

Ministry of Education

Deputy Minister
900 Bay Street
Mowat Block, 22nd Floor
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

Ministère de l'Éducation

Sous-ministre
900, rue Bay
Édifice Mowat, 22^e étage
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

**Ministry of Labour**

Office of the Deputy Minister
400 University Avenue
14th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 1T7

Ministère de Travail

Bureau du sous-ministre
400, avenue University
14^e étage
Toronto ON M7A 1T7

June 9, 2014

Dear Director,

It is our pleasure to share with you some new updates for teachers, and to announce the winning students and schools of the 2014 *It's Your Job* workplace safety video contest. Please circulate this letter to elementary and secondary school principals in your board so that they can update teachers and students before the school year ends.

Good news: the injury rate for Ontario teenagers at work has decreased again – by some 70 percent since 2000 – a dramatic and valuable improvement. For more than a decade, the province's Education and Labour ministries have collaborated to incorporate workplace safety into Ontario's school curriculum, and provide related resources to teachers and students. Thanks to our collective efforts, our youth are safer at work. The fact that far fewer teenagers are injured at work shows the valuable role our education system plays in preparing students to live and work safely.

We believe that you, along with your principals, teachers and students, will continue to encourage this positive work.

Below are five new safety updates for you to share with your school principals and board staff:

1. New Regulation on Workplace Training Comes into Effect

A new regulation that comes into effect July 1, 2014 is designed to prevent workplace incidents and injuries by helping all workers and supervisors to be aware of their health and safety rights and responsibilities in the workplace. The regulation will make basic awareness training mandatory for all workers and supervisors covered by the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*.

2. *It's Your Job* Secondary School Video Contest Winners

The Ministry of Labour's (MOL's) 2013-14 *It's Your Job* video contest was open to all Ontario secondary school students. Entrants created an original short video about the importance of working safely on the job. This year's winners are:

First Place (Tied): *Flower*

Team: Pranay Noel and Martin Czachor, Grade 11 students
St. Francis Xavier Catholic Secondary School, Mississauga

And

Fun and Games

Team: Scott Weeks and Clark DeCaluwe, Grade 12 students
H.B. Beal Secondary School, London

Second Place: *On Call*

Entrant: Ben Croskery, Grade 12 student
John McCrae Secondary School, Ottawa

Third Place: *Start Safety Young*

Team: Alex MacDonald, Madison Kvaltin and Holly Gran, Grade 10 students
Lockerby Composite School, Sudbury

Winning videos are online at www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/contest/winners2014.php. Please encourage teachers to show them in the classroom to promote health and safety, and to inspire other students to submit entries to next year's contest. It is a wonderful opportunity for teachers to focus their students on job safety, showcase student talent, and vie for cash prizes.

Contest details for the 2014-15 *It's Your Job* video contest will be available before September 2014 at www.ontario.ca/videocontest.

3. For Grades 7 to 12 Students This Summer

You Have Rights

With summer around the corner, many students are looking for summer jobs. To prepare them, we are pleased to provide a link to new information at www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/atwork/workplacerrights.php, which is available in English, French and 24 additional languages. The information is aimed at increasing awareness of job health and safety, as well as employment rights and responsibilities. It will help students to ask the right questions and understand their legal rights and duties for job safety, proper pay, breaks and holidays, and to find out where they can get more information.

4. Free Subscription for Kindergarten to Grade 12 Teachers

Health and Safety Resource (classroom-ready, curriculum-based)

Elementary and secondary teachers can keep current with an online subscription to the Ministry of Labour's *Live Safe! Work Smart!* newsletter. Subscribing is easy, and free of charge. Teachers can visit the ministry's website at www.ontario.ca/labour and, in the left column below Newsletters, click on "Live Safe! Work Smart!," then click on "Subscribe." The newsletter will be delivered via email a few times each year.

Previous copies of the teacher newsletter and free teacher resources are available through the Ministry of Labour resource website for teachers at www.livesafeworksmart.net.

We encourage you to make the information available on your board and school websites, in guidance offices, through Career Studies and Cooperative Education programs, and by posting it around your schools.

If you would like more information about young worker safety or the resources available for teachers, please contact Ms. Sue Boychuk in the Ministry of Labour's Prevention Office at 416-212-3206 or sue.boychuk@ontario.ca.

5. Safety Alert Posted on MOL Website

Powered Folding Partition Alert

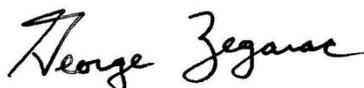
MOL recently posted an alert on its website intended to raise awareness about the potential for serious injuries that could result from the use of powered folding partitions. These types of partitions are commonly used to separate areas, including in school gymnasiums.

Additional information about the powered folding partition alert can be found on MOL's website at www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/pubs/alerts/i37.php.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to safe and healthy schools, and for providing our students with information to help ensure they are treated fairly and safely at work.

Best wishes to you, your colleagues and all your students for a safe and healthy summer.

Sincerely,



George Zegarac
Deputy Minister of Education



Sophie Dennis
Deputy Minister of Labour (Acting)