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WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY IS GOOD FOR BUSINESS *Provincewide Tour To Demonstrate That Safety Pays For Business*

OAKVILLE – Businesses with excellent health and safety programs are more productive and profitable, said Ministry of Labour Parliamentary Assistant Kevin Flynn.

Flynn will be speaking to the Oakville Chamber of Commerce as part of a provincewide tour to deliver a workplace health and safety message to small and medium businesses. Flynn will be introduced by Labour Minister Steve Peters to officially kick off the tour.

“Businesses can improve their bottom line while making a difference in their communities. Good health and safety is a good business practice and makes good business sense,” said Flynn. “The McGuinty government is reaching out to businesses to let them know how they can improve their profitability by improving their health and safety programs.”

The government has set an ambitious goal of reducing workplace injuries by 20 per cent by 2008. That would translate to 60,000 fewer injuries a year. The ultimate goal is to eliminate all workplace injuries and deaths.

The government has made a commitment to hire 200 additional inspectors to improve workplace health and safety. Already, 131 of these 200 inspectors are trained and on the job. Hiring of the remaining 69 is currently underway.

“Workplace injuries take a tremendous toll on workers, their families and their communities,” Peters said. “In addition, these injuries cost businesses billions of dollars in lost productivity and hurt the economy as a whole.”

The tour is part of the government’s on-going discussions between area MPPs and the business community to promote health and safety programs.

Flynn will next address the Chamber of Commerce in Brampton. For a list of other presentations, please contact the Parliamentary Assistant’s Office.

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