

MINISTRY OF NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT & MINES

MERC MEETING MINUTES

Date: Thursday, January 19th, 2017

Location: 159 Cedar St., 7th Floor, Onaping Boardroom, Sudbury

FOR OPSEU:	FOR THE EMPLOYER:
Robert Sjonnesen - Co-Chair Cheryl McDonald – Member (t/c) Greg Paju - Member Blair Pitfield – Staff Resource Siobhan O’Leary - Alternate (t/c) Linda Bouchard-Berzel - Alternate (t/c)	Caroline Savarie - Co-Chair Jack Parker - Member John Guerard – Member (t/c) Justin O’Gorman - Staff Resource (t/c) Pauline Ross – Staff Resource
Regrets:	
Recorder: Carrie Laframboise	

AGENDA ITEM	ISSUE	ACTION REQUIRED
	OPSEU chaired the meeting that came to order at 9:05am.	
1. Adoption of Agenda	Adopted as is.	
2. Recognition of New OPSEU Members and Alternates	New members welcomed.	
3. Business Arising From Previous Minutes	Health & Safety– Vehicles Travelling in Non-Cell Territory: Management provided a summary of the new remote travel guideline and the roll out which occurred November 1 st to REDB staff. Management reported this new travel guideline will be rolled out to all staff across the Ministry with a release	

	<p>scheduled for mid to late February 2017.</p> <p>OPSEU discussed some concern with the OnStar type technologies as they have similar limitations to cell phones in Northern Ontario. Main concern is where staff relies on the buddy system or the OnStar type systems that they have a way to reach out in case of an emergency. Management committed to talk with staff to manage risks such as avoiding travel at night, where feasible.</p> <p>OPSEU suggested that the Ministry adopt a policy where staff do not go out in remote non-cell territory locations without the ability to make contact in the event of an emergency. Management encourages all staff to discuss any risks they have identified with their manager to determine an appropriate solution.</p> <p>French Language Training Policy:</p> <p>Management reported the policy around beginner level French Language Training was revoked.</p> <p>Health and Productivity Program (HPP) Presentation:</p> <p>Blair provided a high level overview on the HPP Program adopted in MCYS. The program is supported by a joint committee found at every worksite where Union and Management work together to resolve accommodation and return to work issues.</p> <p>Encouraging Positive Labour Relations (Joint Communication to OPSEU Represented Employees):</p> <p>A draft memo was presented and proposed to be sent out in an email to all OPSEU staff members and MNDM managers.</p>	<p>Director of REDB to reach out to area team managers to ensure they are discussing travel concerns with staff that travel in remote non-cell coverage areas. Provide solutions as required to ensure all employees traveling in remote non-cell territory have the ability to make contact.</p> <p>Blair to provide the MCYS terms of reference for the HPP Program for our review and consideration.</p> <p>Co-chairs will finalise and sign memo for distribution.</p>
<p>4. Practice for Alternates Attendance</p>	<p>Alternates may participate in MERC and OPSEU pre-caucus meetings by teleconference to observe in order to be prepared in the event they are called upon to act as members.</p>	

5. Standing Items	<p>a) Fixed Term Reports: Report for the period ending December 31st 2016 will be provided to MERC Co-Chair and the OPS Central Negotiator. Report for period ending September 30th 2016 was provided.</p> <p>b) Inclusion Update: Call out for new members and existing Inclusion Council members was just sent out for the current membership year. OPSEU members interested in joining should contact Tanya Goudreau. The next Inclusion Summit is currently scheduled for April 2017.</p> <p>c) TEI Current Status: Management provided an update on TEI status.</p> <p>d) 2016-17 Program Review and Renewal Transformation (PRRT) Update: nothing to report at this time.</p> <p>e) ASMP Report: Management provided a report as at September 24, 2016.</p>	
6. Other Business	No new business at this time.	
7. Schedule for Upcoming Year	Possible dates for next meetings April 27 2017 September 14 2017 November 30 2017	Carrie will send out a list of dates to confirm availability followed by calendar invitations to hold the new meeting dates.

For the Union

For the Employer

Robert Sjoernes
Robert Sjoernes

Jan 30, 2017
Date

Caroline Savarie
Caroline Savarie

Jan 30, 2017
Date

