# The Progressive Discipline Seminar For Supervisors and Stewards

How to tackle today's most challenging discipline cases with skill and confidence



Vancouver

June 23, 2016 Fairmont Hotel Vancouver





# The Progressive Discipline Seminar For Supervisors and Stewards

Learn how to put the principles of progressive discipline into action by attending this practical one-day seminar for front-line union and employer representatives.

With the help of an experienced labour lawyer, supervisors and stewards will leave this seminar knowing how to tackle today's toughest discipline cases with skill and confidence.

#### PRESENTER:



**Grant Mitchell, Q.C.**Partner
Taylor McCaffrey LLP
Winnipeg

Grant Mitchell, Q.C. is a labour lawyer and educator with over 30 years of experience representing clients in labour law matters.

Mr. Mitchell has addressed thousands of union and employer representatives across Canada on progressive discipline in the unionized workplace and has earned top ratings for his clear and effective communication style.

He is a partner in the Winnipeg law firm, Taylor McCaffrey LLP.



#### ATTEND AND LEARN:

- The fundamental principles of progressive discipline
- How to apply the principles in common discipline situations
- How improper discipline can be challenged

#### WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

- Front-line supervisors and union stewards from unionized workplaces who need to make informed discipline decisions
- Labour lawyers and inhouse counsel responsible for counselling clients on discipline and discharge

#### SEMINAR BINDER INCLUDES:

- Full coverage of all seminar topics
- Answers to frequently asked discipline questions
- Summaries of important cases

### Discipline? Accommodate?

## Attend this practical one-day seminar and learn how to tackle today's toughest discipline cases with skill and confidence

#### The Fundamentals of Progressive Discipline

Key concepts and underlying principles governing progressive discipline in the unionized workplace:

- · Questions to ask before any discipline is imposed
- The key stages of progressive discipline
- Just cause, mitigating factors and culminating incidents
- Effective and ineffective warnings
- When discipline should never be used

#### **Discipline and Human Rights**

Accommodation and other human rights protections to consider before discipline is imposed:

- · When to discipline, when to accommodate
- Enforceability of automatic-termination clauses
- Enforceability of zero-tolerance policies
- Enforceability of last-chance agreements

#### **Drugs, Alcohol and Discipline**

Guidelines for handling cases of misconduct involving drugs or alcohol:

- Distinguishing between substance abuse and dependency
- Handling impairment at work
- Dealing with the employee in denial
- Practical considerations for accommodating substance-dependent employees

# Bad attitude? Poor performance? Doctor's note? Warning?

#### **Poor Performance and Bad Attitude**

What are appropriate standards of employee performance and how should they be measured?

- Appropriate and inappropriate responses to poor performance
- Defining the standards and communicating them to employees
- Performance standards for probationary employees
- Can an employee be disciplined for bad attitude alone?

#### **Dealing with Excessive Absenteeism**

What are some legitimate employer responses to excessive innocent absenteeism?

- When is absenteeism considered innocent vs. disciplinary?
- How much absenteeism is considered excessive?
- When does termination become an option?
- When can absenteeism policies be challenged on human rights grounds?

#### **Dealing with Pattern Absences**

What options are available to employers when dealing with suspicious absences?

- When do employers have just cause to intervene?
- Appropriate employer responses
- When substance abuse is suspected as the root cause
- Surveillance and other options available to verify suspicious absences

#### **Enforcement of Employer Rules**

When are employer rules valid and enforceable, and when are they subject to union challenge?

- The legal requirements for valid employer rules
- The impact of an unreasonable rule
- How should rules be communicated to employees?
- Enforcing rules that have been unevenly enforced

Registration: 8:00-8:30 a.m.

Seminar: 8:30–4:30 p.m.

Lunch Break: 12:00–1:15 p.m.



1. by mail

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#### The 2016 Accommodation Law Conference

Vancouver May 4 & 5 Ottawa May 24 & 25

#### The Progressive Discipline Seminar for Supervisors and Stewards

Winnipeg June 7
Brandon \*NEW June 8
Saskatoon June 22
Vancouver June 23
Regina June 28
Edmonton June 29

Includes one-day seminar, binder, Certificate of Attendance, continental breakfast and refreshments. Other meals and guestroom accommodations are not included.

Individual \$425 (plus \$21.25 GST = \$446.25) Group (3 + each) \$395 (plus \$19.74 GST = \$414.75) Super Group (7 + each) \$365 (plus \$18.25 GST = \$383.25)

To qualify for group rates, individuals must be from the same organization or union local and register together.

**CANCELLATIONS** must be in writing and received by June 16, 2016 in order to qualify for a full refund less a \$50 administration fee. Non-compliance will result in liability for the entire tuition.

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**PRESENTERS** are confirmed at the time of publication, but are subject to change in emergencies.

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