



@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...

ESRTW Policy Consultation underway

The WSIB wants your feedback on 6 revised Early and Safe Return To Work (ESRTW) draft policies. The draft policies were revised after extensive public consultation. To review the newly revised policies and find out how to participate in the consultation process, visit the [ESRTW Policy Consultation page](#) on the WSIB website. The deadline for written submissions on the proposed policies is February 15, 2007. @

WSIB Chair's Tour

Steve Mahoney, Chair of the WSIB has been meeting with workers and employers all across the province to talk about WSIB programs and initiatives and hear their ideas and concerns about workplace safety. "I want to reach out to all of our stakeholders," says Mahoney. "I want to make the connections and build the partnerships that will help us find solutions to the workplace safety and insurance issues we're facing."

The Chair has visited Windsor, Sault Ste. Marie, Thunder Bay, Sudbury, Timmins, Ottawa, Guelph, and North Bay this fall. Watch for more stops throughout the province in 2007.

Review of Safety Groups Program complete

A review of the current Safety Groups Program has resulted in changes that will reward stellar performers in health and safety. These changes include the removal of the existing cap on rebates for 2007 participants and the addition of minimum performance targets.

The Safety Groups Program encourages Schedule 1 firms to work toward specific health and safety goals by sharing information about injury and illness prevention and learning about other companies' best practices. When the firms within a Safety Group meet designated targets for improving health and safety, the group becomes eligible for a rebate on WSIB premiums.

Previously, Safety Group members could earn an 8% rebate on their WSIB premiums to a maximum of \$20 million. With the new changes, firms that make health and safety a priority can earn a 6% rebate, with no upper limit on the actual dollar amount of the rebate. These changes were developed in consultation with Safety Group sponsors and will ensure the long-term financial sustainability of the program.

If your Schedule 1 firm is interested in reducing injuries and illnesses while improving your bottom line, visit the [Safety Groups program page](#) on the WSIB website. @



Chief Operating Officer to retire

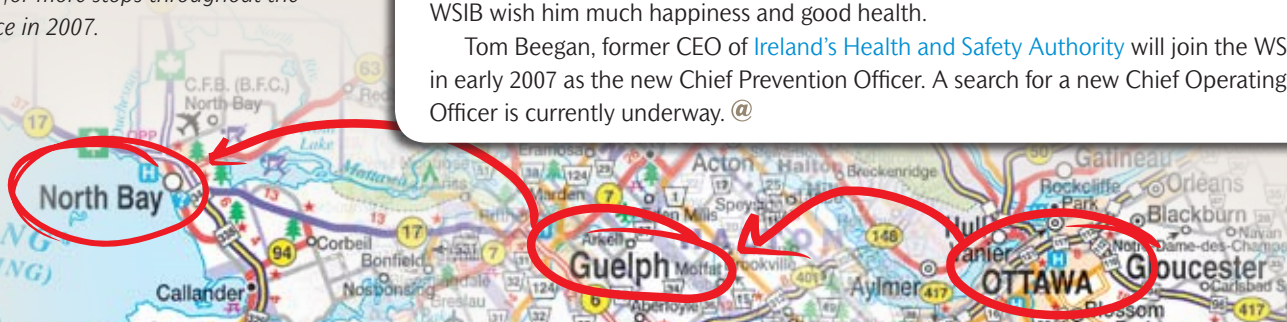
After nearly 10 years at the WSIB, Chief Operating Officer Brock Horseman is retiring at the end of 2006. Brock was recruited in 1997 to the newly established position of Vice-President, Prevention. He worked with a small group to bring the prevention mandate to life, firmly establishing the WSIB's enduring vision of the elimination of all workplace injuries and illnesses.

In 1999, Brock became the Senior Vice-President, Operations, a position he held until becoming the Chief Operating Officer in 2003. Under his leadership, the Operations division implemented the current Service Delivery Model. Brock has championed numerous change initiatives, including launching the development of innovative new e-services that will streamline claims and account management.

During his time at the WSIB, Brock has remained committed to fostering a partnership between the WSIB and its stakeholders, while providing the organization with outstanding leadership and dedication. With the departure of Roy Mould earlier this year, Brock took on the additional responsibilities of Acting Chief Prevention Officer.

As Brock moves on to this next phase in his life, his friends and colleagues at the WSIB wish him much happiness and good health.

Tom Beegan, former CEO of [Ireland's Health and Safety Authority](#) will join the WSIB in early 2007 as the new Chief Prevention Officer. A search for a new Chief Operating Officer is currently underway. @



Deck your halls with safety!

At this time of year, many businesses – especially in the retail sector – are hanging lights and decorations for the holidays. While you're decking those malls, please remember to think safety and make sure:

- you're using the right ladder for the job
- the ladder is in good condition and is secured properly
- you always face the ladder when going up or down and while working from it
- you maintain 3-point contact: two hands and one foot or two feet and one hand on the ladder at all times.

Slips and falls account for 65% of all workplace injuries. Find out more about preventing them on the [Falls Awareness](#) page. @

The prevent-it.ca "Retail" commercial emphasizes ladder safety.



Bill 211 ends mandatory retirement

Effective December 12, 2006, [retirement at age 65 will no longer be mandatory](#) for Ontario workers. While Bill 211 will amend the Ontario Human Rights Code and other statutes that have mandatory retirement provisions, the [Workplace Safety and Insurance Act](#) will not change.

For details about WSIB benefits for workers aged 63 or over, please see the [question and answer document](#) (24k, pdf) on the WSIB website. @

WSIB website gets a makeover



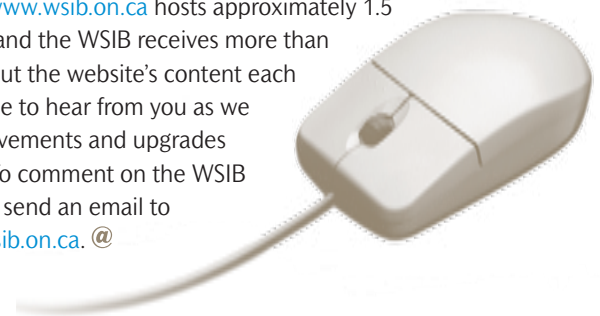
In September, the WSIB launched the first phase of a major website redesign project with a new look and some exciting new features.

The new look is designed to make it easier for visitors to the WSIB website to find what they're looking for. Accessibility is a priority for the WSIB, so we're also working toward making the website compatible with software assistive technologies, such as screen readers, screen magnifiers, and voice recognition software. We've adopted the [Web](#)

[Content Accessibility Guidelines](#) (WCAG 1.0) as our accessibility standard and will be incorporating them into our ongoing design work.

The first phase of the website redesign also includes changes to the home page and navigation, and the addition of new "Newsroom" and "About Us" pages. We've also introduced a new feature, the [Community NetWork](#) page. Health and safety organizations can use this page to post links as a way to share information about upcoming events.

Each year, [www.wsib.on.ca](#) hosts approximately 1.5 million visitors and the WSIB receives more than 650 e-mails about the website's content each month. We hope to hear from you as we continue improvements and upgrades through 2007. To comment on the WSIB website, please send an email to wsibcomm@wsib.on.ca. @



Did you know?

The WSIB allowed claims for 188,638 workplace injuries and illnesses between January 1 and September 30, 2006. An additional 277 workers died as a result of a workplace injury or illness in the same period. Zero is the only acceptable number of workplace injuries and illnesses. Learn more at [www.prevent-it.ca](#).

Webster's defines an accident as an event occurring by chance or arising from unknown causes. At the WSIB, we believe that [there really are no accidents](#) because

all workplace illnesses, injuries, and deaths are preventable. **If we believe it, we can do it.**

[Prevent-it.ca](#) is attracting almost 1,500 visitors per day. Since its launch on October 3, 2006, the site has logged close to 80,000 "hits".

Mike Archambault, Vice-President of Safety and Insurance for Aecon Group, Inc., has been appointed to the WSIB Board of Directors. @

The WSIB wishes you all the best for a safe holiday season!

We look forward to continuing to work with you to improve workplace health and safety in 2007.

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novemberissue 04.2006