

Report of the National Vice-President, Equity, Kelly Bush

The last report submitted was to the end of August and I did not follow the schedule of January-March, March-June and then June-September. This report will be for the month of September.

September saw a lot of activity on the return-to-work front. Discussions began by GSU asking when the new Interim Work Agreement was to be done. This led to a new position of returning back to the workplace. We were advised that there is a new way to do this, and it will be in People Soft so the department would wait and do the new agreement in the software once launched. GSU along with CAPE and PIPSC continue to meet with the RPB and HRB every 3 weeks on Covid updates.

The working group for Bill C-65, Policy on the Harassment and Violence Prevention in the workplace was finally restructured. There will be a policy drafting group struck soon and I will be on that team. So, any experience you have with the policy would be very important to bring forward at this time. I will share a couple of areas of concern:

1. The employer wants staff members to be internal investigators.
2. Currently the investigators are being chosen off a standing offer list (they are supposed to be requesting approval first).
3. We have to work out the fact-finding report versus the C-65 report as it's important to not revictimize the complainant.
4. We must develop a process for how investigators are struck off the list (for both parties, right now it's at the sole discretion of the employer).
5. Ensure that all areas are true to the legislation and regulations.

If you have any experience or concern in the areas above or wish to provide input on areas not noted above, please reach out to myself with a cc to David Girard.

We continue to have consultation meetings, including one for the Departmental Oversight Branch. They are looking at a common access prototype. The project sponsor is The Canadian Safety and Security Program managed by Defense and we are a project authority with co-lead being the RCMP. They will be testing tail gating technology, barrier turnstiles, facial recognition, and contactless scanners. We were assured that participation would be 100% voluntary, so if you have volunteered or know someone who has please contact me to share your experiences.

We had our monthly meeting of the GSU equity committee in September where we discussed the anti-racism action plan for GSU.

We had a national council meeting which I was unable to attend due to travel schedules and then our Local Presidents meetings. I am sorry to report that I was ill for those meetings and at the request of participants (due to my coughing) I stayed away from the meetings and events.

I would like to thank the members, National Council, my fellow NVP's and our National President for their continued support. It goes without saying but will be said that none of us could do our jobs well without the help of the GSU National Office.

Finally, September closed with Orange Shirt Day, or the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, I hope you were able to connect with a local community, watch a movie on the institutions of genocide and read the GSU article on Orange Shirt Day.

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