



International
**LONGSHORE & WAREHOUSE
UNION**

LOCAL 500

November 25, 2008

President Gerry Gault
Grain Workers Union, Local 333
2405 East Hastings Street
Vancouver, BC
V5K 1Y9

Dear Gerry,

Re: Accident at Pacific Elevators #2 October 22, 2008 Update

Angel from Pacific Elevators approached me at Bob MacPherson's Celebration of Life on October 29, 2009. She asked me how the Longshoreman who was injured last year was doing. I phoned Luis Montez's brother John.

John reminded me that Luis had fallen 24' from the platform of the pedestal crane while checking the gear to the steel deck below. His injuries included a comminuted right skull fracture. The comminuted fracture (comminuted means broken into small pieces) included facial bone fractures and basal skull fractures. This caused severe brain injury. The doctors characterized this as severe hemorrhagic contusions to the right frontal lobe and contusions in the brain stem area.

Luis's injuries to the rest of his body were considerable. He had significant lung injury. Both lungs were punctured. Fractured 1- 7 right side ribs; right scapula; right femur in 2 places. They placed a steel rod down the middle of his leg.

He also had other internal injuries. Damage to his kidneys; arterial dissection; lacerated liver; and a fracture to spine: T6 - T10. The right transverse process of the spinal column has been fractured.

He arrived in a coma at the hospital and then was maintained in a medically-induced coma because of the severity of his injuries. He spent the first 4 months in a low level of consciousness. He could not speak or walk.

He has been in a long-term care home since March 2009. He started speaking on April 24, 2009. He transitioned slowly from tube feeding to regular food. He still needs help to perform many personal functions. He can make his own breakfast which is putting cereal in a bowl with some milk.

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He is walking without a cane and stairs are getting easier all the time. His physical injuries are mostly healed. Right arm is marginal: very stiff, favours it a lot.

Hope to have Luis back into his own house by March 2010. Family feels lucky to have him with them. It has brought the family together. Unfortunately Luis is often negative about his condition. He knows there is something wrong but he can't put his finger on it.

Weekly visits to the psychologist, speech therapist and physiotherapist. Luis does not remember working wheat. Memory is getting better but it bounces around the time-line. His conversations can go in circles as he forgets what he has already said. Hope to get Luis on-line in the near future. He can't remember his FaceBook password.

This is the account of Luis's progress that John Montez gave to me to give to you. And again to Angel, thanks for getting the train out of there so the ambulance could get right to the ship and thanks for asking how Luis was doing. Thanks to Tony and Ian who helped the First Aid Attendant and to all the Grain workers that were of assistance.

Fraternally yours,

Peter Haines,
Secretary Treasurer.