelson was found guilty of four counts of criminal negligence causing death and one count of criminal negligence causing bodily harm for a fifth worker who was seriously injured in the fall on Christmas Eve, 2009. Kazenelson was aware that fall protections were not in place, but he nevertheless allowed his workers to board the swing stage, Ontario Superior Court Judge Ian MacDonnell said. "In his failure to act, he showed wanton and reckless disregard," MacDonnell said in his judgment. "Not only did he fail to do anything to rectify this obvious and serious peril, he permitted all six of the workers to climb on board the stage with their tools."

## History of Dangers of Asbestos Video

The BC Labour Heritage Centre, with the support of WorkSafeBC, creates films that focus on labour events that have influenced the development of worker's health and safety in British Columbia. [Click Here](#)

## HAZARD ALERT

### McIntyre Powder Project Seeks Justice for Exposed Miners

**Injury Type:** Undetermined injuries  
**Core Activity:** Manual tree falling and bucking  
Two certified fallers were falling trees on a right-of-way. One was seriously injured when his upper body was struck by a tree felled by his falling partner.

**Injury Type:** Fatal  
**Core Activity:** Outdoor sport tour  
A professional mountain ski guide succumbed to injuries suffered in a catastrophic snow avalanche.

**Injury Type:** Bruising and soreness (3 workers)  
**Core Activity:** Integrated forest management  
Three workers, including two young workers, were at a cable logging operation. One worker felled an intermediate tree onto a slack skyline (a cable used to suspend a carriage for hauling logs). A felled tree lying on the slack skyline above the worker released and rolled down the hill, striking that worker and two other workers.

**Injury Type:** Concussion  
**Core Activity:** Manual tree falling and bucking  
A certified manual faller was falling a tree at the base of a rock bluff inside a cutblock. When the tree fell, another small tree uprooted off the rock bluff outside the cutblock and struck the faller.

**Injury Type:** Close call  
**Core Activity:** Pulp and paper mill  
During the loading of a freighter docked at a pulp mill, both generators providing power to the ship's cranes lost power. A 35 tonne load of paper free-fell into the ship's hold. The emergency stop function on one of the ship's two cranes did not function.

**Injury Type:** Fatal  
**Core Activity:** Integrated forest management  
A worker returning home from a remote logging camp was fatally injured in a motor vehicle accident on a public roadway.

**Injury Type:** Close call  
**Core Activity:** Blasting or avalanche control  
Flyrock from a blast site damaged nearby homes and vehicles. No injuries were reported. The blaster's certificate was seized and is under review by WorkSafeBC.

**Injury Type:** Violence in the workplace  
**Core Activity:** Gas bar or service station  
A masked person carrying a knife entered a store and demanded cash and cigarettes from the cashier. The cashier complied and the person left the store. The cashier locked the doors and called 911. The worker was not physically injured.

**Injury Type:** Close call  
**Core Activity:** Tree planting or cone picking  
A self-propelled barge (landing-craft style) with 17 workers on board was being moved to a new camp location when the barge began taking on water. The workers abandoned the vessel by transferring onto a crew boat that was being towed behind the barge.

A new project hopes to raise awareness and support for miners who were exposed to McIntyre Powder and who may now suffer a work-related neurological disorder.

The McIntyre Powder Project is a labour of love for Janice Martell. Her father, Jim Hobbs, a retired Elliot Lake miner, suffers from Parkinson's disease, a condition Martell believes is associated with his workplace exposure to aluminum dust. From 1943 until about 1979, Ontario miners were routinely treated with inhalable aluminum dust, also known as McIntyre Powder, named after McIntyre Porcupine Mines Ltd., that patented the therapy. Miners received these government-sanctioned, employer-mandated treatments in change rooms ("dryes") or in special air-tight chambers as a protective measure against silica-related disease. The treatment was widely used where silica exposure was common, especially in mines and in ceramic and brick factories.

The use of McIntyre Powder in Ontario mines continued until 1979, although its ability to prevent silicosis was long questioned. After their own evaluation, the British Medical Research Council recommended in 1956 against the use of aluminum powder in the treatment and prevention of silicosis. For many years, research evidence has studied the possible link between environmental and occupational exposures to aluminum and neurological disorders including Alzheimer's and Parkinson's.

Occupational disease symptoms may not develop until decades after exposure, and because McIntyre Powder is no longer used in Ontario mines, Martell worries that exposed miners are suffering in silence, the link to their workplace exposures lost forever. Along with neurologic effects, she has spoken with miners who went on to develop silicosis despite the preventive claims of McIntyre Powder.

To learn more about the McIntyre Powder Project or to share your own experience go to [www.mcintyrepowderproject.com/](http://www.mcintyrepowderproject.com/)

### Manitoba to ease PTSD claims for all covered

The Manitoba government recently introduced legislation that will provide the broadest workers compensation coverage in Canada for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

The bill recognizes PTSD as a work-related occupational disease. It would, like a similar law passed in 2012 in Alberta, start from the presumption that the PTSD suffered by an individual stemmed from an event or events at work, as long as a medical professional diagnoses it as such.

However, Manitoba Premier Greg Selinger said his New Democratic Party (NDP) government is going a step further by applying the law to "all workers" covered by the province's Workers Compensation Board – nurses, retail-store employees and more – and not just first responders.

Post-traumatic stress disorder is an intense emotional and psychological response to a recent or past traumatic event that is life-threatening, very disturbing, or stressful. It involves exposure to trauma involving death or the threat of death, serious injury, or sexual violence. It could be an event or situation that one experiences oneself or something that happens to others, including loved ones.