



TEAMSTERS CANADA RAIL CONFERENCE
CONFÉRENCE FERROVIAIRE DE TEAMSTERS CANADA

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Re: Study on train related deaths

Sisters and Brothers,

The Teamsters Canada Rail Conference has lobbied the government and railroads for many years regarding the impact fatalities can have on our members while they are on the job. Whether the death is by suicide or accidental, we have all seen or have experienced the dramatic effect it can have on ourselves and our families.

In 2010, Transport Canada has funded a study of fatal railway accidents, in cooperation of Teamsters Canada Rail Conference, all rail carriers, the Railway Association of Canada and Operation Lifesaver, enlisting the Center for Research and Intervention on Suicide and Euthanasia at the University of Quebec in Montreal to gather as much information as possible and then make a recommendation.

The second step of the process is to conduct interviews with our members who have been involved in a railway fatality. The overall success of this study relies on our participation to make an accurate assessment of the impact railway fatalities have on our members and recommend adequate support and follow up procedures to help deal with the incidents.

Please take the time to read the attached information relating to the study and you are encouraged to participate as this important study will benefit our members now and in the years to come.

Fraternally,

D.J. Shewchuk
President

DJS/lr

Enclosure





Research and Counter Measures to Reduce Accident and Suicide on Railway Rights-of-Way

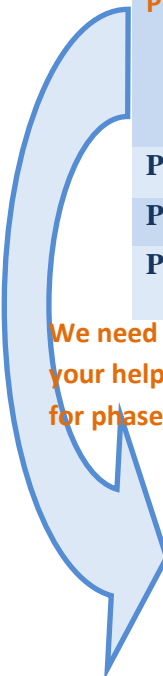
A project in collaboration with Transport Canada, all major railway companies, the Teamsters, the RAC, the Operation Lifesaver and the Center for Research and Intervention on Suicide and Euthanasia at the Université du Québec à Montréal

Objectives of the project

This project’s overall goal is to provide a better understanding of rail-related accidents and suicides as well as their impact in order to develop and implement prevention programmes and support strategies for persons affected by railway fatal incidents.

There are five steps to the global project

Phase 1a	Assessment the prevalence of rail-related fatalities in Canada	The first step is to evaluate the prevalence of rail related deaths (including accidents and suicides) in Canada. This will specifically allow us to identify characteristics of persons who die by railway suicide as well as characteristics of the incidents; what occurred during the event
Phase 1b	Impact of rail-related accidents and suicides	This second step aims at conducting an impact assessment which will include the economic and psychological impact of rail-related fatalities, gathering information from railway and union reports and documents as well as a sample of interviews with individuals involved with rail-related deaths.
Phase 2	Suicide counter measure inventory and effectiveness assessment	
Phase 3	Planning of pilot-testing and evaluation of selected promising counter measures	
Phase 4	Implementation and field evaluation of counter measures in the prevention of rail-related suicide appropriate for railway stakeholders	



We need your help for phase 1b

What it means to participate?

We need your help to complete phase 1b because we want to make an accurate assessment of the impact of railway fatalities on staff members, in order to recommend adequate support and follow-up procedures to help them deal with the incidents.	It is beneficial for you because you can voice your concerns and needs in a safe and confidential environment, knowing that your experiences will help improve the future well-being of other train personnel.
Your participation will involve some time for an interview . This interview should last for about an hour and will focus upon the incidents’ circumstances, their management by the different parties involved, and their effects on you. An appointment with a member of the research team will be arranged at a convenient time and place for you and your participation will remain confidential.	It will give you an opportunity to talk freely about your experiences. People participating in this kind of study usually appreciate this opportunity. We offer a 50\$ compensation for participation

To obtain more information on the project and/or discuss your possible participation, please contact the project coordinator: Cécile Bardon, tron-bardon.cecile@uqam.ca, 514-987-3000, ext. 2055.

All contacts with her will remain strictly confidential. Participating or not will not affect your work or your relationship with your employer or any care or support organisation you are in contact with; no one will be informed of whether or not you agree to participate. Talking with the project coordinator does not mean that you have to participate.

We would be pleased to hear from you and discuss your possible participation in an interview on your experiences with train related fatalities. Please call (you can call reverse charges) or send Cécile an email to obtain further information. Thank you for your attention.