

NVP IRCC report fall 2019

That this year has been difficult for me personally is an understatement. My husband of 29 years passed away and then my Dad passed away in June and my sister who is battling Alzheimer's is on death's doorstep. Being my husband's and father's executor is another point of pressure. However the good part of life is that I am busy with Union work and enjoying the challenges here.

I have attended several National Labour Management and the National Policy Health and Safety Committee (and its subsidiary Mental Health Committee) meetings in Ottawa and of course the National Executive meetings for CEIU.

I have attended (as an Observer) the Human Rights and Race relations national Conference in Winnipeg where I had the honour of unveiling the new CEIU Logo Pride (LGBT2+) flag at this event. The meetings were both empowering and emotional not the least of which was the powerful key note address by Nia Gillies to the assembled Delegates and Observers. I also attended the Western Presidents Conference in Winnipeg from May 31st to June 2nd 2019. I was to be an Observer but as the President of the Local I work at (20938) was not able to attend and the short time to the conference, I became the Delegate. It was an honor to represent my co-workers at this conference. I have also been selected to attend the PSAC National Health and Safety Conference November 29th through December 01st 2019.

The Mental Health Committee at IRCC has taken it upon itself to develop a Mental Health incident report that can be used to better reflect the issues facing us each and every day. And we talk about the issues facing us and the challenges we are faced with on an ongoing way and how to deal with them more effectively.

The NPHSC deals with incidents, accommodation issues and how better to deal with again ongoing issue facing the membership. We talk extensively on workload and hiring practices as we do at the NLMCC meetings.

At the NLMCC meetings I always bring up workload and the response is always that they are hiring like crazy. But it seems all hiring goes to new pet projects and not the existing shortcomings of the Department. "doing more with less" and old Brian Mulroney mantra seems to have finally been by and large reduced to a more acceptable number of processing for final interview clients in some offices. Conversations on better communication from Management to the Union leadership for our ongoing support will be happening shortly. The fact that the new opening of the PEI office having been only communicated to a select few people but not to the President or yours truly needs to stop. Having brought back testing in the Citizenship program is a great sign of IRCC taking back its responsibilities but it never communicated this with me again even though for many years I bitterly complained about the fact that contracting out only make it possible for bribery etc.. So, if the new mantra for Management is to have better relations with the Union, they better start to act like it.

This will be my last year as NVP IRCC as I will not be seeking a new mandate. I shall be retiring after CEIU's convention 2020. I of course will be reporting out several more times but wanted to let you know now to see if there are people interested in becoming the next NVP IRCC and you would have a year to be active and get your name out there.

In Solidarity,

Paul Croes

NVP IRCC