



NIDMAR Mourns Loss of Founding Member



It is with much regret that Ken Neumann and Viateur Camiré, NIDMAR Labour and Employer Co-chairs, announce the passing of Henry Nedergard, one of the organization's founding Board members.

In a joint statement on behalf of the entire NIDMAR Board, they extended their sincere condolences to Henry's wife Gunvor, and expressed their appreciation for the lifetime of support and commitment that Henry demonstrated towards better health and safety as well as greater social justice for disabled workers.

Ever since coming to Canada more than 50 years ago, Henry showed a tremendous level of personal commitment, leadership and dedication towards not only improving working conditions in the forest industry but also to contributing to a better society for all. This commitment manifested itself in many different ways: through his election as Health and Safety Vice-President for Steelworkers Local 1-85, a position he held for over 20 years including many years as Chair of the former IWA's Health and Safety Council; his role as President of the Port Alberni and District Labour Council; the many years as a Councillor for the City of Port Alberni, on whose behalf he sat on the NIDMAR Board (after his retirement from the Steelworkers); as well as his long-time participation on the Central Vancouver Island Regional Health Board.

Clearly these activities are a manifestation of the values and beliefs of an individual who gave generously and unselfishly of his time and expertise, never asked for much in return, nor did he look for recognition, but he believed that he could make a contribution that would provide lasting benefit to our society.

We are eternally grateful for the critical contribution he has made to NIDMAR and its success to date, and we will have great difficulty in filling the void which his untimely passing leaves behind.

In Henry's honour, we have established a scholarship for students participating in NIDMAR's educational programming, one which will transfer to the last major vision which Henry was instrumental in materializing, the Pacific Coast University for Workplace Health Sciences Act, which came into force in July 2007.



Ken Neumann and Henry Nedergard



*Wolfgang Zimmermann, Gunvor and
Henry Nedergard*

One individual who well remembers Henry's dedication towards better outcomes for disabled workers is Brian Payne, another NIDMAR founding Board member who is NIDMAR's previous labour co-chair and past president of the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union. "Ever since I joined the Disabled Forestry Workers Foundation in 1986 and got to know Henry much better, I was impressed by his stubborn determination and absolute conviction that workers, who had acquired a disabling condition, deserved much better than simply being sidelined to the margins of society."

"We need to recognize that it was Henry's leadership, together with Earl Foxcroft (fr. President of Steelworkers Local 1-85), Sven Fredrickson and Wolfgang Zimmermann, who in October 1982, created the Disabled Forestry Workers Foundation and it was the beginning of this entire initiative. Over the past 23 years that I worked with Henry on the NIDMAR Board, what I perhaps remember most is his unwavering determination, solid reliability and eternal optimism in spite of the major obstacles and challenges we faced, especially in those early years."

Henry was a great colleague and a friend, and his wisdom, guidance and personal commitment will be greatly missed.