

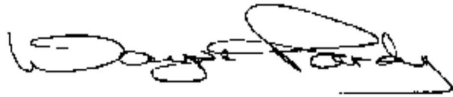
Honourable Kevin O'Brien  
Minister of Government Services  
Second Floor, West Block  
Confederation Building  
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

Dear Minister O'Brien:

**Re: 2007-08 Annual Activity Report**  
**Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Safety**

In compliance with the Accountability Framework for Boards and Agencies, I am pleased to provide you with the 2007-08 Annual Activity Report for the Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Safety.

Yours truly,

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

Wayne Pardy  
Chairperson  
Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Safety



Advisory Council on  
Occupational Health and Safety

Annual Activity Report  
2007-08

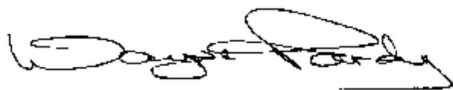
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## Chairperson's Message

As Chair of the Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Safety for Newfoundland and Labrador, I am pleased to submit this report for the activities of the Council for 2007-08. This report is prepared in compliance with the *Transparency and Accountability Act* pursuant to which the Council has been categorized as a Category 3 government entity, and which requires the Council to prepare an Annual Activity Report. The Council is accountable for the preparation of this report and for the results herein. In its activities, the Council has considered the strategic direction of the Minister of Government Services.

The Council provides advice to the minister on the administration of the Act and regulations; on Occupational Health and Safety; and on any matter relating to occupational health and safety that the Minister has referred to the Council for advice.

The Council has gone through significant organizational change since 2005. The appointment of a new Chairperson has revitalized the Council and members are encouraged with the pro-active direction and new ideas brought forth. The newly appointed Council has met on two occasions since October 2007, and has also met with the recently appointed Minister to confirm its direction and mandate. 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 to create safe and healthy workplaces throughout the Province.



Wayne Pardy  
Chair

## Government Entity Overview

### Representation

The Advisory Council has 11 members, including the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, two ex-officio positions (the Assistant Deputy Minister of the Occupational Health and Safety Branch of the Department of Government Services and the Chief Executive Officer of the Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission), 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.

Member	Representation
Mr. Wayne Pardy	Chairperson
Ms. Margie Hancock	Vice-Chairperson
Mr. Jim Skinner	Labour Representative
Mr. Mike Power	Labour Representative
VACANT*	Labour Representative
Mr. Bob Pike	Management Representative
Ms. Sue Anne Thistle	Management Representative
Mr. Woodrow French	Management 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

\* Nominations are presently ongoing to fill a vacant position of labour representative.

### **Description of Revenues and Expenditures**

The Council is funded through the Occupational Health and Safety Branch of the Department of Government Services. The Branch operates on a budget funded through 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 on Occupational Health and Safety has adopted the vision of the Department of Government Services: Newfoundlanders and Labradorians working in a healthy and safe environment with access to an open, fair and responsive regulatory system. The Council is focused on improving the health and safety of all workers and workplaces in this Province.

In fulfilling its commitments, the Council has adopted the three core values of the Department of Government Services:

*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.

### **Mission**

The Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Safety has adopted the mission of the Department of Government Services: By 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.

The Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Safety contributes to the Department's mission by providing advice on improving health and safety in the province's workplaces.

## Shared Commitments

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The Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Safety is focused on improving the working conditions for all workers 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.

Each of these groups has representation on the Council. Nominations are solicited from each of the major stakeholder groups and, when appointed, members provide periodic feedback and advice to their respective constituents and represent them at Council.

## Highlights and Accomplishments

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For the fiscal year 2007-08, the Advisory Council was focused exclusively on the regulatory review process of the existing workplace health and safety regulations, which have changed very little in the past 30 years. A comprehensive review was undertaken from a policy and technical standpoint, the objective of which was to ensure the majority of requirements under the proposed regulations modernize existing duties, and clearly outline requirements presently enforced in the general duty requirements of the existing regulations.

Three meetings of Council were held in fiscal year 2007-08, including:

- October 11, 2007
- November 28, 2007
- February 4, 2008

## Activities

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### Goal:

The Advisory Council has a continuing goal of reviewing Occupational Health and Safety legislation and regulations, and making recommendations to the Minister of Government Services.

In the 2007-08 reporting period, the Advisory Council:

- Met three times;
- Stayed abreast of trends, analyses and issues pertaining to occupational health and safety within the province through interaction with the Department of Government Services and the Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission;
- Advised the Minister and Department on regulatory issues with respect to Occupational Health and Safety.

For the fiscal year 2007-08, the Advisory Council was focused exclusively on the regulatory review process of the provincial Occupational Health and Safety regulations.

## Opportunities and Challenges Ahead

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- Regulations are minimum standards for approximately 35 000 + worksites in the province, and it is an ongoing challenge to address issues and hazards as they arise;
- Communication and understanding of the regulatory changes, and their impact on worksites;
- Smaller and newer companies are more challenged to enhance with immature occupational health and safety management systems than those which have evolved with experience and time.