



@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...

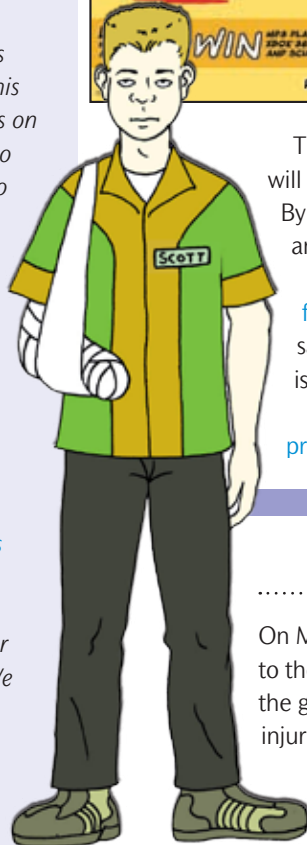
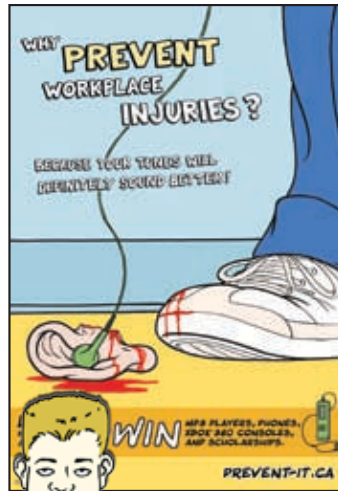
Meet the Chair on prevent-it.ca

WSIB Chair, Steve Mahoney, now has a [home page](#) on [prevent-it.ca](#). Visit this new page for Steve's personal insights on the WSIB's Road to Zero campaign, to keep up with the Chair's Road to Zero tour, and to learn more about WSIB programs and initiatives. @

Simplifying forms

The WSIB's Forms Simplification Project worked with external stakeholders to revise and improve a number of forms. These revised forms – the 'Progress Reports' and 'Continuity Reports' families of forms are now in use. They are in the [Forms Section](#) of our website.

This phase of the Forms Simplification Project builds on earlier improvements to Forms 6, 7 and 8. We continue our efforts to improve the consistency of information gathering, decision-making, early and safe return to work, and prevention activities. @



A character from the new WSIB campaign for youth.

A Win-Win Campaign

Students starting summer or part-time jobs and young workers in their first full-time jobs have a lot on their minds. They're deciding what to wear, they're meeting new co-workers, they're thinking about how to spend their wages, and they're trying hard to make a good first impression.

Unfortunately, learning about the hazards of a new job may not seem like a priority.

With its [2007 Young Worker Safety Campaign](#), the WSIB is helping young workers make the connection between what they gain by having a job, and what they stand to lose if they're injured on the job.

Through transit, movie theatre, and internet-based advertising, the WSIB will encourage young workers to "Learn about workplace safety and win!" By visiting [prevent-it.ca](#), young people can find out how to stay safe at work and have the chance to win prizes and scholarships.

Parents of young workers can also get involved. The WSIB's new [guide for parents](#) will provide tips on how to talk to teens about workplace safety and teach parents what to do if they think their teen's workplace is unsafe.

For more on the WSIB's 2007 Young Worker Safety Campaign, visit [prevent-it.ca](#) or call 1-866-SAFE-JOB for more info. @

Presumptive legislation

On May 4, 2007, the Ontario Legislature unanimously passed amendments to the *Workplace Safety and Insurance Act*. [These amendments](#) will allow the government to create regulations identifying specific diseases or heart injuries that would be presumed to be work-related for firefighters who meet specific criteria.

The WSIB will work with the Ministry of Labour to develop and implement any policy or procedural changes required by the new regulations. @

April **28** DAY OF MOURNING

The WSIB hosted a public ceremony outside its Toronto office to mark the National Day of Mourning.



Safety first in engineering design

They say that necessity is the mother of invention. For winners of Minerva Canada's [James Ham Safe Design Awards](#), integrating safety into engineering design is one of those necessities.

First place went to [McMaster University's](#) Stephen Niedojadlo, Jonathan (Kwok Kin) Ho, and Jonathan (Chin Hung) Lo who designed a [stair-climbing delivery device](#) that can transport objects weighing up to 250 lbs up a flight of stairs safely and with minimum effort, preventing potential back injuries.

Second place winners were Mark Bernacki, Matt Van Wieringen, Mike MacLeod, and Ben Fagan of the [University of Ontario Institute of Technology](#) for their design of an [automatic door-opening mechanism](#) that stores energy in the form of compressed air each time the door is opened. This stored energy can then be used to open the door and exit safely in the event of a power failure.

The WSIB is proud to sponsor the James Ham Safe Design Awards in partnership with [Minerva Canada](#) and the [Industrial Accident Prevention Association](#). @

Counting the cost of workplace injuries

Workplace injuries and illnesses cost Ontario workers pain, suffering, financial hardship, and in some cases, their lives.

Workplace injuries and illnesses cost Ontario employers an estimated \$15 billion every year. They can also cost them the goodwill of their employees and their reputation in the marketplace.

A new tool will help employers who are enrolled in the WSIB's [NEER financial incentive program](#) to estimate the true costs of workplace injuries and illnesses.

The NEER Claim Cost Calculator – which will be available on the WSIB website in June – is a spreadsheet-based tool employers can use to calculate the estimated NEER financial impact of an injury or illness within their organization. It can also identify and calculate the associated indirect costs of workplace health and safety failures, like fines and lost productivity.

Similar cost tools are under development for employers who are enrolled in other [WSIB premium incentive programs](#). @

STEPS FOR LIFE

[Steps for Life](#), an annual 5k run in support of families whose lives have been touched by workplace tragedy, took place in Toronto, Hamilton, and Thunder Bay on May 6, 2007.



Mask Up! and Live

Being a firefighter is about saving lives. The men and women who choose a career in firefighting know that their own lives are on the line every day. And for firefighters who have developed cancer from on-the-job exposure to toxic smoke and fumes, every day is a fight for life.

That struggle is the focus of *Mask Up! and Live*, a new educational video for firefighters. This documentary-style video features interviews with veteran firefighters who are battling cancer and new recruits who are learning the dangers of the job. Firefighters in cancer remission share stories about the devastating impact their disease has had on them and their families. Active duty firefighters talk about their training and the need to keep safety top-of-mind. Both groups emphasize the use of personal protective gear – especially masks and self-contained breathing apparatus – as a key to preventing occupational diseases.

The video includes moving footage of a firefighter celebrating the 40th birthday he wasn't sure he'd ever see, along with the solemn funeral for 48-year-old Toronto Fire Captain Gary Wilson, who died of cancer earlier this year.

Produced by the WSIB in partnership with the [Ontario Professional Fire Fighters Association](#) (OPFFA), *Mask Up! and Live* will be launched at the OPFFA 10th Annual Convention in Kingston, Ontario next month. To purchase it on DVD, please contact Monica Szabo (mszabo@mhsao.com) at the Municipal Health and Safety Association – 905-319-0797. A portion of the proceeds will go to the Ontario Firefighters Memorial Foundation. @

Hiring students? Tips for Employers

Young workers can bring fresh ideas, enthusiasm, and energy to any workplace. Employers need to help young workers channel some of that energy into learning how to stay safe on the job. Young workers are especially vulnerable to work-related injuries and illnesses. In addition to their inexperience, they may lack the confidence to ask questions when they're not sure how to do a job safely.

Under Ontario's Occupational Health and Safety Act, employers must "[instruct, inform and supervise workers to protect their health and safety](#)." Providing safety training for young workers helps them stay safe, keeps other workers safe, and teaches young people valuable safety skills that they can use for the rest of their lives. Learn more about [employing young workers](#) on the Ministry of Labour's website. @

Did you know?

The Ontario Government has introduced [changes to the Workplace Safety and Insurance Act](#) as part of its [2007 Ontario Budget](#).

The WSIB partnered with the Toronto Police Service on the [Move Over – Protect Us All](#) campaign to educate drivers on the importance of yielding to emergency vehicles.

You can see the winning videos for the [WSIB 2007 Student Video Award contest](#) at the WSIB's website. @