

# work Safe!

**Working toward a healthy workplace environment**

SPRING 2001

Vol. 18 No. 1

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### Manitoba Youth Delegates (left to right)

*Nathan Friesen, Jodyne Green, Mandy Spencer, Colin Danielson, Jamie Skinner, Bernice Pontanilla, Nermin Helan, Kerilyn Molinski*

*Missing: Andre Guiboche, Ryan Preston*



## First ever youth conference

# provides dialogue on health and safety issues

*By Bernice Pontanilla*

The first ever "Youth Health and Safety in the Workplace" conference took place October 15-18, 2000 in Ottawa. The more than 100 delegates, most of whom were under the age of 27, presented key recommendations to the federal Minister of Labour Claudette Bradshaw.

Featuring 26 speakers from across Canada, the conference focussed on the commitment to increase safety and health awareness as it relates to young workers. "Health and Safety is not a cost - it's an investment," said Perrin Beatty, President of the Alliance of Manufacturers and Exporters Association Canada.

About 110,000 young workers across Canada are injured on the job each year. This represents one in every four injured workers. A total of 57 young people were killed on the job across Canada in 1998.

Small group workshops focused on certain industries to find possible solutions for issues/concerns. Industries explored included agriculture, retail, hospitality, health, construction, manufacturing, transportation and even volunteers.

Recommendations to the federal government included:

- Improving and enforcing of laws by hiring more inspectors.
- Making the penalties much stiffer, including jail time for negligent employers.
- Promoting prevention through awareness and education (change in attitudes).
- Workplace health and safety training part of school curriculums from an early age.

- Improve ways of communicating to youth through media campaigns.
- Centralizing information (e.g. web site or phone number) for quick access.

Most of the delegates felt the conference was a success, while others questioned the amount of youth participation. "It wasn't what I expected," said Kevin Pifford of Ontario. "[For the] first two days it was just sit there and listen and listen and listen." In spite of this, Pifford said he learned a lot.

Carlos Doubleday, of the New Brunswick delegation, is hoping this conference will become an annual event. "I think we got a lot done," he said. "Next time we'll have more issues to discuss, we'll have more solutions and I can see within ten years now the amount of costs and injuries will be decreasing. That's the way I want to see it go."

Wendy Mueller, a Human Resources Development Canada employee and a member of the conference steering committee, was deeply moved by the amount of young delegates whose lives have been affected by a workplace tragedy, as her own had been. "When it's not a minority of people that have dealt with this stuff already, it's scary, literally scary," she said. "As long as people keep the faces in mind, and keep the stories in mind, we won't leave [the issue] alone."

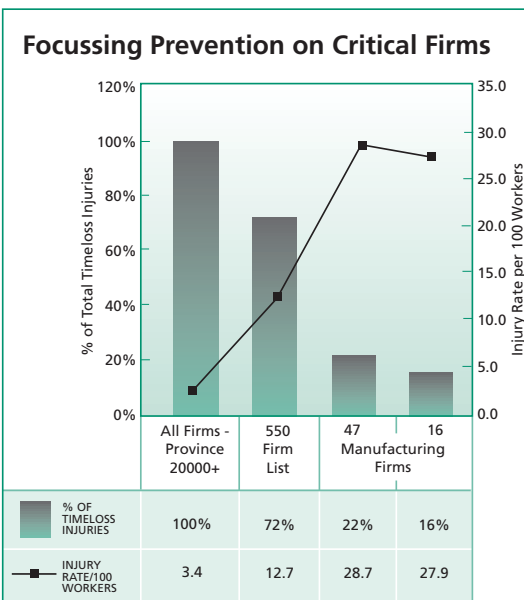
**Editor's Note:** Bernice Pontanilla was one of Manitoba's 10 young worker delegates to the Youth Health and Safety Conference. She is also a writer for the University of Manitoba's student newspaper, *The Manitoban*, and Labour Bureau Chief for the Canadian University Press.



# Preventing Injuries at the workplace

All injuries at work are preventable! Unfortunately, Manitoba workers continue to have too many injuries. Time loss injuries (those where a worker loses time from work) and no time loss can result in both medical and other costs. Each year, extensive costs result from lost hours of production due to shut downs caused by injuries, related damaged materials/machinery and the pain and suffering of the workers and their families. About 40,000 injuries occur in Manitoba workplaces on an annual basis. That's more than 100 injuries each working day or about five each hour.

Recent data has revealed that approximately 500 Manitoba companies have filed 72% (or about 3/4) of all time loss claims. Some of these firms have more than 20 time loss injuries per 100 workers. Forty-seven Manitoba firms have 22% of the time loss injuries while 16 firms with the worst injury frequency rates make up 16% of all time loss injuries each year. These 47 firms are receiving sustained attention from the Division.



The number of injuries remains too high. To this end, the Division has developed an enhanced strategy for injury prevention, which includes:

- Prevention and enforcement activities specific to high risk industry sectors (such as manufacturing, construction, health care, mining and agriculture).
- Priority activities directed towards those 47 firms that account for a significant number of all injuries.
- Hiring of eight new safety and health officers to be assigned across several industrial sectors enhancing prevention and enforcement.
- Expanded activities in occupational health prevention.
- Focus on the prevention of youth injuries.
- Emphasis on agricultural safety and health.

Employers, workers and the safety and health committee play an important role in developing and maintaining a safe and healthy work environment. Employers have the major responsibility to provide a safe and healthy workplace for their workers. Workers must take reasonable care to safeguard themselves while working and be aware of the hazards of their job. The safety and health committee needs to meet regularly to discuss and resolve issues. Together, we all have a stake in preventing injuries at the workplace.



With Manitoba experiencing 48% of its traumatic occupational fatalities in the agricultural sector, an enthusiastic delegation from Manitoba, including the Honourable Becky Barrett, Minister of Labour and Immigration, attended the annual Canadian Coalition for Agricultural Safety and Rural Health Conference, in Ottawa, October 2000. Their objective was to seek out strategies and learn more about improving the safety and health performance for the farming industry.

## Superior Fines Ordered by Manitoba Judges

On March 2nd, 2001, the Manitoba Provincial Court levied two record setting fines in cases involving worker fatalities. Surespan Construction Ltd. pleaded guilty to two violations of the Workplace Safety and Health Act resulting in a total fine of \$75,000 - the largest fine in the province's history. In 1998 a construction worker employed by the British Columbia based company fell to his death from a platform, which had no guardrails, on the Bignell Bridge in The Pas.

The second fine of \$27,500 was ordered against Clearwater Electric in the death of 19-year-old Michael Skanderberg. The young worker was working on a live 347 volt fluorescent light fixture at a Beausejour school when he was electrocuted.

Michael's mother Cindy believes more public awareness is needed. "If you feel unsafe at your job, tell someone - your employer, Workplace Safety and Health, or just do not do the job. There are millions of dollars for campaigns on drinking and smoking. There should be equal amounts allocated for safety and health on the job. A slogan I'd like to see is 'And Justice for All' combined with photos of the victims. It needs to be implanted in the hearts and minds of people that they belonged to somebody and were not just another statistic. The power of change is in numbers, by all working together we have the right combination."

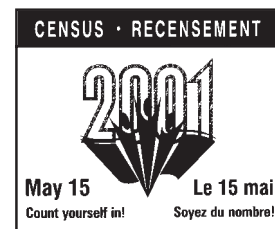
The Workplace Safety and Health Division conducts accident investigations and submits recommendations for prosecution in cases of non-compliance with provincial safety regulations. In 1997, the maximum fines were raised from \$15,000 to \$150,000. The higher fines imposed by the judges are intended to remind employers of their responsibility and role in ensuring the safety and health of workers on the job.

"I'm pleased the judges indicated the companies have a personal responsibility for the safety of their employees," said Geoff Bawden, Executive Director of the Workplace Safety and Health Division. "It's important that a message is sent."

## MANITOBA WINS WHEN YOU COUNT YOURSELF IN!

Statistics Canada will be conducting the 2001 Census on May 15.

Information collected in the Census is used in support of various government programs and in the allocation of federal transfer payments to Manitoba.



# LEGALLY YOURS

In the pursuit of the objectives of The Workplace Safety and Health Act (Chapter W210), it becomes necessary to prosecute individuals or firms who are in contravention of the Act. Publication of this information is intended to inform and educate both employers and workers of the responsibilities that are **legally yours** in the hope that some may learn from the experiences of others. Any similarity between the names of persons charged and those not connected with the infraction or operation are coincidental.

PERSON/COMPANY CHARGED	FINED	INFRACTION DATE	COURT DATE	CONTRAVENTION
Joe Johnson (Worker)	\$350	June 12, 2000	October, 2000	Failure to use fall protection system.
Oakwood Roofing	\$10,000 & Sheet Metal	December 16, 1998	November, 2000	Failure to provide workers with information instruction and training with respect to working near the open edge of a roof.
Alpha Masonry	\$4,000 + \$1,280 (Surcharge)	May 29, 1999	November, 2000	Failure to provide a guardrail at an open edge of a work platform and failure to notify Workplace Safety and Health Division of a serious incident.
Heinrich Harder	\$1,800 + \$59 (Surcharge)	October 12, 1999	November, 2000	Non Compliance with Improvement Orders.
Gateway Packers & Gateway Industries	\$20,000	April 1, 1999	February 2, 2001	Allowing a worker to operate a power lift truck without having trained and certified the worker.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL 28, 2001

### DAY OF MOURNING "In memory of Canadian workers who have died on the job."

In recognition of the National Day of Mourning, a moment of silence should be observed at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 28th or on Friday, April 27th if your workplace is closed on the 28th.

May 10 - 11, 2001

### Manitoba Federation of Labour 20th Annual Health & Safety Conference

Contact the MFL Office at 947-1400.

May 6 - 12, 2001

### North American Occupational Safety and Health Week

This year's theme - PREVENTION IS THE CURE.

This annual initiative is undertaken by the Labour Program of Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) in concert with its North American partners, Mexico and the United States, and its Canadian partners, the Canadian Society of Safety Engineering (CSSE) and the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) who all have an equal stake in effective workplace safety and health.

March 14 - 21, 2001

### National Farm Safety Week

For further information, contact Glen Blahey, Agricultural Services, Manitoba Labour and Immigration (204) 945-2315 or Cathy Vanstone, Manitoba Agriculture and Food (204) 945-3354.

March 14, 2001

### Construction Safety Services (Brandon)

One day conference/seminar.

Visit our WEB page at [www.gov.mb.ca/labour/safety](http://www.gov.mb.ca/labour/safety) and provide your comments to the editor of WorkSafe - Donna Johannson at [djohannson@labour.gov.mb.ca](mailto:djohannson@labour.gov.mb.ca)

#### Published since 1982 by:

Manitoba Labour and Immigration - Workplace Safety and Health Division  
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#### Circulation

One copy distributed to all workplaces in Manitoba at no charge. If you wish to be placed on the mailing list for your own copy, call 204-945-3446.

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We welcome response to articles/stories or information published in this newsletter as well as suggestions for future articles.

Publications Mail Agreement Number  
1400436

## Attention Licence Applicants

The Department of Labour and Immigration conduct licence and certification examinations under the following Acts:

**The Power Engineers Act**  
**The Electricians' Licence Act**  
**The Gas and Oil Burner Act**

For further information regarding the licence program, please call 945-8114.

### Examination Schedule

All licence or certificate exams are available on each date as follows:

WINNIPEG	BRANDON
Norquay Building 500-401 York Avenue, Winnipeg, MB	Provincial Building 340 - 9th Street, Brandon, MB
MARCH 5 & 19 APRIL 9 & 23 MAY 2 & 16 JUNE 6 & 20 JULY 4 & 18 AUGUST 1 & 15 SEPTEMBER 5 & 19 OCTOBER 3 & 17 NOVEMBER 7 & 21 DECEMBER 5 & 19	MARCH 1 APRIL 5 MAY 3 JUNE 7 JULY 5 AUGUST 2 SEPTEMBER 6 OCTOBER 4 NOVEMBER 1 DECEMBER 6

### Examination Fees:

Electrical	\$25.00 or \$15.00 for a rewrite
Gas/Oil	\$25.00
All Power Engineers	\$40.00 (per paper)

### Procedures:

1. Complete the application and verification forms provided by the department.
2. Enclose payment of examination fee with the application form (cheque or money order preferred)
3. Provide proof of completion of study courses, if applicable.
4. Submit application at least two weeks prior to desired examination date.

WORKPLACE SAFETY AND HEALTH  
**Training Program Schedule 2001**  
*Effective June 2000, all courses are FREE OF CHARGE \**  
 (\*except Program #2, Blaster Certification - see details below)

**Location Legend:** **W - Winnipeg** 200-401 York Ave Wpg. MB 945-8748  
**B - Brandon** 304 - 340 9th Street Brandon, MB 726-6361  
**P - The Pas** **S - Swan River** **F - Flin Flon** **T - Thompson** **D - Dauphin**  
 (For the above, check with Brandon Office for course location)  
 ♦ - Indicates class filled

Course	Course Description	DATES AVAILABLE				
		Apr 2001	May 2001	June 2001	July 2001	Aug 2001
#1	<b>ABC's of Safety and Health Legislation</b> Rights and responsibilities of those covered by the Workplace Safety & Health Act, including the Safety & Health Committee. (Prerequisite for all following courses)	9 - W 18 - W 24 - D 25 - W	2-W 8-T 14-W 23-S 24-W	4 - W 12 - B 14 - W	10 - W 25 - W 27 - W	14 - W 23 - W
#2*	<b>Blasting</b> Blaster Training Course and Examination or Re-examination to acquire Blaster's Certificate.	18 - S	23 - W	12 - W		
#3	<b>Hazard Recognition and Control</b> Recognizing and controlling hazards in the workplace including how to complete a job safety analysis and how to conduct an inspection.	25 - D	9 - T 16 - W 24 - S	13 - B 20 - W		
#4	<b>Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System - WHMIS</b> How to maintain an effective program for: Labelling, Material Safety Data Sheets and worker education for hazardous/controlled products.	10 - B 11 - W	11 - W	5 - P 7 - T 22 - W		
#5	<b>Workplace Health Hazard Regulation - WHH</b> Required establishment of inventories & evaluations of controlled products, monitoring of worker exposure, occupational exposure limits and maintenance of records.	11 - B	8 - W	6 - P 7 - W		
#6	<b>Confined Spaces Entry</b> Specific required practices in sewers, tanks, silos, tunnels, crawl spaces & other non-ventilated areas.	12 - B 20 - W		14 - B		
#7	<b>Electrical and Mechanical Safety</b> Proper use of machine guarding, and basic electrical safety procedures.		30 - W			
#8	<b>Excavations</b> Requirements for registration, equipment, work practices and shoring for trenches and excavations.	12 - B		14 - B		
#9	<b>Office Ergonomics</b> Understanding the implications of workstation design and how it should best fit the worker.	27 - W		11 - W 20 - B		
#10	<b>How to Develop an Ergonomics Program in your Workplace</b> A comprehensive guide to ergonomics that reviews the six key components of an effective ergonomic program.		28 - W			21 - B
#11	<b>Investigating Workplace Accidents</b> This course provides an overview of how to conduct an accident investigation at your workplace. Covers the steps involved including techniques for gathering information, interviewing witnesses and preparing the investigation report.	23 - W	4 - W	1 - W 18 - W 19 - B	18 - W	

\* Program #2 - Blaster Certification Course Fee (includes GST):  
 Blaster Course and Examination - \$53.50 Blaster Training Course - \$26.75 Blaster Examination or Rewrites - \$26.75  
 NOTE: Blaster's course can be taken without writing the examination and vice versa. A blaster's certificate will be issued upon successful completion of the examination. (Payment by way of cheque or money order **must accompany** registration form.)

Return of tuition fees (course costs) will be made provided 14 days notice



**Registration Details:** Please Print **Note:** All changes must be submitted to the WSH Branch within 5 working days.

Course Name and #	Course Date	Participant(s) Name(s) (Print as to appear on certificate)	Contact Person Title		* Blasting Course Only - Total Payment Enclosed
			Company Name		\$
			Address		
			City		
			Province		<b>WSH Branch Use Only</b>
			Postal Code		Date received:
			Telephone	Ext.	Amount received:
			Fax		
			E-mail		

- Classes commence at 8:30 a.m. and conclude at 4:00 p.m.
- Notification of substitutions, transfers and cancellations are required to be submitted at least 5 working days prior to class date.
- Registration form must be completed. No telephone registrations.
- Forward the completed registration and payment (if applicable) to:

**For Winnipeg Courses**

Workplace Safety and Health, Attention Registrar  
 200-401 York Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3C 0P8  
 Fax: 948-2209 Telephone : 945-3446

**For Courses Outside of Winnipeg**

Workplace Safety and Health  
 304-340 Ninth Street, Brandon, MB R7A 6C2,  
 Fax: 1-204-726-6749 Telephone : 726-6361

**Reminder**

Inform these participants of the course locations and start time.

Please keep a copy of this form as your record of registration.  
 You will be notified, only if any changes occur.

