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## QUICK NEWS...

### Chill out this summer

Firefighters, roofers, and bakers are among the worker groups most susceptible to heat stress. When temperatures soar, loss of body fluids and fatigue can put stress on your body's cooling systems. You can reduce the risk of suffering heat-related illness by:

- Drinking lots of fluids
- Taking rest breaks
- Having access to air conditioning, fans, and/or misters
- Placing your forearm in cool water
- Dressing appropriately
- Developing and implementing policies to prevent heat-related illnesses in your workplace

For more information and links about preventing heat stress, visit the [Heat Stress Prevention](#) page on the WSIB website. @



## Meet the Chair



The Honourable Steven W. Mahoney, P.C., was appointed to the position of Chair of the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board of Ontario in May of 2006. He succeeds Jill Hutcheon, the former Interim Chair, who continues as the WSIB's President and CEO.

Mr. Mahoney has almost three decades of political experience in all levels of government. He was first elected to public office in 1978 as a City Councillor in Mississauga and the Region of Peel. He was elected to the Ontario Legislature in 1987 where he served as the Chief Liberal Whip and also acted as Labour critic.

In June of 1997, Mr. Mahoney was elected as a Liberal Member of Parliament. In April 2003, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien appointed him to the Federal Cabinet as Secretary of State for Crown Corporations. As Minister, he was responsible for affordable housing and administered over two billion dollars along with the provinces and territories. He is considered a champion of affordable housing in Canada.

Steve returned to the firm of Mahoney International in 2004. The firm specializes in marketing of new products and concepts, and helps people develop their business strategies.

Steve continues his active involvement in community life and currently serves on the board of the Riverwood campaign to develop a new public garden in Mississauga. He has also been appointed to the boards of the Mississauga Children's Festival and the Hospice of Peel.

Steve and his wife, Katie, have been married for 35 years and have three sons and four grandchildren. @

## ESRTW draft policies to be revised

The WSIB is revising its draft Early and Safe Return to Work (ESRTW) policies. The draft policies went out for consultation between October 2005 and January 2006. Further consultation took place during stakeholder sessions held in the spring.

Worker and employer stakeholders expressed concerns with the content of several of the policies. These issues are documented in the [Early and Safe Return to Work Policy Consultation Report](#), available on the WSIB website.

In response to stakeholder feedback, the WSIB is revising the draft policies. Newly revised draft ESRTW policies will be released for further consultation this

fall. Also, beginning in October 2006, the revised draft policies will be piloted within select service delivery teams.

This approach will help ensure that the policies, when finalized, will serve the needs of Ontario workers and employers. The WSIB is committed to fully supporting workplace parties to achieve more successful return to work outcomes and reduce the costs of claims while respecting the rights of injured workers.

For more information on the ESRTW policy consultation process, please visit the [Policy Consultations](#) page on the WSIB website. @

## Research to improve Return to Work outcomes

A third WSIB-funded centre of research expertise will open this summer. The Centre of Research Expertise in Improved Disability Outcomes (CREIDO) will focus on the diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation of chronic musculoskeletal pain and its related disability. The Centre will be based at Toronto Western Hospital (University Health Network) under the directorship of Dr. David Cassidy, professor of Public Health Sciences (Epidemiology) at the University of Toronto.

In addition to research into treatment and rehabilitation, CREIDO will address return to work practices and interventions, the organization and design of work, and the interactions between injured workers and health care providers, the workplace, and the WSIB. CREIDO's primary objective is the development and testing of interventions that will return workers with musculoskeletal pain to safe and sustainable work. @

## Young workers encouraged to "Think Again"

It's summer job season and the WSIB is working to bring the workplace safety message to youth, their parents, and employers. WSIB's annual young worker campaign is designed to make young people more aware of workplace risks and educate them about their rights and responsibilities, as well as those of their employers.

Through radio, web banner, and poster ads that highlight the true stories of three young people whose lives were seriously affected by a workplace tragedy, the campaign brings to the forefront the importance of safety for young workers.

While employers are accountable under Ontario's Occupational Health and Safety Act for ensuring that workplaces are safe, young workers have an important role to play in ensuring they stay healthy and safe at work. They need to know they have the right to refuse unsafe work, to know about workplace hazards, and to participate in keeping the workplace healthy and safe.

Focusing on young workers and making safety an integral part of young workers' lives is just one of the ways the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) is working to make Ontario's workplaces safer – now, and in the future. Visit [www.youngworker.ca](http://www.youngworker.ca) for more information. @



**Above right: One of the 2006 youth campaign posters and the campaign logo, "Think Again".**

## Partnerships to prevent MSD

Injuries from musculoskeletal disorders (MSD) have an enormous impact – financially and socially – on the province. They account for more than 40% of lost-time injuries, benefits costs, and lost workdays compensated by the WSIB. They also result in indirect costs which include overtime, equipment modifications, retraining, and lost productivity.

In partnership with health and safety associations and the Ministry of Labour, the WSIB is participating in several initiatives to help reduce the number of workplace injuries caused by MSD. At the spring Industrial Accident Prevention Association (IAPA) conference, the WSIB launched *Prevent MSD In Your Workplace* (Form 5201A). This CD ROM includes information and links to resources to help workplaces build health and safety programs aimed at preventing MSD. It also lists research studies related to MSD prevention. To order, e-mail: [prevention@wsib.on.ca](mailto:prevention@wsib.on.ca) or phone: (416) 344-1016 or 1-800-663-6639. @

## WSIB and Canada Revenue Agency to continue business information exchange

In 2004, the WSIB and the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) began exchanging business information on employers to ensure all Ontario employers who are required to register with their respective organizations are, in fact, registered.

To date, this Joint Registration initiative has led to the registration of more than 8,000 previously non-compliant firms.

The WSIB and CRA will continue their partnership through a new exchange of employer business information, including

summary payroll data. This will ensure that registrants accurately report their payroll, are assessed for the correct WSIB premium, and remit the correct CPP and EI contributions.

Employers whose information is not consistent will be contacted and asked to clarify any discrepancies. This initiative will help ensure that all Ontario employers are in full compliance with federal and provincial laws and can compete on a level playing field. @

## Did you know?

*When a worker or employer objects to a WSIB decision, the non-objecting party has the right to participate in the objection and appeal process. For more details, visit the [Worker Appeals](#) page or the [Employer Appeals](#) page on the WSIB website.*

*eService users who calculate and report their WSIB premium online can save even more time by paying their premium online via their financial institution. Find out more on the [Calculate and Report Premium](#) page on the WSIB website.*

*The **Canadian Standards Association (CSA)** has developed CSA Z1000-2006, a consensus-based standard for occupational health and safety management. Visit [www.csa.ca](http://www.csa.ca) for more details. @*