

WSIB Workplace Safety & Insurance Board
ONTARIO
CSPAAT Commission de la sécurité professionnelle et de l'assurance contre les accidents du travail

@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

QUICK NEWS...



Day of Mourning

Working together toward the elimination of workplace injuries, illnesses, and fatalities through education, training, and awareness is something we should all do every day.

Observing the [National Day of Mourning](#) on April 28th is a way to help reinforce our commitment to improving workplace safety by

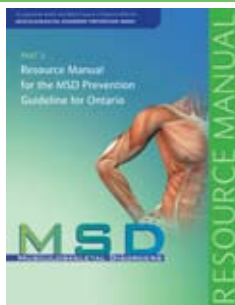
remembering those who have suffered work-related deaths, illnesses, and injuries. @

Form 8 Payment for Health Professionals

The WSIB is now paying eligible health professionals for the completion of our Health Professional's Report (Form 8) in cases where a worker cannot be assigned a claim under the Workplace Safety and Insurance Act. While unusual, this situation can occur when an employer is either not registered or not covered under the Act.

The WSIB recognizes that health professionals complete these forms in good faith when a patient tells them that their illness or injury is work-related. The WSIB has now developed a process to allow eligible health professionals to be paid for the completion of the Form 8 even when coverage is not indicated.

[More details on this initiative](#) are available on the WSIB website. @



New MSD Prevention Guideline offers help for Ontario workplaces

Musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) are responsible for 42% of all lost-time compensation claims in Ontario. Injuries like tendonitis, carpal tunnel syndrome, muscle strain, and other disorders of the muscles, tendons, and nerves are included in the MSD category.

Each year, almost 40,000 Ontario workers lose time from their jobs due to MSDs. Direct costs due to lost-time MSDs from 1996 to 2004 totaled more than \$3 billion. The combined direct and indirect costs to Ontario employers are conservatively estimated to be \$12 billion.

To help Ontario's workers and employers prevent these injuries, the Occupational Health and Safety Council of Ontario (OHSCO) has developed the [MSD Prevention Guideline for Ontario](#). This Guideline and the accompanying resource manual provide a framework for identifying and addressing the hazards and behaviours that cause MSDs. A "toolbox" for MSD Prevention is currently under development, and will be released later this year.

Preventing MSDs can help workplaces reduce costs, boost productivity, improve product and service quality, and stimulate innovation. The WSIB encourages Ontario employers to use this Guideline to help develop robust injury prevention programs. @

New Functional Abilities Form supports improved RTW outcomes

Getting injured and ill workers back to safe, sustainable employment leads to healthier workplaces for Ontario workers. It's also a key lever in the cost, funding, and financial viability of the workplace safety and insurance system.

To help employers and injured or ill workers develop successful return to work plans, the WSIB has revised its [Functional Abilities Form for Planning Early and Safe Return to Work \(FAF\)](#) (370k, pdf). The new form will provide workers and employers with a common frame of reference about the worker's physical condition, allowing them to work together to find suitable jobs that are consistent with the worker's physical abilities.

The FAF has been in use since 1998. The revised FAF was developed in consultation with workers, employers, and health professionals who worked with the WSIB to identify opportunities to improve the form.

Based on stakeholder suggestions, the new FAF is easier to read, includes detailed instructions for the worker, employer, and health professional, and will cost 60% less to produce than the old "snap set" form. The revised form allows the health professional to clearly describe the worker's physical condition in terms of his or her ability to walk, stand, sit, lift, and perform other work-related tasks. Workers and employers can then use this information to collaborate on a return to work plan.

These changes to the FAF were made in an effort to balance concerns raised by workers, employers, health care professionals, and their representatives. For more information please visit the [FAF information page](#) on the WSIB website. @



Passport to an injury-free summer

Winter may still be here, but all over Ontario, students are gearing up for summer employment. While brushing up on interview skills and perfecting resumes, young people also need to make sure they know how to keep themselves safe at work.

An average of 42 workers between the ages of 15 and 24 are injured on the job every day in Ontario. Lack of knowledge of basic safety guidelines is responsible for most of these injuries. All of them can be prevented.

A number of programs and resources are available to provide young workers with health and safety basics, along with an understanding of their rights and obligations when it comes to work-place safety.

Many employers (including the WSIB) now require summer students to include a [Passport to Safety](#) transcript with their job application. This e-learning program offers young workers the opportunity to test their health and safety knowledge. It provides a basic level of workplace safety awareness, but is not a replacement for the job-specific health and safety training that all employers are required to provide.

Other workplace safety resources for young workers include:

www.youngworker.ca, [WorkSmartOntario](#), [JobSafeCanada](#), [Health and Safety 101](#)

Providing young workers with workplace safety education and training contributes to building a health and safety culture – where injuries and illnesses simply don't happen – in Ontario's workplaces. @

Links on the [youngworker.ca](http://www.youngworker.ca) website.



Accreditation for Ontario Workplaces

As part of its prevention mandate, the WSIB has launched the [development of an accreditation program](#) to recognize employers who adopt health and safety policies and operate successful health and safety programs that meet an accepted standard.

With input from the Employer Prevention Liaison Group and its Accreditation Working Group, the WSIB has prepared an [Accreditation for Ontario Workplaces Consultation Paper \(171k, pdf\)](#), which outlines issues and options for the accreditation program design. Interested parties may submit their comments to the WSIB in writing until April 30, 2007. If your organization would like to host a feedback session on the Accreditation for Ontario Workplaces initiative, please contact Cristina Campanelli via e-mail: accreditation@wsib.on.ca or by phone: 416-344-5041 or 1-800-663-6639. @

Get to know the WSIB Reference Library

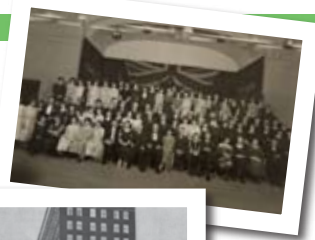
Want to know what workers' compensation legislation looked like in 1947? Looking for a journal article on return to work best practices? Need a list of firms in an employer rate group?

The [WSIB Reference Library](#) has the answers. The library's 6,000 books, 1,500 government documents, numerous videos, journals, and other periodicals, represent a unique collection of Ontario-specific resources in the workplace safety and insurance field. Although borrowing privileges are restricted to WSIB staff, agencies, and associations, the library is open to the public and its [catalogue](#) is available online.

Worker and employer advocates, students, and medical researchers are among the library's regular patrons. In addition to material on workers' compensation, occupational health and safety, prevention, rehabilitation, and disability management, the WSIB Reference Library maintains the WSIB policy archives for the [Operational Policy Manual](#) and [Employer Classification Manual](#).

Information about the history of the WSIB along with a complete collection of all Ontario workers' compensation *Acts* dating back to the original report by Sir William Meredith, round out the library's holdings.

The Reference Library is on the 17th floor of the WSIB's Simcoe Place head office in Toronto, and is open Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information email reference_library@wsib.on.ca @ Above: Photos from the WSIB archives.



Did you know?

The WSIB offers specialized services for businesses with 20 employees or less. Visit the [Small Business Services](#) page on the WSIB website or contact your Customer Service Representative for more information.

North American Occupational Safety and Health (NAOSH) Week takes place May 6th to 12th this year. [Find out how to develop a health and safety culture in your workplace.](#)

The deadline for the WSIB's annual [Student Video Contest](#) is April 5th, 2007. @

