

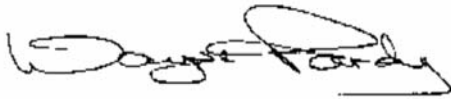
Honourable Kevin O'Brien
Minister of Government
Services Second Floor, West
Block
Confederation Building
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

Dear Minister O'Brien:

Re: **2009-10 Annual Activity Report for the
Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Safety**

In compliance with the *Transparency and Accountability Act*, I am pleased to provide you with the 2009-10 Annual Activity Report for the Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Safety.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wayne Parry". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Wayne Parry



Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Safety

**Annual Activity Report
2009-10**

For More information:

ONLINE

Website: www.gs.gov.nl.ca

PAPER

**Department of Government Services
P. O. Box 8700, Confederation Building
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6**

Telephone: 709.729.4834 Fax: 709.729.4754

E-mail: gsinfo@gov.nl.ca

REFERENCE PERIOD

**This report covers the period April 1, 2009 through March 31, 2010,
the fiscal year of the Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Safety.**


Chairperson's Message:

As Chair of the Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Safety I am pleased to submit the Annual Activity Report for the activities of the Advisory Council for 2009-10. This report is prepared in compliance with the *Transparency and Accountability Act* which categorizes the Advisory Council as a category three entity and requires the Council to prepare an annual report. The Council is accountable for the preparation of this report and for the results reported.

Through much discussion and careful consideration of the strategic directions of the Department of Government Services, below you will find the strategic issues which will guide the Council through the reporting period 2010 – 2011.

On behalf of the members of Council, I would like to reaffirm our commitment to working closely with all stakeholders in order to provide strategic advice to the Minister in helping creating safe and healthy workplaces throughout the Province.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wayne Parady". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Wayne Parady

Government Entity Overview:

Mandate:

The Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Safety is established under Section 17 of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*. The duties and responsibilities of the Council include providing advice to the Minister on the administration of the *Act* and its regulations; on occupational health and safety; and any matter relating to occupational health and safety that the Minister has referred to the Council for advice.

Representation:

The Advisory Council has 11 members, including Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, two ex-officio positions, secretary, and the remaining membership consisting of equal representation from labour and management. Members are appointed for terms not exceeding three years, and are eligible for reappointment for not more than two consecutive terms.

Physical Location or Representation:

Member	Representation
Mr. Wayne Pardy	Chairperson
Ms. Margie Hancock	Vice-Chairperson
Ms. Goldie Porter	Labour Representative
Mr. Mike Power	Labour Representative
Mr. Jerome O'Keefe	Labour Representative
Mr. Bob Pike	Mgmt. Representative
Ms. Sue Anne Thistle	Mgmt. Representative
Mr. Woodrow French	Mgmt. Representative

Mrs. Leslie Galway - Ex-Officio – CEO Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission

Ms. Kim Dunphy - Ex-Officio – ADM Occupational Health and Safety, Dept. of Government Services

Mr. Doug Carter - Secretary, Manager OHS Inspections - Dept. of Government Services

Note: Nominations are presently ongoing to re-fill those Council positions which have expired as of March of 2010.

Revenues and Expenditures:

Council is funded through the Occupational Health and Safety Branch of the Department of Government Services. The Branch operates on a maximum 5% of the annual assessment revenue paid to the Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission. Approximately \$25,000 is budgeted for the operation of Council on a yearly basis, which would include reimbursement as per treasury board guidelines for Boards, Commissions and Agencies.

Vision:

The Advisory Council has adopted the vision of the Department of Government Services: “Newfoundlanders and Labradorians living and working in a healthy and safe environment with access to an open, fair, and responsive regulatory system.” The Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Safety supports the Department’s vision by focusing on improving the health and safety of all workers and workplaces in this Province.

Mission:

By March 31, 2011, the Department of Government Services will have improved citizen protection in the areas of public health and safety, worker health and safety, and consumer interests. For more information see the Department’s 2008-11 Strategic Plan at <http://www.gs.gov.nl.ca/publications>.

The Advisory Council supports this mission by advising the Department of Government Services on various avenues to improve health and safety in the province's workplaces.

Primary Clients:

The Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Safety is focused on improving the health and safety of all workers and workplaces in this Province. The clients of the Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Safety include: employers, employees, the Occupational Health and Safety Branch of the Department of Government Services, the Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission and the public at large.

Values:

In fulfilling its commitments, Council has chosen three core values and will communicate these values to its stakeholders through the following action statements:

Accountability: Each person accepts responsibility for their actions and follows through on requests and commitments.

Integrity: Each person engages in ethical behavior exercising proper use of authority and responsibility.

Respect: Each person accepts differences and exercises courtesy in their encounters with others.

Highlights and Accomplishments

For the fiscal year 2009-2010, the Advisory Council focused on the following key areas.

- Certification of Crane Operators
- Status of the Implementation of the OHS Regulations
- Mines Safety of Workers Regulations
- Asbestos Regulations
- Atlantic Accord amendments incorporating an offshore OH&S Regime

- Process Safety Management Code of Practice
- WHSCC Initiatives, Training Standards, OHS Regulations Workshops
- Auditor General's Report on Monitoring of the Radiation Program
- Update on the Lab West Dust Study and Medical Surveillance

Outcome of Objectives

The following represents the outcome of objectives for the Council's activities in this fiscal year, as set out in its 2008-11 Activity Plan. The Council's primary function is to advise the Minister on administration of Occupational Health and Safety Act and on any matter relating to occupational health and safety. The objectives are designed to achieve these functions.

Goal:

By March 31, 2011, the Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Safety will have reviewed occupational health and safety regulations under the Act and advised the Minister of its recommendations.

Objective for current reporting year:

By March 31, 2010, the Advisory Council will have reviewed the Mines Safety of Workers Regulations and submitted its recommendations to the Minister.

Measure: New Mines Safety of Workers Regulations

Indicators:

- Current regulations reviewed
- New recommendations formulated
- Recommendations submitted to the Minister

The Council held initial discussions regarding proposed regulations as required by the meeting mandate of Council. However, the draft regulations were not finalized in fiscal year 2009-10. Therefore the Council was not able to formulate and submit comments

until the Branch had completed this process. Public consultations regarding the regulations did not commence until September 1, 2010 and are scheduled to conclude on November 30, 2010. Once these consultations are complete and the Branch has had adequate time to review the findings and revise the proposed regulations based on stakeholder feedback, the Council will review then be able to formulate and submit its recommendations to the Minister. It is anticipated that this process will occur within fiscal year 2011-12.

Objective for next reporting year:

By March 31, 2011, the Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Safety will have reviewed occupational health and safety legislation and advised the Minister of its recommendations.

Measure: Occupational health and safety legislation reviewed and minister advised.

Indicators:

- Health and safety legislation reviewed.
- Recommendations submitted to the Minister.

Opportunities and Challenges Ahead

- Finalizing Process Safety Management Code of Practice will provide the opportunity of safer work processes in the Petroleum Sector.
- Communication of the changes to the OH&S Act and Regulations to over 35 000 worksites across the province so that employers understand the changes and impact upon their workplaces will continue to be a challenge. However, increased awareness of occupational health and safety should lead to increased compliance of the legislation and in turn a reduction in workplace accidents and injuries.
- Some employers have more evolved safety management systems and the new regulations will provide them the opportunity to build upon their safety system.
- A new regulatory regime will present some challenges to those companies with immature occupational health and safety management systems.
- Provide timely feedback to Minister on current OH&S regulatory concerns.