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QUICK NEWS...

New Minister of Labour



Brad Duguid

The Honourable Brad Duguid is Ontario's new Minister of Labour. Duguid participated in a review of the WSIB earlier this year as part of the Ontario Legislature's Standing Committee on Government Agencies.

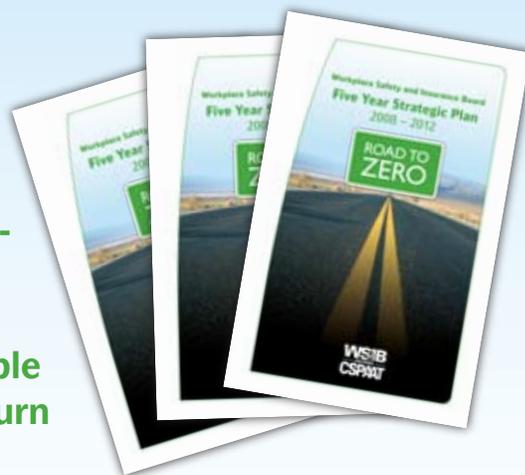
Funding Framework Review

The WSIB will invite stakeholders to participate in a review of its [Funding Framework](#) (527k, pdf) in early 2008. The framework formalizes the WSIB's funding strategy, describes the criteria for projecting funding requirements, and sets the basis for determining premium rates. @

Road to Zero: Five Year Strategic Plan



We are committed to working with our stakeholders and partners, while reaching out to new partners to redouble our prevention and return to work efforts.



In late 2005, the WSIB firmly established its Vision, Mission and Fundamentals when it released its Five Year Strategic Plan, **The Road Ahead**. That document gave WSIB staff, our partners and our stakeholders a strong sense of direction, while outlining the rationale for change and a strong commitment to the elimination of all workplace injuries and illnesses in Ontario.

Since the release of **The Road Ahead**, much progress has been made, but there is still a lot of work to be done. As the natural progression of our Road Ahead journey, our updated Five Year Plan, **The Road to Zero** [1.3mb, pdf], supports our commitment to achieving zero fatalities,

injuries and illnesses, while ensuring quality and timely health care, fair and equitable compensation and meaningful and sustainable return to work. The **Road to Zero** also reflects the WSIB's support of recent enhancements to improve benefit levels for injured workers.

We are committed to working with our stakeholders and partners, while reaching out to new partners to redouble our prevention and return to work efforts. The WSIB is implementing key strategic initiatives to help us achieve the goal of zero and embed in all Ontarians a clear understanding and belief that there really are no accidents. @



Chair visits China to spread the safety message

The Hon. Steven W. Mahoney addresses an international forum on workplace safety in Beijing, and signs a letter of co-operation with Hong Kong's Commissioner of Labour.





New ads raise the bar

With traumatic workplace fatalities being recorded at an average of two per week in Ontario, the WSIB has taken the gloves off with a bold new series of “There really are no accidents” public awareness ads. In one spot, a construction worker in a broken harness is blown off the side of a building when a welding tank explodes. In another, a young

chef is horribly burned when she slips on grease while carrying a pot of boiling water.

In each instance, the worker explains how the incident could have been prevented. “These ads will strike an emotional chord,” says WSIB Chair Steve Mahoney. “They’re graphic and shocking and they are exactly what we need to drive our message home to the people of Ontario.”

The campaign includes radio, print, transit and Internet advertising, along with the www.prevent-it.ca website, which will undergo a redesign in early December. In addition to English and French, print and TV ads will run in Spanish, Punjabi, Cantonese, Mandarin, Vietnamese and Portuguese.

While the WSIB has received a lot of feedback – both positive and negative – about the television ads, Mahoney believes that they will make a difference...

“Whether you agree with our approach or not, **these ads will make you stop and think.** That’s half the battle when it comes to injury and illness prevention in the workplace.” @



New policy

provides incentives for registration

In Ontario, employers who fail to meet their legislative obligation to register with the WSIB are subject to financial and legal penalties. Under a new program, however, the WSIB is offering a full amnesty to employers who voluntarily register between October 29, 2007 and March 31, 2008.

During the full amnesty period, the WSIB will waive retroactive premiums, reconciliation interest, penalties and charges under the *Provincial Offences Act*. After the full amnesty period, employers who voluntarily register will avoid those penalties, but will be required to pay some retroactive premiums.

By encouraging employers to pay their fair share, the WSIB is providing a level playing field for all employers, protecting workers and maintaining the financial sustainability of Ontario’s workplace safety and insurance system.

Visit the [Voluntary Registration](#) page for details on the new policy. @

The language of safety

Being safe on the job means understanding the safety rules and being aware of workplace hazards. But what if you don’t understand when your supervisor explains how to do a job safely? What if you can’t read a warning sign?

New Canadians, workers who can’t speak or read English or French, and workers with other special needs are particularly vulnerable to workplace injuries. Employers who don’t speak English or French are also at risk – they may not understand their legal obligations and end up facing penalties or fines.

The WSIB’s [Multilingual Services and Community Outreach](#) branch is dedicated to ensuring that all workers and employers can access the workers’ compensation system, its benefits, products and services in their own language.

Our Multilingual Services staff – who facilitate translation and interpretation services in up to 60 languages – are in high demand. In the first half of 2007, they responded to more than 3,000 interpretation requests – already surpassing the total number of requests for 2006.

In addition to helping people who come to the WSIB for assistance, we do outreach with information booths at community and business events, shopping malls, trade shows, libraries, community centres and ESL classes. At a recent meeting with the [Canadian Ethnic Media Association](#), WSIB Chair Steve Mahoney identified multilingual outreach as a priority on the WSIB’s Road to Zero, saying “Where you come from shouldn’t impact your ability to come home to your loved ones at the end of the work day. Language should never be a barrier to safety.” @

Did you know?

There were seven workplace fatalities in the month of September 2007: Three of them were the result of motor vehicle collisions and four of them were due to falls. All of them could have been prevented. Visit prevent-it.ca to learn more.

The WSIB’s Research Advisory Council has issued its [2008 Request for Proposals \(RFP\)](#), seeking grant applications focusing on occupational health and safety and workers’ compensation system research. @