

SAFETY FIRST! ON TAKE OUR KIDS TO WORK DAY *Workplaces Should Promote Safety To Visiting Students*

QUEEN'S PARK – Employers need to show kids how to be safe at work on *Take Our Kids to Work Day* tomorrow, said Labour Minister Steve Peters.

"Students should get a complete picture of the workplace – and that includes an overview on how to stay healthy and safe at work," said Peters. "It's important for employers and parents to take this opportunity to talk to young people about the importance of health and safety in the workplace."

Take Our Kids To Work Day, developed by The Learning Partnership, is a one-day job shadowing experience involving Grade 9 students across Canada. Tomorrow, students will travel to work with their parent, relative or friend and will spend the day observing the complexities of the workplace. Students gain valuable insight into the value of work and the work their parents, relatives and friends do to support their families.

Employers should provide a comprehensive health and safety orientation at the start of the day. Orientation should include a tour of the workplace and an overview of potential hazards. It should cover emergency procedures, workplace safety rules everyone must follow, general requirements for personal protective equipment, first aid provisions and all other essential health and safety facts.

The Ontario government is raising awareness on workplace health and safety among young workers through a number of initiatives and resources, including:

- Minister's Action Group on Vulnerable Workers Under Age 25 – made up of young people, labour market experts, specialists and others working to identify issues and offer solutions affecting young vulnerable workers
- A revised Employment Standards Act poster – updated to include a reference directing young workers to the new Young Worker portal on the ministry's website (www.labour.gov.on.ca) that was inspired by students involved in the CBC's Making the Grade Project
- Live Safe! Work Smart! series of safety resources for use by teachers in secondary schools
- WorkSmartOntario, the ministry's user-friendly website for young and new workers (www.worksmartontario.gov.on.ca)

- A series of tip sheets for employers, supervisors, young workers and parents that are available at: www.labour.gov.on.ca.

“The government is committed to protecting Ontario’s future by ensuring our youth work in the healthiest and safest environments,” said Peters. “Employers, unions, workers, parents and the government need to work together to raise youth awareness about workplace health and safety.”

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