

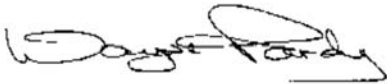
Honourable Kevin O'Brien
Minister of Government Services
Second Floor, West Block
Confederation Building
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

Dear Minister O'Brien:

Re: 2008-09 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 2008-09 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 fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Wayne Pardy
Chairperson
Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Safety



Government Services

Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Safety

Annual Activity Report

2008-09

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

ONLINE

Website: www.gs.gov.nl.ca

PAPER

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REFERENCE PERIOD

This report covers the period April 1, 2008 through March 31, 2009,
the fiscal year of the Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Safety.

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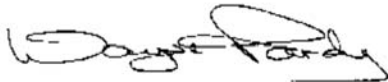
Chairperson's Message

As Chair of the Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Safety for Newfoundland and Labrador, I am pleased to submit this report for the activities of the Council for 2008-09. 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's focus this year was participating in the development of new Occupational Health and Safety Regulations. I believe the Council's participation in this process helped in developing greatly improved Regulations for the Province. We look forward to further such rewarding involvement in the future.

Sincerely,



Wayne Pardy
Chairperson

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.

Vision

The Department of Government Services' vision is to have, "Newfoundlanders and Labradorians living and working in a healthy and safe environment with access to an open, fair, and responsive regulatory system."

To that end, the Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Safety is focused on improving the health and safety of all workers and workplaces in this Province.

Values

The Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Safety shares the values articulated by 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

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. *For more information, see the Department's Strategic Plan for 2008-2011, at <http://www.gs.gov.nl.ca/consultation>.*

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.

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.

The following people served on the Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Safety for 2008-09:

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	Management Representative
Ms. Sue Anne Thistle	Management Representative
Mr. Woodrow French	Management Representative
Ex-Officio	
Mrs. Leslie Galway	CEO Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission
Ms. Kim Dunphy	ADM Occupational Health and Safety Branch, Department of Government Services
Mr. Doug Carter	Secretary, Manager OHS Inspections - Dept. of Government Services

Primary Clients

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.

Revenues and Expenditures

The Council is funded through the Occupational Health and Safety Branch of the Department of Government Services. The Branch operates on up to 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.

Highlights and Accomplishments

For the fiscal year 2008-09, 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. Present legislation is difficult to read and very difficult to identify the intent, and it is also considered to be the minimum standard of the Occupational Health and Safety Branch of the Department of Government Services. Our objective 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.

The Council held two meetings in fiscal year 2008-09, including:

- April 29, 2008
- March 5, 2009

Outcomes 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 & Safety Act and on any matter relating to occupational health and safety. The objectives are designed to achieve these functions.

Goal:

By 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 1

By 2009, the Advisory Council will have reviewed the issues brought forward by stakeholders during the consultation process on the review of the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Regulations and advised the Minister of Government Services of its recommendations.

Measure: New Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Regulations.

Indicators

- Review stakeholder feedback
- New regulations formulated
- Recommendations submitted to the Minister

With assistance from the Occupational Health and Safety Division, the Council reviewed stakeholder feedback to prepare for participation in the development of the new Regulations.

The Council offered comments on its advance copy of the new Regulations, which were formulated by the Occupational Health and Safety Division in consultation with the Department of Justice.

The Council submitted a letter to the Minister in which is expressed its support for the proposed new Regulations.

Opportunities and Challenges Ahead

- **The Council expects Royal Assent to be granted for Bill 23, An Act To Amend The Occupational Health And Safety Act, in 2009. The passing of this Act will facilitate bringing into force the revised Occupational Health and Safety Regulations that Council has had as its focus for the past two years.**
- **The Council will continue to be consulted on issues related to occupational health and safety. Having completed its involvement in the new Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, the Council looks forward to involvement in work on both the Mines Safety of Workers Regulations and the Code of Practice for Process Safety Management**