

**Advisory Council on
Occupational Health and
Safety**

**Annual Activity Report
2014-15**

For More information:

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REFERENCE PERIOD

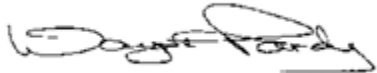
This report covers the period April 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015,
the fiscal year of the Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Safety.

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 2014-15. 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 Service NL in helping create safe and healthy workplaces throughout the Province.

Yours truly,

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

Wayne Pardy
Chairperson

Government Entity 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 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 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
Vacant	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
Mrs. Leslie Galway	Ex-Officio – Chief Executive Officer, Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission (WHSCC)
Ms. Kim Dunphy	Ex-Officio –Assistant Deputy Minister, Occupational Health and Safety (OHS), Service NL
Ms. Heather Taylor	Secretary, Manager, Occupational Health and Safety Division (OHS), Service NL

Revenues and Expenditures

The Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Safety is funded through the Occupational Health and Safety Branch of Service NL. The Branch operates on a maximum five percent 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

People in Newfoundland and Labrador living and working in healthy, fair and safe environments with access to efficient and responsive programs and services.

Mission

The Council has adopted Service NL's mission for this planning cycle, which is as follows:

By March 31, 2017, Service NL will have enhanced program and service delivery through improved standards and regulatory processes that promote living and working in a healthy, fair and safe environment.

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. For more information, see the department's 2014-17 Strategic Plan available online at <http://www.servicenl.gov.nl.ca/publications/>.

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 are: employers, employees, the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Branch of Service NL, the Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission (WHSCC) and the public at large.

Values

The Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Safety is focused on improving the health and safety of all workers and workplaces in this province. In achieving its vision, the Advisory Council has chosen to adopt the values of Service NL and will communicate these values to its stakeholders through the following action statements:

Integrity: Each individual engages in ethical behaviour and exercises the proper use of authority and responsibility.

Collaboration: Each individual supports others through communication and consultation with co-workers, industry partners and the public.

Accountability: Each individual accepts responsibility for their actions and is responsive to meeting public needs and delivering on Departmental commitments in a timely, efficient and satisfactory manner.

Respect: Each individual accepts differences, embraces diversity and exercises a caring attitude in their encounters with others.

Excellence: Each individual demonstrates excellence in providing service to the public.

Highlights and Accomplishments

For the fiscal year 2014-15, the Advisory Council discussed and focused on the following areas:

- Key OHS enforcement strategies such as the OHS Division's priority inspection program and their outcomes, as well as insight into the increased demand that large construction projects have on the OHS Division and how the Division continues to effectively manage its resources.
- WHSCC initiatives such as the review of the OHS Committee and Workplace Health and Safety Representative Training Standard. This ensures the Advisory Council is informed and has the opportunity to provide input on both the prevention and enforcement aspects of occupational health and safety in the province.
- The status of the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Review of the proposed Model OHS Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) Regulations and implementation of Global Harmonization Systems Process for hazardous products.
- The continued progress of the Labrador West medical audit contract awarded in February 2013 to Morneau Shepell (now Horizon Occupational Health Solutions). The audit is part of the Occupational Health and Safety Branch's efforts to assess current medical monitoring measures as part of the overall strategy to reduce worker exposure to silica dust.

Outcome of Objective:

Goal:

By March 31, 2017, the Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Safety will have advised the Minister of Service NL regarding its recommendations on occupational health and safety issues and legislation.

Objective for current reporting year:

Objective 1: By 2015, the Advisory Council will remain informed of initiatives that have been undertaken by the Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission (WHSCC) and to provide feedback or make recommendations to the Minister as required.

Measure: Mechanisms to provide feedback and to inform Minister.

Indicators:

- Meet and discuss issues a minimum of three times a year.
- Communicate with Service NL and WHSCC.
- Provide feedback to WHSCC on various initiatives as necessary.

The following represents the outcomes of objectives for the Council's activities in this fiscal year, as set out in the 2014-17 Activity Plan:

Results Achieved:

During the 2014/15 reporting period, Council was successful in meeting one time; however, due to scheduling issues, it was not possible to arrange the second and third meeting.

Members were provided the opportunity to meet face-to-face with senior representatives of both Service NL (OHS Branch) and the Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission (WHSCC), who provided updates of both prevention and enforcement initiatives.

One of the key topics of discussion during the reporting period was the review of the OHS Committee and Workplace Health and Safety Representative Training Standard, whereby Council members informally provided feedback/input on the standard and review process. WHSCC also provided updates on the Occupational Disease Strategy and results of the evaluation which showed some great successes. A key issue identified during this evaluation was data quality, which the WHSCC has put forward as a key initiative in the *2015-17 Prevention Plan*. WHSCC committed to providing Council with a detailed presentation on their data system at the next meeting.

Council was provided with updates on other health and safety topics in the province such as power line hazards (PLH) and contacts and initiatives of the Power Line Hazards Advisory Committee including the PLH training standard as prescribed by WHSCC and the new Public Contact Prevention Working Group. Council was also provided updates on the status of the Labrador West Medical Audit which has been progressing since February 2013.

Lastly, from the legislative perspective, Council was informed of the review of the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) regulations arising from the federal adoption of the Global Harmonization System (GHS) and subsequent changes to the Hazardous Products Act.

Objective for upcoming reporting year:

Objective 2: By 2016, the Advisory Council will have reviewed the proposed changes to the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) Regulations and advised the Minister of Service NL of its recommendations.

Measure: Modernized WHMIS regulations.

Indicators:

- Proposed amendments to the WHMIS regulations reviewed.
- Review stakeholder feedback.
- Recommendations formulated.
- Recommendations submitted to the Minister.

Opportunities and Challenges

- The Labrador West Medical Audit and its progress and findings will continue to be one of the topics for discussion of the Advisory Council. The findings of this audit will be of use for all mining properties in the province and will have an overall effect of improving the quality of life and providing protection for workers in the mining industry. Information derived from the medical x-ray audit will enhance prevention initiatives through awareness and education for workers, employers and medical professionals.
- The Advisory Council will continue to provide timely feedback to the Minister on current occupational health and safety regulatory and prevention issues to ensure that the legislative and regulatory framework remains relevant and appropriate.
- The successful management of safety on the numerous large construction projects that are underway in this province will present many opportunities as well as challenges to enforcement. This will continue to be one of the key focus areas for the Advisory Council.
- The Advisory Council will continue to remain informed and be provided with opportunities for input on activities and initiatives ongoing at the OHS Branch and at the WHSCC.