



Digital Government and Service NL

Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Safety

Annual Activity Report

2019-20

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PAPER

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REFERENCE PERIOD

This report covers the period April 1, 2019 through March 31, 2020,
the fiscal year of the Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Safety.

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Chairperson's Message

As Chair of the Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Safety (Advisory Council) I am pleased to submit the Annual Activity Report for the activities of the Advisory Council for 2019-20.

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 Advisory Council to prepare an annual report. The Advisory Council is accountable for the preparation of this report and for the results reported.

On behalf of the members of the Advisory Council, I would like to re-affirm our commitment to working closely with all stakeholders in order to provide strategic advice to the Minister of Digital Government and Service NL in helping create safe and healthy workplaces throughout the Province.

Yours truly,



Travis White
Chairperson

Overview

Mandate

The Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Safety is established pursuant to section 12 of the **Occupational Health and Safety Act**. The duties and responsibilities of the Advisory Council are established pursuant to section 17 of the Act. They include providing advice to the Minister on the administration of the Act and the 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 its advice.

Representation

The Advisory Council has 11 members, including the 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.

Member	Representation
Mr. Travis White	Chairperson
Ms. Yvette Coffey	Vice-Chairperson
Mr. Robert Richards	Labour Representative
Ms. Kristy Reid	Labour Representative
Ms. Mary Kathleen King	Labour Representative
Mr. Derrick House	Management Representative
Ms. Lana Marie Collins	Management Representative
Ms. Cathy Ivany	Management Representative
Mr. Dennis Hogan	Ex-Officio – Chief Executive Officer, WorkplaceNL
Mr. Alan Doody	Ex-Officio – Assistant Deputy Minister, Digital Government and Service Branch, Digital Government and Service NL

Ms. Heather Taylor

Secretary, Manager, Occupational
Health and Safety Division (OHS),
Digital Government and Service NL

Revenues and Expenditures

The Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Safety is funded through the Occupational Health and Safety Division of Digital Government and Service NL. The Division operates on a maximum five percent of the annual assessment revenue paid to WorkplaceNL. 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.

Highlights and Partnerships

The Advisory Council worked with representatives of labour and management to provide advice to Government on Occupational Health and Safety.

Report on Performance

Report on 2019-20 Objective

Objective: By March 31, 2020 the Advisory Council will have advised the Minister of Digital Government and Service NL on the review of the **Radiation Health and Safety Act** and Regulations.

Indicators:

- Proposed amendments to the **Radiation Health and Safety Act** and Regulations reviewed.
- Review stakeholder feedback.
- Recommendations formulated.
- Recommendations submitted to the Minister.

Results Achieved:

The Advisory Council began its review of the **Radiation Health and Safety Act** and Regulations during the 2018-19 reporting period and proposed amendments and key stakeholders were identified.

Key stakeholders were given an opportunity to provide feedback to the Advisory Council.

The Advisory Council met to discuss proposed amendments, considering the feedback provided from stakeholders, and formulate recommendations.

Recommendations for amendments to the **Radiation Health and Safety Act** and Regulations were finalized and provided for the department and the Minister's consideration.

Report on 2017-20 Goal

March 31, 2020 represents the end of the three-year reporting period of the Advisory Council's Activity Plan, 2017-20. In that plan, the Advisory Council established the following goal:

Goal: By March 31, 2020, the Occupational Health and Safety Advisory Council will have advised the Minister of Digital Government and Service NL regarding its recommendations on occupational health and safety issues and legislation.

Indicators:

- Recommendations made regarding various initiatives undertaken by Digital Government and Service NL and WorkplaceNL.
- The Minister is advised on the Council's recommendation on the implementation of the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System Regulations (WHMIS).
- The Minister is advised on the Council's recommendations on the review of the **Radiation Health and Safety Act** and Regulations.

Results Achieved:

The Advisory Council met throughout the reporting period and reviewed and provided recommendations on initiatives under review by Digital Government and Service NL and WorkplaceNL, including:

- The Advisory Council reviewed the advancement of the harmonization of health and safety requirements across the country. There were no concerns with the amendments to the Occupational Health and Safety First Aid Regulations to adopt a new CSA Standard Z1220 First Aid Kits for the Workplace.
- The Advisory Council, as requested by the Minister, were involved in the review of the amendments to the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations to include new provisions around worker-on-worker violence and workplace harassment. These amendments came into force January 1, 2020.
- The Advisory Council provided recommendations to WorkplaceNL on the 2018-22 Prevention Strategy, in areas of certification training standards, workplace violence, mental health and safety, and construction zone safety.

- The Advisory Council provided recommendations to increase awareness of the issue of power line contacts through the work of the Contacts Prevention Working Group.

The Advisory Council reviewed the implementation of 2015 WHMIS, including training and awareness provided to employers and employees and a review of the results of Occupational Health and Safety enforcement. The Advisory Council advised the Minister there were no concerns during the reporting period.

As reported above the Advisory Council advanced recommendations to the Minister on the **Radiation Health and Safety Act** and Regulations.

Opportunities and Challenges Ahead

- The COVID-19 pandemic directly impacts occupational health and safety and will be a challenge for the Advisory Council.
- The Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) 2015 came into force in July 2018, and the Advisory Council will be engaged in its continued implementation and with any challenges that it may present for stakeholders.
- The Advisory Council will stay abreast of the implementation and challenges presented with regards to the enforcement of the new provisions around worker-on-worker violence and workplace harassment.
- The Advisory Council will also be engaged in the consultation process and review of radiation legislation and any challenges that this process may present as it moves forward.
- The harmonization of occupational health and safety requirements will provide opportunities and challenges, as the province advances forward on this issue.
- The Advisory Council will continue to remain informed and be provided with opportunities for input on activities and initiatives ongoing at the OHS Division and at WorkplaceNL, especially with regards to the supervisor training and other proposed changes to certification training standards.