



@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...

October is Small Business Month

As part of our efforts to enhance services to small businesses, the WSIB is participating in a number of events throughout the month of October, including the [Toronto Small Business Forum](#) on October 9 and the [Open for Business Small Business Summit](#) in Barrie on October 17.

Fair Practices Commission Report

The Fair Practices Commission (FPC) has released its [Final Report](#) of the Commission's Investigation into Occupational Disease Process Issues. The report reviewed the timeliness, decision-making processes, and communication practices involved with the adjudication of occupational disease claims. The Commission expressed satisfaction with the [WSIB's response](#) to the report.

Annual Report correction

A typographical error was discovered in the WSIB's 2006 Annual Report. In the Consolidated Balance Sheet table on Page 36 of the report, the Unfunded Liability subtotal (\$ millions) for 2006 should be: (5,997). This is the correct Unfunded Liability figure, which appears elsewhere in the report. A small number of the reports were released with the incorrect figure, but current copies have been adjusted and the error has been corrected in the [online version of the Annual Report](#). @



A global journey on the Road to Zero

The WSIB is rapidly developing an international reputation as a leader in innovative and successful workplace safety and insurance strategies and technologies. Management and staff at the WSIB's Toronto head office regularly host visitors from workers' compensation systems around the world.

Last spring, a delegation from New Zealand's Accident Compensation Board came to the WSIB to learn about the WSIB's return to work strategy and initiatives to apply new technology to claims adjudication. Earlier this summer, researchers and government representatives from the municipality of Chongqing in China's Sichuan province visited the WSIB as part of a study tour to learn about occupational health and safety legislation and policy in Canada.

WSIB Chair Steve Mahoney returned the visit in late September when he addressed the [First China International Forum on Workplace Emergency Management and Rescue](#) in Beijing. This conference focused on preventing and responding to major workplace disasters,

– particularly in the mining industry. “The recent mining tragedies we’ve witnessed in the U.S. and China make it very clear that, while we’re moving in the right direction, there is still much work to be done,” says Mahoney. “We need to work together to change the way we think about workplace safety.”

The Chair also visited the [Southwest University of Political Science and Law](#) in Chongqing to talk about the WSIB's recent social marketing initiatives, including the [Young Worker Safety Campaign](#) that wrapped up in July.

In October of this year, several WSIB managers will make presentations about return to work, social marketing, and leadership development at the annual [Association of Workers' Compensation Boards of Canada \(AWCBC\) conference](#) in Prince Edward Island.

“We’ve been doing this work in Ontario for over 90 years,” says Mahoney. “I think it’s important for us to share our experiences, learn from other jurisdictions, and do what we can to help improve safety in workplaces around the world.” @



“Working together, we can extend the Road to Zero right around the globe.”

Steve Mahoney, WSIB Chair

Workplace safety: A community challenge

Municipalities have a role to play in keeping residents healthy and safe. Police and fire services, by-law enforcement, and public health initiatives are among the ways a municipality creates a healthy, safe, and vibrant community.

As an employer, a municipality is also responsible for keeping municipal workers healthy and safe. Successful employers in every sector understand that protecting their workforce by adopting a workplace culture of health and safety is essential for maintaining a competitive advantage in the marketplace. Since 2005, more than 170 business leaders have signed the [CEO Health and Safety Charter](#), making a firm commitment to improve their company's health and safety performance.

As part of its [Road to Zero](#) initiative, the WSIB has adapted this winning strategy for Ontario's municipalities with the new Community Workplace Health and Safety Charter. Based on simple and effective principles, this Charter affirms a municipal council's commitment to promoting workplace health and safety for their staff and for all employers doing business in their community. WSIB Chair Steve Mahoney launched the Charter at the recent [Association of Municipalities of Ontario](#) (AMO) conference in Ottawa, saying, "Ontario municipalities paid \$100 million in WSIB costs last year. As leaders in health and safety, you reduce costs and can direct your resources toward improved community services and infrastructure."

More and more, municipal leaders are recognizing that fostering a community-wide culture of health and safety is essential for building a strong community and a strong local economy. In the coming months, the Chair will visit councils all over Ontario to show municipal leaders the value of becoming champions of effective workplace health and safety practices in their communities. As Mahoney told the AMO Board of Directors, "Safe workplaces mean healthy businesses and healthy businesses mean successful communities." @

Below: WSIB Chair Steve Mahoney and delegates at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario conference.



Change of Business Information

Schedule 1 employers can now submit business information changes to the WSIB via the ServiceOntario website's [Change of Business Information \(COBI\)](#) service. This website is available 24/7 and provides "one-stop shopping" for users to update existing business information with federal and provincial government programs – now including the WSIB. @

JHSC Certification is a two-part process

The WSIB has a role in educating workplaces about the certification of joint health and safety committee (JHSC) members. To help determine the level of certification compliance in Ontario, the WSIB conducted a telephone survey over the summer, sampling workplaces with 20 or more workers to determine a baseline in the province and assist employers in meeting their certification requirements.

Most workplaces with 20 or more workers are required to have one management representative and one worker representative certified. Certification of committee members involves training in Part One (Basic Certification) and Part Two (workplace specific hazard training). Part One covers health and safety law, hazard identification and control, investigation techniques, and provides additional prevention resources. Part Two involves the identification of specific hazards in the workplace or in an industry sector.

Our telephone survey found that there is a high level of awareness of certification among workplaces, and that many workplaces have *partially completed* certification and only require Part Two to meet the requirement.

For more information on certification training (including Part Two), approved training providers, guidelines, and certification questions and answers, visit the [Certification Training page](#) on the WSIB website. @

Safety wins

Last fall's controversial "There really are no accidents" public awareness campaign by the WSIB made an impression on Ontarians. In a recent survey of workers and employers, 73 per cent said they recalled at least one of the ads and more than 60 per cent said the ads caught their attention.

The campaign included [three television ads](#) that present deadly workplace injuries and their physical consequences for the workers involved. In addition to receiving unprecedented media attention, the campaign placed first in the American Association of State Compensation Insurance Funds (AASCIF) [Communications Awards'](#) Radio and Television category. Within the advertising industry, the "Retail" television ad won silver in the Public Service category of [Marketing Magazine's 2007 Marketing Awards](#). The campaign will also be featured in [Applied Arts](#) magazine's Design & Advertising Awards Annual in November.

Since 1999, the WSIB has run advertising campaigns to bring workplace health and safety to greater prominence as a community issue. @

Did you know?

In the month of August, seven Ontario workers died as a result of preventable traumatic workplace injuries. That number should be zero. Find out more about the WSIB's Road to Zero campaign at [Chair Steve Mahoney's website](#).

Stakeholder feedback on policy changes related to Bill 187 can be submitted to the WSIB in writing until November 1, 2007. @