



**Sudbury Mine Mill & Smelter Worker's Union**  
**Local 598/Unifor**  
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## **BRINKS CANADA (Sudbury) NEWSLETTER**

*March 2016*

Dear Fellow Members,

On March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016 during our quarterly meeting, we had a presentation given to us by Joel Carr, National Representative with Health & Safety and the Environment. He gave a presentation on diesel exhaust with regards to Human health in the workplace. I was surprised to learn that there are over eight hundred thousand workers exposed to diesel exhaust in the workplace. I was also surprised to learn that the only place in Canada with regulations with regards to exposure to diesel are in the mine industries only. That being said, we have a long way to go with getting our own industry regulated for exposure to diesel.

The effects of exposure to diesel are numerous. Here are some to name a few.

- Chronic bronchitis
- Excess phlegm in the lungs – emphazema
- C.O.P.D.
- Narrows of arteries (can cause heart attack)
- Eye irritation
- Throat irritation
- Inflammation
- Changes to dna
- Diesel exhaust suppresses the enzyme that breaks down the plaque that occurs in the heart
- Diesel increases the amount of free radicals and decreases the anti-oxidents

These are only a small sample of the effects of diesel exhaust on the human body. Attached, I have included a more detailed facts sheet on the effects of diesel exhaust. Please take the time to read through.

There are many contributing factors that lead to chronic disease in our industry, the challenge is to identify them and then address them in order to improve our chances of being disease free. Even in situations of sitting for long periods of time can lead to chronic disease.

On another note, Johnathan and I have been working hard at bringing the branch up to standards with regards to health & safety. We will be ordering first aid supplies, extinguishers and have updated our hazardous materials safety data binder. We still have a lot more work left to do but we are getting there.

I've been told that renovations at our branch (money room) will still be taking place and that is good as we are anticipating acquiring significant work.

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On a different topic, the last three weeks, our Toronto crew has experienced issues with regards to the new technologies on their truck. Not only has this caused a significant cost to the company, but an even bigger concern is how this technologies has failed and this creates a safety hazard to the employees on this run. Rest assured, I will be bringing this issue to our National Health & Safety Policy Committee.

Continue to bring any of your concerns forward so we can address the issue in a timely manner.

As always, BE SAFE!

In Solidarity,

*Gates St. Louis*

Gates St. Louis  
Unit Chair/Co-Chair  
N.H.S.P.C. member  
Executive Board Member



*United we stand, divided we fall*