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A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello everyone!

We've had a difficult spring, the weather not being on our side. Shipping slowed down noticeably.

The labour disputes on construction sites across Quebec in May didn't help to improve the early part of the year for us. Let's hope that the parties will work things out by next

October, and that an agreement will be reached in the long term.

On a more positive note, it looks as though, from 2018, the industry might resume some growth after a few challenging years. We're obviously monitoring the market very closely and, as usual, we'll be on the lookout for new opportunities for our company.

Finally, I wish you a wonderful summer vacation and a very busy fall season!

Éric Bernier, President



ABF management wishes you a wonderful summer vacation with your loved ones!

Take this opportunity to recharge your batteries!

Good news!

Here are a few of the projects recently obtained by ABF:

- ★ HQ Tracy plant #15512445 / Sorel-Tracy
- ★ Chateau Bellevue / Val-Belair
- ★ Parkhaven Phase 3 Cote St-Luc / Montreal
- ★ Equinoxe Cote St-Luc Tower A / Montreal
- ★ HQ Judith-Jasmin substation #15332201 / Terrebonne
- ★ MTO #2016-4002 Hwy 401 & Hwy 15 Cataraqui / Kingston
- ★ Domaine sous les bois / Sillery

Welcome to all the new ABF team employees!

Upcoming Statutory Holidays

Friday, June 23, 2017 (St-Jean-Baptiste Day)

Friday, June 30, 2017 (Canada Day)

A WORD FROM OUR PRODUCTION MANAGER

ISO IN OUR DAILY LIVES

QUALITY AUDIT

On May 24 and 25, we successfully underwent our last surveillance audit for the 2008 version of ISO 9001. We're now under obligation to migrate to the 2015 version of this standard in a registration audit scheduled for May 2018. Every single one of the company's processes will be audited, from quotes to steel installation on construction sites.

I want to thank everyone who was met with as part of the audit; your cooperation was greatly appreciated. As for those who may be disappointed not to have been included in the meetings, keep smiling; you never know who our auditor will kindly pick next year.



SUPPORT FOR ALL OF ABF'S PROCESSES !

For a long time, we mistakenly believed that ISO meant products devoid of flaws... ABSOLUTELY WRONG! Rather, it's a tool, paid for by the employer and put at everyone's disposal to try to prevent the occurrence and reoccurrence of errors. Too often, we still rely on the fact that we have an in-house Mr. or Ms. Quality Control who will fix any problems that might arise, and we wait for things to resolve themselves. ABSOLUTELY WRONG! Each and every one of us has a role to play.

WHAT IS MY ROLE IN ALL THIS ?

1 - **Raise a flag!** Don't wait for nonconformities to add up, and above all don't wait until you get frustrated, before bringing attention to an undesirable situation. Make a phone call; send an email, a text message or a photo... Remember that I'm also here to follow up on reports.

2- **Be part of the solution!** Suggest solutions and take part in the problem resolution process. Don't wait for others to do all the work for you. Your contribution is essential!

3- **Keep tabs!** Allow for an adjustment period, then do your own follow-up. If the problem hasn't been solved but there's an improvement, we're moving in the right direction!

"What is an audit? An audit is a third-party examination of our processes, of our methods and of the documents we use, aimed at insuring that we meet the requirements of the ISO 9001 standard. "

SHARING KNOWLEDGE

There's another element of this process that shouldn't be neglected and that can affect its smooth operation: we don't have a clear understanding of what other people's work really involves.

Is there anything we think we're doing well as part of our job that makes the next department's work more difficult?

This is why I'll be making more frequent visits to construction sites with the goal of understanding few things. Whenever possible, I'll bring along plant employees, benders, loading supervisors, foremen and team leaders so that they can talk with reinforcing iron workers, sharing their knowledge and the realities of their jobs. The more information each side has, the better the overall view will be, and improvements will be inevitable!

Don't hesitate to take a plant tour; it's a good way to break out of your routine! We'll even accommodate you if you want to chat for a few minutes!

Sébastien Bérubé, Production Manager

FOREMEN'S MEETING

On May 11, there was a meeting of ABF Reinforcing Steel's foremen for the Montreal area at the Hôtel de Mortagne in Boucherville. This meeting, attended by 42 foremen, generated very interesting discussions and allowed participants to raise certain issues that will need to be addressed in order to facilitate the work of everyone involved at each step of reinforcing steel installation.

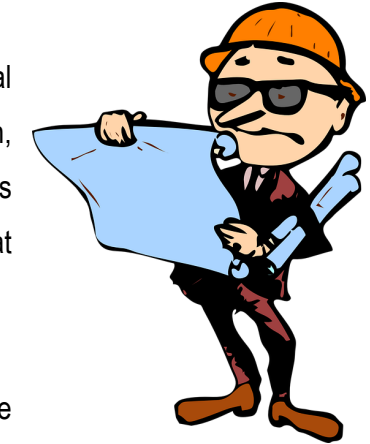
Although the topics on the agenda were numerous, given the planned length of the meeting, we could clearly see the importance of holding this type of dinner on an annual basis. Thanks to this connection between foremen, both newcomers and old hands had the opportunity to exchange views on how they did things and on recommended working methods.



Communications within a business have always been the key to its progress. We therefore want to urge you to provide us with your comments and/or suggestions on any facet that could improve our working methods. The sooner information is known, the sooner it can be acted upon. ABF has always been listened to its employees, and will continue to do so; this will ensure that we remain a leader in our field.

At this meeting, it was announced that a visit of the Victoriaville facilities would be taking place over the next few months. The exact date of this event will be settled soon with the company's management, after which invitations will be sent. We hope many of you will come.

In closing, ABF wishes to thank the Montreal area foremen who took the time to make the journey to attend the meeting. A little later this fall, similar meetings will be held in Quebec City and Ottawa. We're hoping that foremen from these regions will participate in equally large numbers.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Nadeau, Eng.".

Eric Nadeau, Eng.
Vice-President, Construction

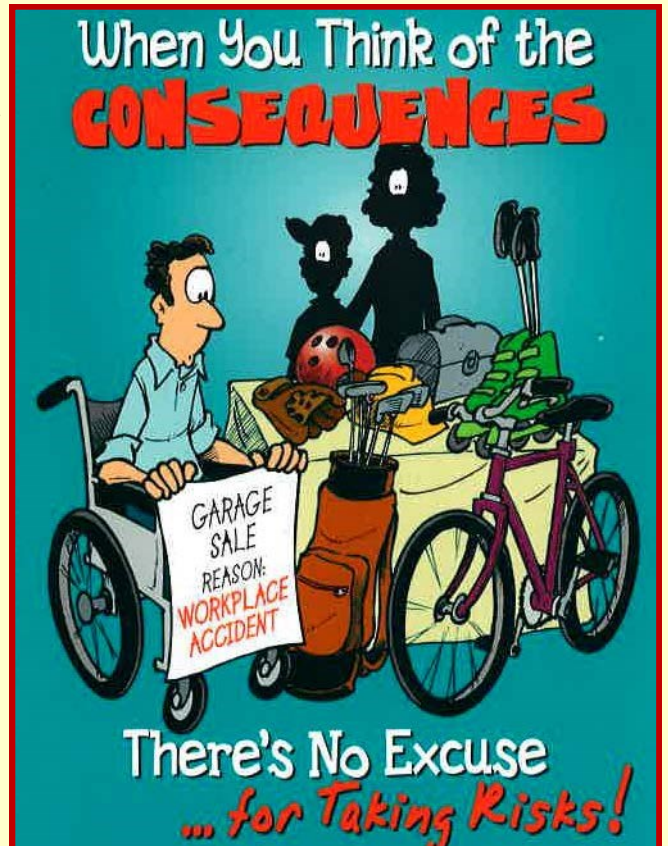
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

At work, whenever someone mentions safety, we immediately think about the various rules, procedures and equipment associated with it. Unfortunately, we tend to overlook the fact that the most important aspect of safety is our own behavior.

Despite everything...

Just how important a role does our behavior play in the prevention of accidents? The answer lies in the fact that despite all the sophisticated safety measures and equipment used in many workplaces today, accidents still happen, and that in many cases, it turns out that human errors or even plain carelessness are involved. But why are people careless? Here are some of the most common reasons:

- ↳ Hurry
- ↳ Habit (routine)
- ↳ A false impression of safety (unperceived danger or underestimated consequences)
- ↳ Overconfidence (in oneself)
- ↳ Peer pressure (from colleagues)
- ↳ Misleading probabilities (no accident happened before)
- ↳ Lack of experience and/or training



Too much to lose

The thing to remember is that while an accident has serious consequences on our work (disruption, loss of time, etc.) and our health (injury, disability, etc.), what suffers most as a result of an accident is our own quality of life. As a matter of fact, every single aspect of our existence is jeopardized. For instance :

↳ **Financial / economical aspects**

Loss of income and, in case of a permanent disability, inability to keep the same job and thus continue to earn the same salary.

↳ **Family-related aspects**

Inability to provide for the needs of our family and to continue to play our role within it, and, in the event of a permanent disability or handicap, dependence on the support of the people around us (burden).

↳ **Personal / affective aspects**

Inability to pursue our normal social activities, loss of the satisfaction that comes with having a career or working for a living, obligation to give up our ambitions and projects.

In case of a deadly accident, it is those we leave behind who must live with the most serious consequences...

Watch out for shortcuts !

When we think about the possible consequences, it is quite obvious that there is just no excuse for taking risks. Safe behavior is not just a matter of regulations and procedures; it is, more than anything, a matter of life - **our own !**

Alain Perron, Health and Safety Manager

Don't Mean to Preach, but...

Here are the 10 values or principles that form the basis of safe behaviors:

1. Be careful, at all times and in all places.
2. Always act responsibly, both towards yourself and towards others.
3. Take the time to think before you act, assess the consequences of all your actions beforehand.
4. Obey all rules and follow procedures (do not take shortcuts).
5. Prepare yourself adequately before undertaking any task (directions, warm-up, etc.).
6. Always use the proper tools and equipment, as well as proper working methods.
7. Keep your environment and all your gear orderly, clean and in good condition.
8. Immediately rectify or report any situation that can be a threat to safety.
9. Never underestimate the danger and, above all, never take your safety for granted.
10. Keep a healthy lifestyle (exercise, sleep, nutrition, etc.) so that you are always alert.