



HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES' UNION

4.43.

PROVINCIAL OFFICE:

5000 North Fraser Way, Burnaby, BC V5J 5M3 • TEL: 604-438-5000 • FAX: 604-739-1510 • WEB: www.heu.org

November 22, 2006

By Fax: 604-233-9777

Email: FUTUREHS@worksafebc.com

Douglas Enns, Chairperson
Board of Directors
WorkSafe BC
Box 4700, Stn Terminal
Vancouver, BC V6B 1J1

Dear Mr. Enns and the Board of Directors:

On behalf of the 42,000 members of the Hospital Employees' Union, I am writing in regards to working alone and employee safety.

Regulations designed to protect late night workers from "Gas-and-Dash" violence of the sort that cost the life of gas station attendant Grant De Patie must be written and implemented as to avoid future injury and death of workers who work alone.

We agree the draft Regulations under consideration to require prepayment for gas purchased between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. are a step in the right direction, but do not go far enough.

We must also ensure that employers are proactive and develop and implement written procedures for checking the well-being of workers who are assigned to work alone or in isolation and under conditions which present a risk of disabling injury, or even death. The worker must be able to obtain assistance quickly when a need arises.

Such procedures must include time intervals between the checks and must be developed and monitored to ensure compliance.

We need to have new Regulations, including new requirements to have at least two workers working on late night shifts, locking of doors between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. and expanding the "Pay-Before-You-Pump" Regulation to 24 hours.

.....2

Other recommendations would be:

- Install physical barriers such as bullet-resistant enclosures with pass through windows;
- Increase staffing levels even further at night at stores with a history of robbery or assault and located in high crime areas; and and/or
- Limit or restrict areas of customer access, reduce the hours of operation, or close portions of the store to limit risk.

Upon adoption of new Regulations, WorkSafe BC should ensure that implementation and a comprehensive education and enforcement campaign at worksites is mandatory so that employers comply with the new Regulations.

Yours truly,



Fred Muzin
President

FM/dm

cc: Provincial Executive
J. Brar, MLA - jagrup.brar.mla@leg.bc.ca
C. Puchmayr, MLA - chuck.puchmayr@leg.bc.ca
Olga Ilich, Ministry of Labour - LCS.Minister@gov.bc.ca
BC Federation of Labour
New Westminster and District Labour Council
Vancouver and District Labour Council

V:\Administration CEP Documents\Debbie\misc\WORKING ALONE ltr.doc