



@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...

Focus on occupational disease

The WSIB has formed a new Occupational Disease Services Division. Led by Marjorie Mercer, this new division will plan, implement, and monitor the delivery of occupational disease programs and services, including prevention, adjudication, medical and health care management, survivor benefits, and return to work.

Standing Committee on Government Agencies report

The Ontario Legislature's Standing Committee on Government Agencies conducted an agency review of the WSIB earlier this year and has released a [report](#) (1,428k, PDF) with recommendations for ways to improve WSIB programs, services, and relationships with its system partners.

Stay cool on the road

Everyone knows about the challenges of driving in an Ontario winter, but we don't always recognize that summer also has its driving hazards. Keep your engine and your temper from overheating – learn how to stay cool on the road with [summer driving tips](#) from Sgt. Cam Woolley of the Ontario Provincial Police. @

Legislative changes improve fairness

The [Budget Measures and Interim Appropriation Act](#) (Bill 187), which was passed on May 17, 2007, sets out a series of key reforms to the [Workplace Safety and Insurance Act](#) (WSIA). The [key changes](#) became effective July 1, 2007.

Stakeholder feedback is invited on the interim versions of key policies until November 1, 2007. [Submission details](#) along with a [Questions and Answers](#) document are available on the WSIB website. @

Final premium rates for 2008 announced

For the second year running, measures introduced in recent years to improve the WSIB's financial situation have provided the WSIB Board of Directors with the flexibility to keep the average premium rate unchanged for 2008 at [\\$2.26 per \\$100 of insurable earnings](#).

The decision on the average rate for 2008 comes after careful financial analysis. The WSIB Board of Directors is committed to setting premium rates at levels that meet the overall needs of Ontario's workplace safety and insurance system.

The WSIB is pleased to see a continuing decline in lost-time injuries. However, the average cost of a claim is still increasing, and all of us must do more. For 2007, and again for 2008, we have been able to mitigate some of the average claim cost increase, but only to the point of being able to keep the average rate unchanged.

Premium rates are a reflection of a rate group's health and safety performance. Unsafe workplaces and return to work delays mean higher claim costs due to more injuries and illnesses and more time on benefits for injured workers. This, in turn, contributes to premium rate increases. Workplace safety and return to work programs can help bring your premium rates down.

To find out more about how you can save money by improving your workplace safety programs and performance, contact your industry's [health and safety association](#), use the [prevention tools and incentives](#) available from the WSIB, or contact your [WSIB account representative](#) for information about your premium rate, health and safety, and return to work programs. @

New Regulation sets out occupational disease criteria for firefighters

On June 8, the Ontario Legislature enacted [Regulation 253/07](#), an amendment to the [Workplace Safety and Insurance Act](#) that identifies certain cancers and heart injuries that are presumed to be work-related for professional firefighters who meet the criteria laid out in the regulation. The WSIB has formed a special team to address claims arising out of this new regulation. For inquiries about such claims, please call 416-344-5700 or toll-free: 1-800-387-5540. @



Chinese delegation visits WSIB On July 3, WSIB Chair Steve Mahoney met with researchers and government representatives from the municipality of Chongqing in China's Sichuan province. The group visited the WSIB as part of a study tour to learn about occupational health and safety legislation and policy in Canada.

Working with workwell

For a company with a poor health and safety record, being selected for a [WSIB Workwell Evaluation](#) is good news. A Workwell evaluation will benefit a workplace by helping to identify risks, hazards, and ways to improve the company's health and safety management systems.

If your firm is selected for a Workwell Evaluation, you can prepare for the Evaluator's visit and help ensure the process runs smoothly by using the material you receive with your Workwell evaluation notice.

- 1 Complete the Workwell Health and Safety Self Assessment. This tool gives you a quick snapshot of your existing health and safety system.
- 2 Review the Health and Safety Audit document. This will provide you with a good idea of what your Evaluator will be looking for.
- 3 Review your Workwell Firm Profile and incident frequencies to gain a better understanding of where your problem areas may be.
- 4 Review your sector-specific hazard profile. This helps you to better understand where and how your workers are at greatest risk.
- 5 Develop an Action Plan based on the steps taken so far and get started on improving your workplace's health and safety!

If you need help or guidance when preparing for your Workwell evaluation, please contact your Workwell Evaluator. You can also download this [Workwell Fact Sheet](#) (40k, PDF) for an overview of the program, and see how a Workwell Evaluation made a difference at the [University of Western Ontario](#). @



Lessons for life

We teach our children to look both ways before crossing the street and to wear protective gear when riding bikes and skateboards. This fall kids will be able to start learning how to stay safe in the workplace with The Big Book of Safety.

“Kids are interested in what their parents do at work,” says WSIB Chair Steve Mahoney. **“This book shows them what different kinds of workplaces are like and how the people who work there keep themselves safe.”**

Exposing children to this kind of ‘safety literacy’ is a first step in changing attitudes toward injury and illness prevention. “This is how we build a health and safety culture,” says WSIB Chief Prevention Officer Tom Beegan. “Children who read this book and colour the pictures will begin to understand that all workplace injuries and illnesses can be prevented.”

Watch for details on how to get a copy of The Big Book of Safety for your kids in an upcoming issue of @wsib. @

Did you know?

According to the WSIB's recent Ipsos-Reid survey, 82% of employers and 70% of workers report that they are satisfied with their WSIB experience.

Most Ontario workplaces with 20 or more workers are required to have at least one employee and one management person as certified members of a workplace Joint Health and Safety Committee.

In partnership with the [Canadian Youth Business Foundation](#), a new [WSIB Chair's Award](#) will go to two young entrepreneurs who demonstrate a commitment to workplace health and safety in 2008. @

Learning to Win

Since the [Young Worker Safety Campaign](#) launch in May, over 40,000 young Ontarians have visited [Prevent-it-ville](#) (Flash required). Participants who entered the Learn and Win contest before July 22 are eligible to win prizes, including MP3 players, cell phones, and a \$5,000 scholarship. @

