



@wsib is published bi-monthly by the Ontario Workplace Safety & Insurance Board. To have @wsib e-mailed to you, please [subscribe](#). If you have any questions about this issue, please e-mail the editor, Maura Murphy, at [info@wsib.on.ca](mailto:info@wsib.on.ca)

**QUICK NEWS...**

**Winter Driving**

Although this winter got off to a relatively mild start, January 2007 has seen a number of serious, weather-related collisions on our roads and highways. Winter road conditions can deteriorate rapidly and many drivers don't realize that braking distance can double when roads are wet and slippery. Motor vehicle collisions account for 30% of all work-related traumatic fatalities in Ontario. To find out how to stay safe when driving in a "winter wonderland", visit:

- [Winter Driving – Be prepared, be safe!](#) (Ministry of Transportation)
- [Driving in the Big Freeze](#) (RoadSafe Partners) @



**SARS Report focuses on workplace safety**

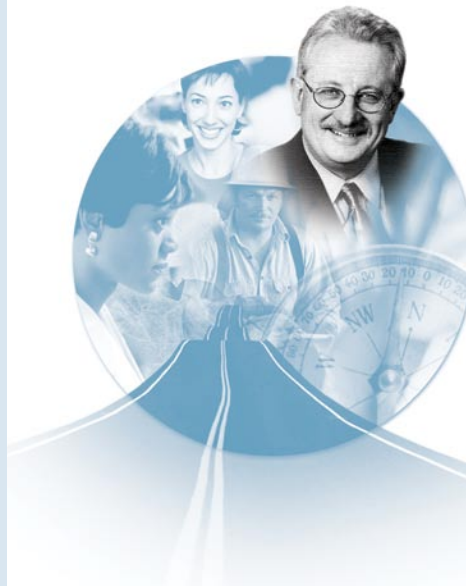
The final report on the 2003 SARS outbreak in Toronto called hospitals "dangerous workplaces" and made recommendations to improve worker safety systems and protocols in health care facilities. The Ministry of Labour is [assessing the SARS Commission recommendations](#) and remains committed to promoting health and safety for all workers in Ontario. @

**The Road to Zero**

Since becoming Chair of the WSIB last May, Steve Mahoney has spent a lot of time on the road. He's been all over the province, talking to workers and employers and listening to their concerns about workplace health and safety.

Steve is also on another road. He calls it "The Road to Zero."

**"When I tell people I want 'nothing', they think it's pretty strange," says Mahoney. "But what I'm really saying is that we need to eliminate workplace injuries and eliminate workplace illnesses. Both of those numbers should be zero."**



In 2007, Steve is taking this message to CEOs and CFOs of small, medium, and large businesses across Ontario. "They control the purse strings," Steve points out. "They're the ones who need to understand that spending money to prevent an injury makes good business sense."

Fewer injuries and a robust return to work program are the keys to reducing WSIB costs and improving the financial sustainability of the workplace health and safety system. Steve is encouraging industry leaders to make a "top-down" commitment to illness and injury prevention by signing the [CEO Health & Safety Leadership Charter](#). As Steve puts it, "Becoming leaders in health and safety can give any company a competitive edge. It just makes sense."

Steve's Road to Zero will also include stops in a number of Ontario municipalities, where he'll talk to mayors and municipal leaders about how they can improve workplace safety in their role as employers and as community leaders. "My experience in public service has taught me how important it is to lead by example," says Mahoney. "I want to help municipalities improve health and safety for their employees so they can show their Chambers of Commerce and local businesses how it's done."

The Road to Zero will also include a stop on the "information highway" with Steve's new video messages on [prevent-it.ca](#). For more information, please contact WSIB External Relations at 416-344-4202 or 1-800-387-5540. @

**Young worker safety on stage and screen**

In 2005, close to 10% of the workers who were killed on the job in Ontario were under age 25 and more than 48,000 young workers were injured or suffered work-related illnesses. With help from industry leaders, the WSIB, and our health and safety partners, Ontario's youth are speaking out about workplace safety.

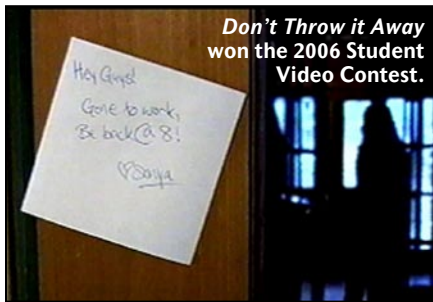
**They're acting out too.**

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## ...stage and screen

Last November, Sault Ste. Marie theatre arts students worked with the [Construction Safety Association of Ontario's](#) (CSAO) local health and safety committee to produce a mock trial examining the facts of an actual case where a student died on his first day at work. With help from Crown attorneys, Ministry of Labour representatives, and local employers, the "court" heard evidence about the events leading to the death of a student on his first day working at a construction site.

The [Industrial Accident Prevention Association](#) (IAPA) is also encouraging youth to get creative in bringing the workplace safety message to their peers through a [province-wide drama competition](#). Grade 11 and 12 students across Ontario will have the opportunity to work with workplace health and safety professionals to create and perform a short dramatic piece featuring "need-to-know" messages about young worker health and safety. Five entries will be chosen to perform at the IAPA's Health and Safety Canada conference in April.



The WSIB's annual [Student Video Contest](#) is another medium youth can use to spread the word about workplace safety. In partnership with the [Ministry of Education](#) and the [Ministry of Labour](#), the WSIB invites budding cinematographers

to produce a short video promoting safe work practices and injury prevention for young workers. Although the 2007 contest doesn't close until April 5th, there have already been three times more hits on the contest web page than were logged last year. For more details on the video contest, please visit [@](http://www.youngworker.ca)

## Schedule 2 Security Requirement Policy

[Schedule 2 employers](#) are individually responsible for the full cost of injury/illness claims filed by their workers. Since 2000, the WSIB has required some Schedule 2 employers to provide security in the form of a Letter of Credit or other instrument to help protect the financial integrity of the insurance plan from potential bankruptcies. The security covers amounts that are due, or may become due in the future, under the insurance plan.

Effective January 1, 2007, this practice has been formalized under the new Schedule 2 Security Requirement policy.

The amount of security required from each employer is determined by the WSIB and is based on an estimate of the future benefit payments for their Schedule 2 claims, including a provision for associated costs.

For more information and to find out if your Schedule 2 firm is affected, please review the [Schedule 2 Security Requirement policy](#) in the WSIB's Operational Policy Manual. @

## It's no accident: The word is out

More than three months after its launch, the WSIB's "There really are no accidents" social marketing campaign continues to build momentum. In December, outreach to Ontario's multilingual community began with the translation of the "Factory" TV ad into Punjabi, Portuguese, Cantonese, Mandarin, and Italian. The graphics-free, [text only version](#) of the prevent-it.ca website is also now available in [Spanish](#) and will soon be available in Punjabi, Portuguese, Vietnamese, and Chinese.

The website's popularity continues to grow. By the end of 2006, the site had logged close to 100,000 visitors and is maintaining an average of 1,000 visitors per day. Nearly 2,000 visitors have downloaded the [Getting Started on Prevention Checklist](#) (486k, pdf) and the various [print ad posters](#) have been downloaded more than 5,000 times.

Compensation authorities in jurisdictions outside of Ontario have expressed interest in the campaign. The WSIB has also received requests from industry leaders throughout North America who want to use the campaign materials as part of their health and safety training programs.

WSIB Chair Steve Mahoney is determined to maintain the campaign's momentum. "We can't rest on our laurels," says Mahoney. "Every slip and fall, every sprain and strain, and every severe injury and deadly illness in every Ontario workplace tells us that we have much more work to do."

For more on eliminating workplace injuries and illnesses in your workplace, visit [@](http://www.prevent-it.ca)

## PD Awards Program under review

As announced last September, the WSIB's Permanent Disability Awards program for Pre-1990 claims has been selected as the focus of a Value for Money Audit (VFMA). Each year, the WSIB is required to conduct a VFMA on one of the programs delivered under the *Workplace Safety and Insurance Act*.

After a rigorous Request for Proposals process, [Deloitte](#) was selected to conduct the VFMA. The audit process has included detailed interviews with WSIB staff and management at different levels to help evaluate the cost, efficiency, and effectiveness of the program. The audit team is also examining the consistency of permanent disability ratings within the program, reviewing pension payment practices in other jurisdictions, and analyzing statistical data.

The final VFMA report on the Pre-1990 Permanent Disability Awards program is expected to be released in September 2007. [Previous VFMAs](#) have included reviews of the WSIB's Workwell program, Labour Market Re-entry program, and Employer Audit program. @

## Did you know?

**Tom Beegan** starts as the WSIB's new Chief Prevention Officer on February 1, 2007.

The WSIB's Chief Corporate Services Officer, **John Slinger**, will become the organization's Chief Operating Officer, effective February 12, 2007. The Corporate

Services cluster will report directly to WSIB President and CEO, Jill Hutcheon.

**Larry Barnett**, with Teamsters Local 938, has been appointed to the WSIB's Board of Directors. @