

Hello

I am just reaching out with an update and I'll be talking about production volumes, training, and department meetings.

Production Volumes.

I am sure that many of you are disappointed at the rate at which production volumes are picking up now that both strikes are over. We currently have 9 productions shooting, 5 in prep, and 2 that have recently wrapped. This means that although some members are working, many of us are not. Which I know is frustrating.

We are starting to see more productions being added to the Rumour Mill, and there are others out there, but as for when production volumes will pick up in a more substantial way, I'm afraid I do not know.

My understanding is that for 2024 the total number of productions that will shoot in North America will be lower than we have seen in previous years, but that those productions will be bigger. What this means is that although there will be fewer productions those productions will require more workers. So, production volumes will increase, but when, and by how much, and what level they will get to, I do not know.

I understand that right now we all want to see some kind of vision of what 2024 will look like, but this is the best information that I have at the moment.

Training.

The Pilot Training Policy that our Local has been trialing for the last several months will expire at the end of this month. After that it is up to the Executive Board to decide if we will keep the pilot policy, revert to the old policy, or go in another direction.

The difference between the old policy and the pilot policy are that the old policy gave a 60% reimbursement up to a maximum of \$1,000 for a fixed number of pre-approved courses. The pilot policy has a smaller reimbursement of 50% reimbursement up to a maximum of \$1,000 but the number of available courses is much, much larger in that almost any course that provides a certificate of completion is eligible. The old policy also had some software reimbursements that are not available under the pilot policy.

Personally, I believe the pilot policy is a step forward for the Grip Department. The increased number of courses benefits more members and I'd like to see the pilot policy adopted. With that in mind, I would like to hear any comments, good or bad, that you may have about this.

Equipment Training.

If you are planning on completing any equipment training such as Forklift, Telehandler, or renewing your lift tickets, please book that training through ActSafe and not directly with the training provider. The reason I ask this is that ActSafe gives us a discounted price and although reimbursement is at 100%, the pre-approved amount is 100% of the discounted price available through ActSafe.

Training can be booked through ActSafe's website which can be found [here](#). If there are no course dates listed, or there are no convenient course dates available, call them on 604-733-4682, as there are other course dates available. And if you still can't find a convenient course date, let me know and I'll help you.

If you have already completed equipment training after booking directly with a training provider, and have not been reimbursed the full amount let me know and I will see what I can do.

Department Meetings.

We are continuing to hold our department meetings monthly with the next meeting coming up this Sunday. This will be a hybrid meeting meaning that members can attend in person or remotely via zoom. I'd like to hold all meetings this way, but it's not always possible as there isn't always a meeting room available for the in person attendees. This is particularly true when holding 12 meetings a year. What I don't want to do though is drop the online part of the meeting. It really increases the number of members that can attend and removes a barrier for many such as those that do not live in the Lower Mainland or are pressed for time as many of us are.

I also want to share some advantages of attending department meetings other than having a say in the decisions that are being made. We will be raffling Grip Department t-shirts and hoodies at each meeting. Denis Marcotte was the lucky winner for our December. Also, attending department meetings can increase training opportunities for you. The Executive Board recently introduced a policy requiring members to have attended at least 1 department meeting

within the last 12 months to attend any training that involves travel. Attendance at department meetings is also a deciding factor in deciding which members attend training such as the Canadian Labour Conference's Winter School or other Union training.

In Closing.

In closing, I rarely do wish that I had better and more tangible information about how this year is going to look, but I don't, and this is what I do have. And if you have questions about training, or hiring practices, interpreting the Master Agreement, or anything else please don't hold back on reaching out. I will always rather you ask than not. If I've got the answer I'll let you know, and if I don't have the answer I'll find out who does.

Take care, and best wishes

Yours in Solidarity

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A Rising Tide Floats All Boats

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