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WSIB HEALTH AND SAFETY PROGRAMS RE-DESIGN

As you know, the WSIB is redesigning its three health and safety programs (Safety Groups, SCIP and Workwell) by integrating them into one new program called the Health and Safety Excellence Program (HSEP). Starting in 2020, Ontario businesses registered with the WSIB will be able to participate in this new program that will make it easier to improve health and safety in the workplace.

Over the next few months, the WSIB will be talking with interested stakeholders and employers to get feedback on the redesign before we move to implementation. If you are interested in giving your feedback on the new health and safety excellence program, you can contact Keesha Bell at Keesha.Bell@wsib.on.ca or 416-344-6731 to arrange a workshop for your members in March.

The goal of the WSIB is to make it easier for employers to keep their people safe by investing in the health and safety of their workplace. Our provincial compensation agency welcomes your association to join this conversation.

In the meantime, we are still running our three existing programs for the remainder of 2019. I've attached a matte article that you can use to promote these programs to your members, by newsletter or on your website.

Looking forward to engaging further with you and your members.

ENCOURAGE YOUR MEMBERS TO SIGN UP FOR WSIB HEALTH AND SAFETY PROGRAMS

Prevention doesn't have to be costly, but doing nothing can be. Workplace injuries and illnesses have a cost and can negatively impact people, businesses and the larger community.

That's why the WSIB offers voluntary programs and services to help you build a healthy and safe workplace.

Sign-up deadlines for their programs are around the corner and these programs won't last long. Take advantage now:

- Until March 29, 2019 join the Safety Groups Program and earn a shared rebate for making health and safety improvements. There are

program options for any size business.

- Participate in Small Business Programs and you could earn a seven per cent rebate. (With a minimum funding floor of \$1,000.)
- Let Workwell evaluators help close your health and safety gaps and develop an action plan for improvement.

The WSIB wants to work with you to make Ontario one of the safest and healthiest places to work. Contact them today at safetygroups@wsib.on.ca or 1-800-387-0750.



COCA's Annual Lobby Day at Queens Park

Monday March 18th, 2019

INSTITUTE FOR WORK AND HEALTH CONCLUDE WORKING AT HEIGHTS SUCCESSFUL

Most readers will know that as of April 1, 2015 the Ontario Ministry of Labour mandated that all workers on construction projects who work at heights must have completed an approved working at heights (WAH) training program delivered by an approved working at heights training provider.

The Institute for Work and Health (IWH) was called upon by the Ministry of Labour study the effectiveness of the WAH program and in doing so to consider two overarching questions:

1. To what extent has the WAH training reached the target population?
2. What impact has introduction of the WAH training requirements had on fall prevention on construction projects?

The Executive Summary of the report can be found by clicking on the following link:

https://www.iwh.on.ca/sites/iwh/files/iwh/reports/iwh_report_wah_evaluation_project1360_executive_summary_2019.pdf

The report's conclusions are as follows:

1. The evaluation found consistent evidence that the mandatory WAH training program reached the target audience.
2. The evaluation found consistent evidence that the training had an impact at the work site. A statistically significant but modest impact on lost-time claims for falls targeted by the intervention was found in 2017.

Considerations for the future

The report includes suggestions for improving the WAH curriculum, the WAH program, and working at heights safety more generally. These were gathered through the surveys of providers, learners and employers, and input from the project advisory committee

RUMOURS AND RUMBLINGS

Here's what we're hearing:

About OCoT

- The government will introduce framework legislation in the Spring for a new skilled trades and apprenticeship system to succeed OCoT; there will be consultations with stakeholders to flesh out the new system before it takes effect at a later date
- The Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities is studying modular or stackable skills and this is expected to be part of the government's new approach

About Infrastructure

- The government is conducting a review of the province's public private partnership model with a

view to attracting more bidders from around the world to get more competitive pricing

- Not many new projects are being rolled out
- The Macdonald Block Reconstruction Project (the Macdonald Block Podium and the Hearst, Hepburn, Mowat and Ferguson Towers at 900 Bay Street) is proceeding and the move-out of about 6,000 public servants is ongoing

About Accreditation

- Sources tell us that the long awaited Accreditation Standard is ready to go and should be rolled-out in the Spring

Don't take any of this to the bank. It's just rumour and speculation.

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CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATIONS BONSPIEL HUGE SUCCESS

The 7th Annual Ontario Construction Associations Curling Bonspiel, hosted by the Barrie Construction Association on March 21st and 22nd at the Stroud Curling Club, was an overwhelming success.

Teams from the Sault Ste. Marie Construction Association, the Windsor Construction Association, the London District Construction Association, the Grand Valley Construction Association, the Ontario General Contractors Association, the Council of Ontario Construction Associations and the host Barrie Association (with cameos by Harold Lindstrom of the Construction Association of Thunder Bay who skipped the COCA squad and Romeo Milano of the Toronto Construction Association) competed for the title of best curlers in our industry.

Victorious once again was the rink from London comprised of skip Rob Dempsey along with Brian Hayman, Rick Krygsman and John Harris. They were followed by the Barrie Construction Association and the Windsor Construction Association.

In addition to the competitions, curlers enjoyed evenings at the Redline Brewhouse, Shirley's Bayside Grille and Donaleigh's Irish Public House.

It was a wonderful showcase of what Barrie has on offer. Needless to say, a good time was had by all.

Special thanks are owed to the BCA's Incoming Chair, Scott Garrett and CEO Alison Smith for all their efforts organizing the event.



COMPOSITION OF THE LEGISLATURE

Following the June 7, 2018 Ontario general election our provincial legislature now has 124 seats, up from 107 before the election.

The Progressive Conservatives won a big majority, taking 76 seats. However their seat count has decreased slightly since the time of the election.

- First, Andrea Simard, the MPP for Glengarry-Prescott-Russell, defected because of the PC's cuts to French language services.
- Then Simcoe-Grey MPP Jim Wilson resigned from cabinet and the Tory caucus after it was revealed he was the subject of sexual misconduct allegations and to seek treatment for alcohol abuse.
- More recently, Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston MPP Randy Hillier was suspended indefinitely from the

PC caucus for making disrespectful comments to parents of children with autism.

All three former Tory members are now sitting as Independents. The composition of the Legislature is as follows:

- Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario: 73 members
- New Democratic Party of Ontario: 40 members
- Ontario Liberal Party: 7 members
- Green Party of Ontario: 1 member
- Independent: 3 members

MCKENDRICK RETIRES FROM INFRASTRUCTURE ONTARIO

COCA's good friend John McKendrick has announced his retirement from Infrastructure Ontario effective next week.

John has had an exemplary career serving the people of Ontario as Director of the Corporate Finance Branch at the Ontario Financing Authority, as Assistant Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal (now the Ministry of Infrastructure) and for the last 17 years with Infrastructure Ontario, latterly as Executive

Vice President Project Delivery-Social.

In an email telling me of his retirement, John said the following, "I have learned from you and your colleagues that good collaboration with the construction industry is a key factor in accomplishing great things."

Please join me in wishing John the very best in his well-deserved retirement.

ONTARIO PC LEADER'S DINNER

COCA will be represented at the Ontario PC Leader's Dinner on the evening of Wednesday, February 27th at the Toronto Congress Centre. Ten members and friends of COCA responded to the call and personally purchased

tickets for the event to make up a "Friends of COCA" table.

Thanks to those who bought tickets.