

**Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and
Ministry of Indigenous Affairs
MERC Minutes**

In attendance:

For OPSEU:

Elaine Bagnall (Co-Chair)
Christopher Bierman
Helene Scott
Glenna Caldwell
Antonio (Tony) Crispino

For the Employer:

Donna Walton (Co-Chair)
Brain Locke
Ross Hart
Laura Aitchison
Trevor Kavalchuk (Minutes)
Kerri Boyd

Regrets:

Carly Jones

Administrative Items:

Approval of Agenda

Agenda approved.

Standing Items:

1. MYPP Disclosure/Reductions and Vacancy/Surplus/New Position Listings

The Employer provided no updates.

2. Employee Engagement/Inclusion/Accessibility/Diversity

The Employer continues to work closely with the Anti-Racism Directorate to promote inclusion and diversity. Updates will be provided as this work continues.

3. Fixed Term Position Conversion/Seasonal Employee Statistics

OPSEU Acknowledges receipt of the Fixed Term position conversion report and will forward questions relating to the report to the Employer.

Business Arising:

4. Classification Issues

a) 2017-02 Conservation Officer Job Specs

The Employer is in the processes of reviewing the Conservation Officer Job Specs. The disclosure will be provided when available.

Action Item: The Employer will confirm the timelines.

b) Class Standards

This item has been referred to CERC, parties to discuss when CERC responds.

c) Appendix 7 – Special Cases

The Employer has completed a review of the material for the Aircraft Maintenance Engineer special case. Job Evaluation and Initiatives Branch will review the information.

OPSEU will advise the Employer with respect to next steps for the Accommodation Officer special case.

5. COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

The Employer continues to follow the guidance provided by Treasury Board Secretariat, Public Health and in consultation with Joint Health and Safety Committees.

OPSEU asked questions with respect to field based position which require regular use of Ministry Fleet Vehicles. The Employer advised that there are COVID-19 protocols in place for the use and disinfection of fleet vehicles. The Employer commits to continue the conversation internally and will raise the concerns with the appropriate tables. The parties agree to further discussion on the assignment of fleet resources.

6. LERC

The Employer provided a list of LERC committees that the Employer is currently aware of. OPSEU will canvass to determine whether there are additional committees which have not been identified.

The Employer requested an update on the LERC training provided jointly by OPSEU and the Employer. OPSEU continues to discuss ways to deliver training moving forward given the current restrictions.

7. Enforcement Branch Schedule Change

The parties agree to continue ongoing discussions on the matter.

8. King Air Pilots

The Ministry continues to provide meaningful work for the affected employees. The Employer does not have further updates at this time.

New Business:

9. T2200

The Employer continues to engage TBS on the topic. Employees are encouraged to discuss the process of obtaining signature with their Local Manager. Additional information can be obtained via [Canada Revenue Agency](#) or the [Questions and answers for OPS employees re: 2019 novel coronavirus](#) (Question 37).

10. Mandatory Courses and Certification

The Employer currently maintains a list of Mandatory Courses and Certifications on the Strategic HR Business Units intranet page. OPSEU requested the Employer explore ways to ensure employees remain current with mandatory course and maintain certifications. The Employer will follow-up on this request.

11. Separate meeting for presentation on the employee engagement survey results

The Employer provided the Employee Engagement Survey results.

Action Item: OPSEU to review the Employee Engagement Survey Results provided by the Employer and will advise whether a specific meeting is required to discuss the results.

12. 2020 Budget -Will there be a restraint/cut on the ministry budget

The Employer commits to sharing information that can be shared and will do so following established processes.

13. Mandate Letter for the MNRF and IAO

OPSEU requested the Employer provide the mandate letters for MNRF and IAO. The Employer will consider the request.

14. Next Meeting Date

OPSEU will provide proposed meeting dates following the meeting, and the parties agree to discuss future dates.

Approved on October 29, 2020

For the Union

Elaine Bagnall

Date

Approved on October 29, 2020

For the Ministry

Donna Walton

Date