

# *FACNC STEWARD BULLETIN*

SEPTEMBER 8, 2020



## **IS YOUR WORKPLACE SAFE?**

Welcome Back to those of you embarking on your first COVID term and congratulations to those of you who have been teaching or providing student services in person or remotely during the intersession!

While there has been no consultation with the Employer over its Safety Plan there is some useful information on general restrictions for distancing and cleaning routines contained in the CNC Safety Plan. However, I write to assure you that like all other workers in BC you have the right to refuse work if you believe your workplace is unsafe. With the exception of some of you who hold medically relevant degrees and certification, the rest of us can only react to a situation we believe to be unsafe by making reasonable assumptions. For all faculty who are conducting in person instruction, if you feel that your workplace is unsafe you need to dismiss the class and retreat to a safe place to contact your supervisor to relay information about why you believe that your environment is unsafe. For instructions on how to proceed, please see Article 15.6.5 of the local collective agreement.

Further, we have no obligation to monitor or police our students. While it is reasonable to add to your course outline the necessary information on not coming to the class/the college when you are ill, performing the necessary 'self-checks', conforming to the use of the required PPE, and retaining social distancing and hand sanitation; faculty cannot be expected to be reminding students whose behaviour

violates any of the required restrictions. If you witness a student(s) who you believe is endangering the health or safety of others as it relates to the COVID restrictions, you need to dismiss the group from the instructional space and report. If you are in another type of space at CNC you also need to report any potentially compromising behaviour.

Finally, since this fall may mean a continued increase in COVID cases and/or a 'second wave', please keep this in mind when considering if you have to actually enter the college. With the exception of those faculty who are teaching face-to-face the rest of us should not be at a campus. Meetings can be carried out virtually and the fewer people in a building the better the odds of keeping down the numbers of COVID cases or even outbreaks.

In solidarity,

Jan Mastromatteo,

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