



Education & Training Services Unit Update of Activities in 2006

The Education & Training Services Unit engages in educational activities in the following key areas:

1. **Awareness activities** for young and new workers, educators, employers and the public;
2. **Educational resources and supports** for young and new workers in secondary and post-secondary institutions as part of the *Ready for Work* Program;
3. **Targeted initiatives** for First Nations and Métis youth, new workers, educational organizations and employers;
4. **Education support services** to other areas of the Department, including Occupational Health & Safety and Labour Standards; and
5. **Industry Specific, Government and Community Education partnerships** that support industry, external government departments and community organizations.

1. Awareness Activities

Career education events – To increase the awareness and knowledge of labour standards and occupational health & safety among students, teachers and the general public, the Education & Training Services Unit displayed its resources at the following career education events in 2006:

- *Career Fair, Palliser Campus, SIAST* – February, 2006 provided workplace health and safety information to over 400 students.
- *Homestyles Show, Prairieland Exhibition, Saskatoon* – March, 2006 provided workplace health and safety information to over 2,000 participants.
- *Interprovincial Association on Native Employment (IANE)* – participated in a series of career symposia held in May in Ile-a-la Crosse, La Ronge and Prince Albert and attended by over 3,000 students. The Education & Training Services Branch, Labour Standards Branch and the Occupational Health & Safety Division worked together to encourage students to increase their knowledge of fair and safe workplace practices with labour standards and occupational health & safety information and quizzes. *Ready for Work* resources were distributed to teachers.
- *NATA* - in October 2006, NATA held a conference in Prince Albert attended by teachers and teacher associates. An information booth was set up featuring RFW resource updates with many teachers eager to add new information to their existing binders.

- *Careers Unlimited 2006* – an evening career event held in November/06 to support the career pursuits of approximately 450 young women in high school in Regina and surrounding areas as well as female students attending First Nations’ schools. It's an opportunity to provide young women with career related information that will help them to make informed career decisions about their future.
- *Canada – Saskatchewan Career and Employment Services* – in 2006 made presentations to 100 staff members, working in the centres in Regina, Saskatoon and Prince Albert.

Workplace Health & Safety Competition, Skills Canada – Skills Canada Saskatchewan hosts annual Olympic-style skills competitions that provide a forum for secondary, post-secondary and apprentice students to compete in over 30 trade and technology competition areas. The Education & Training Services Unit and the Saskatchewan Construction Safety Association developed, sponsored and hosted the first provincial Workplace Health & Safety Competition in 2000 and were influential in establishing a workplace health & safety competition at the national Skills Canada level.

In 2006, three high school students participated in the Workplace Health & Safety Competition held in Saskatoon. The gold medal winner was David Paetkau from LP Miller Comprehensive High School in Nipawin. David went on to the National Skills Competition in Halifax and won the silver medal.

North American Occupational Safety and Health (NAOSH) Week – The Education & Training Services Unit worked with other stakeholders to develop awareness activities for the NAOSH National Launch that was held in Regina on May 1st, 2006. One of the goals of the group is to assist young workers to become better informed and prepared to enter the workforce. In the past, the NAOSH partnership has sponsored presentations by young injured workers to students at several of our schools. This year, as part of NAOSH Week, an evening event was planned for parents/guardians and high school students. This event featured guest speaker Julie Hamilton, who’s compelling presentation - “*Missing Tim*” - about the death of her 19-year-old son, Tim, who died tragically in a workplace summer job, reinforces the importance of safety in the workplace to parents and young workers.

Students and parents/guardians also participated in interactive safety demonstrations and displays. Support from Regina’s Public and Catholic School Boards, and teachers and students at Cochrane and O’Neill High Schools made the NAOSH activities a tremendous success.

2. Educational Resources and Supports

Visit our website at
www.readyforwork.sk.ca

The *Ready for Work (RFW)* initiatives are directed towards helping Saskatchewan's 140,000 young people between 15 and 24 years of age make a positive transition from school to work, or to enter/re-enter the workplace as young adults.

The *Ready for Work* program provides a framework for helping young and new workers develop an awareness of workplace hazards and an understanding of their rights and responsibilities in the workplace. With this knowledge, young and new workers will be more able to make informed choices about their working conditions and the prevention of injury.

The development of ongoing partnerships with secondary and post-secondary organizations has been central to integrating health, safety, and labour standards concepts within existing and new courses and to developing appropriate instructional resources to support these concepts.

Reference and Focus Groups for Educational Resources

Youth Reference Group – Cabinet established The Youth Reference Group in 2001 as a means of hearing directly from young workers to help design resources, programs and services that address their workplace issues. Members were representative of employment equity groups and also reflect gender and regional considerations. One group member was also designated to represent Saskatchewan on the Cross-Canada Young Worker Advisory Committee, which brings jurisdictions together to share ideas and resources.

Youth Reference Group activities to date have included: helping design the well-received *Guide for New Workers*; suggesting improvements to the *Ready for Work* website; and assessing the relevancy of provincial and national resources, programs and services for Saskatchewan youth.

Educators' Focus Group – In order to continue to address the needs of the educational community, a focus group consisting of representatives from secondary, post-secondary, and Aboriginal organizations was formed. The first meeting was held September 30th, 2003. The group has advised on new directions, needs and interests with respect to expansion of *Ready for Work* educational services and resources.

K-12 Initiatives

Curriculum objectives with respect to occupational health & safety, WHMIS, and labour standards have been developed in partnership with Saskatchewan Learning and integrated in the Career and Work Exploration curriculum guide for Grades 10, 11, and 12. Objectives relating to labour legislation have also been included in the Law 30 curriculum guide.

Instructional resources were developed in partnership with Saskatchewan Learning to support school-based and work-based learning, with a primary focus on resources for the more than 30 Practical and Applied Arts (PAA) courses.

A summary of existing resources for high school teachers is available on the *Ready for Work* website or by contacting the Education & Training Services Unit. These resources include a *Ready for Work* resource binder developed in consultation with educators across the province. The binder includes items such as:

- instructional modules on health & safety, recognizing hazards, WHMIS, and labour standards and;
- fact sheets, brochures, CD-ROMs and videos.

New directions for 2006-07 are to expand the integration of health, safety, and fairness concepts into the middle years courses and to explore options within other courses such as the social sciences.

100-Hour Survey Course – The Education & Training Services Unit is working with Saskatchewan Learning, Souris-Moose Mountain School Division and other stakeholders on the delivery of a 100-hour Practical and Applied Arts Survey course, *Safety and Work Readiness*. This course was offered for the first time in the 2004-05 school year in the Souris-Moose Mountain School Division. The Southeast Education Foundation, business and industry are major contributors to the development of this course that will provide opportunities for students to acquire certified training in areas such as first aid/CPR and WHMIS.

Teacher training – In 2006, in partnership with Saskatchewan Learning, the Education & Training Services Unit has participated in the delivery of 7 workshops, including a pre-conference workshop at a SCWEA Conference, October 2006, to 131 participants. The workshops introduced participants to *Ready for Work* resources and provided opportunities to participate in “hands-on” activities. The Education & Training Services Unit has also presented *Ready for Work* resources to Career and Work Exploration and Practical and Applied Arts teachers at workshops sponsored by the Regina Public and Catholic School Boards.

Post-Secondary Initiatives

SIAST – In the post-secondary system, the Education & Training Services Unit has worked with SIAST to develop general and program specific resources for all students. In 2006 the unit worked with the Industrial Division to begin to incorporate workplace health and safety information into the curriculum and classroom procedures within this division. The objective is to expand these changes across all SIAST divisions, in the next few years.

A joint SIAST/Saskatchewan Labour project team has developed a generic instructional/learning resource, *Working in Saskatchewan: An introduction to fair, safe and cooperative workplaces*. The resource has been integrated into curriculum in SIAST's Continuing Care Assistant and Pharmacy Technician Programs. A workshop to orient program instructors to the resource has been developed and delivered in cooperation with SIAST's Woodland Campus Continuing Care Assistant Program. The *Working in Saskatchewan: An Introduction to fair, safe and cooperative workplaces* resource has been posted to the SIAST intranet system to facilitate accessibility and ease of use by all program heads and students.

Informal needs assessments with SIAST Program Heads and Deans to determine ways to support their programs continue.

Adult Basic Education – Adult basic education instructors, counsellors and administrators from across the province have attended a workshop to introduce the *Ready for Work* resources to them. Content and activities from the *Ready for Work* resource binder have been included in the Adult 10 Communications and Life Work Studies curriculum guides.

University of Saskatchewan and University of Regina – The Education & Training Services Unit delivered two *Ready for Work* presentations to 22 students in their third and fourth years in the Faculty of Education.

New and Enhanced Resources

***Working in Saskatchewan: Minimum Standards for Young and New Workers* (brochure)**

This brochure includes basic rights and responsibilities under *The Labour Standards Act* and *The Occupational Health & Safety Act*. The format is reader-friendly, and will be a useful resource in classrooms and workplaces. It also contains contact information for Saskatchewan Labour offices throughout the province.

“Moving Online ...” More Ready for Work Resources (CD-ROM)

The CD-ROM created by the Education & Training Services Branch, “Moving Online...” is on the *Ready for Work* website. This CD-ROM is a collection of resources – electronic quizzes and presentations, learning activities, checklists and guides – that supplement the *Ready for Work* Resource Binder. The CD is an expedient and cost-effective way of enabling teachers to provide students with important information about health, safety, and labour standards that will help young people make a positive transition from school to work.

“Moving Online...” contains some new resources on occupational health & safety. Of particular interest to industrial and technical educators are:

- Occupational Health & Safety Interactive Quiz, Presentation and Overheads
- Classroom Hazard Hunt
- Hazard Information Supplement: Recognizing Hazards in High Risk Occupations (autobody, construction, electrical, horticulture, machining, welding)
- Workplace Checklists

***Don't Risk Your Life* (video)**

The Education & Training Services Unit in partnership with the Southeast Education Foundation has collaborated with teachers, students and industry to develop *Don't Risk Your Life*, a made-in-Saskatchewan health & safety video. This 15-minute video helps educate young people about their rights and responsibilities in the workplace. Young people tell their personal experiences of being injured on the job and family members share their stories of having lost a loved one. The video/dvd is now available for a nominal fee from Media Group (1-888-682-8808), the educational video distribution service for Saskatchewan Learning.

***'Time to Work'* (video/DVD)**

Tayler Labelle, a grade twelve student at O'Neill High School in Regina, developed and produced this eighteen-minute video about health and safety and labour standards issues for young workers, with his classmates as a project for his Media Studies course. The video focuses on awareness and education messages related to personal protective equipment, safety procedures and fairness issues in the workplace. The video/dvd will be available to teachers and students as part of the *Ready for Work* Program in 2007.

Guide for New Workers

Enthusiasm for the Handbook Edition of the *Guide for New Workers* (released in 2001) led to the development of the Classroom/Counsellor Edition of the Guide (2002).

The Counsellor/Classroom Edition includes additional information on such topics as bullying and safety on the road. It is included in the *Ready for Work* Binder in an 8.5" X 11" format, making it easier for counsellors and teachers to print specific topics for their clients or students. It is also downloadable from the *Ready for Work* website.

Both current editions of the Guide contain updates on: minimum wage and minimum callout pay; maternity, adoption and parental leave; and the procedure for submitting a complaint to the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission.

User Tips, a supplemental document, provides counsellors and teachers with ideas and exercises for using the *Guide for New Workers* with their clients and students.

A Good Deal for Saskatchewan (video)

This video (updated 2006) examines *The Labour Standards Act* and the role it plays in helping to maintain and promote fair workplace practices in Saskatchewan workplaces. Leader's guides for high school and post-secondary students and a student workbook are also available. The leader's guides provide ideas for using the video with students in a classroom setting. The student workbook contains a series of structured learning activities, which can be completed independently or within a group setting.

3. Aboriginal Initiatives

As part of its *Ready for Work* program, Education & Training Services Unit continues to co-operate with First Nations communities, the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN), Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), and Community School administrators to provide a general orientation to occupational health & safety and labour standards to Aboriginal youth and teachers. The Unit has been working with communities from all parts of the province, including the north.

In past years, orientation sessions on workers' rights and responsibilities have been provided by Department staff to more than 200 students in Cochrane High School and Scott Collegiate, as well as to approximately 100 young people at the Paul Dojack Youth Centre. Overall, more than 3,000 students and teachers, in more than 40 communities have participated in this orientation.

In ongoing efforts to promote the health & safety of young and new Aboriginal workers, Education & Training Services Unit works with the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour (SFL) and Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs (GRAA) to provide Aboriginal awareness workshops to workers throughout the province.

Education & Training Services Unit is currently focusing on First Nations and Métis post-secondary institutions. Initial contact has been made with University of Saskatchewan programs involving First Nations educational programs, such as ITEP (Indian Teacher Education Program), SUNTEP (Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program) and NORTEP (Northern Teacher Education Program). A drop-in based information session was well attended by ITEP students at the university in November and plans are in the works for a presentation with fourth year students at SUNTEP in February. Discussions with Eli Fleury have been positive as arrangements are being made to have a workshop in La Ronge in January.

During Welcome Week at the University of Saskatchewan, the Aboriginal Students' Centre hosted a Powwow for all students. An OHS information table was set up and manned by Guy Richards. Life skills coach, Liz Durette, has committed the Aboriginal Students' Centre to a long-term partnership with ETSU to present workshops on health and safety for students accessing the centre. It was agreed upon that this presentation would occur twice a year, in the spring and in the fall.

Partnering with tribal councils will be an ongoing process and steps have been taken to further the Education and Training Services Unit's working relationships with the Saskatoon Tribal Council, the Prince Albert Grand Council and educational facilities such as SIIT (Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technology) and First Nations University. Further, PAGC hosts a youth educational conference every year in Prince Albert and ETSU is lined up to be part of the breakout sessions for 2007.

With the goal of encouraging cultural diversity amongst OHS staff, a women's sweat was organized in October for those that were interested in attending. Those women who experienced the sweatlodge were pleased with the ceremony and are willing to attend again.

A school trip was planned in November with presentations given to four different high schools with three taking place on reserve schools. Three of the presentations were to high school students with an attendance figure of 85+. Dubbed the "Northern School Tour", it included a RFW workshop for 14 teachers in Cumberland House. There is further interest in making this trip an annual one. An encounter with Lamarr Oksasikewiyin of the office of the Treaty Commissioner while at Cumberland House may prove to be another avenue to pursue in networking with more Aboriginal communities in the future.

4. Education Support Services

Occupational Health & Safety

The Education & Training Services Unit works closely with OHS in the development and enhancement of a range of occupational health & safety resources, including class presentations, brochures, and posters.

Labour Standards

The Education & Training Services Unit staff develops and delivers Labour Standards presentations. During 2005-06, Education & Training Services staff provided 42 presentations to 1139 individuals from employment centres and post-secondary settings as well as employer and professional associations.

5. Industry Specific, Government and Community Education Partnerships

Canadian Restaurant and Foodservices Association

In collaboration with the Canadian Restaurant and Foodservices Association, the Education & Training Services Unit facilitated development of a labour standards information package, *Saskatchewan Labour Standards Information for the Restaurant and Foodservices Industry*, for employers and employees in the restaurant and food services industry. Some occupational health and safety information specific to the foodservices industry was also included.

Canadian Retail Council

In collaboration with the Canadian Retail Council, the Education & Training Services Unit facilitated development of a labour standards information package *A Retailer's Guide to Labour Standards in Saskatchewan*, for employers and employees in the restaurant and food services industry. Some occupational health and safety information specific to the retail industry was also included.

Government and Community Partnerships

In collaboration with the Human Rights Commission, Service Canada, Saskatchewan Health and the Breastfeeding Committee of Saskatchewan, the Education and Training Services Unit cooperatively facilitated development of a handbook, *Pregnancy, Parenting and the Workplace: What Employers and Employees Need to Know* to provide information on human rights, labour standards, occupational health and safety and employment insurance for parenting employees and their employers.

**For More Information:
(306) 933-5295 or 1-877-419-3510**