



Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Safety

**Annual Activity Report
2015-16**

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REFERENCE PERIOD

This report covers the period April 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016,
the fiscal year of the Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Safety.

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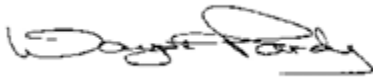
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Chairperson's Message:

As Chair of the Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Safety I am pleased to submit the Annual Activity Report for 2015-16. 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 stylized and cursive.

Wayne Pardy

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 re-appointment for not more than two consecutive terms.

The board membership as of March 31, 2016 was as follows:

| 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 NL |
| Vacant | Ex-Officio –Assistant Deputy Minister, Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) |
| Ms. Heather Taylor | Secretary (Manager, Occupational Health and Safety Division, Service NL) |

Vision

People living and working in Newfoundland and Labrador need to have 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 Service NL's full mission statement, please refer to the department's 2014-17 Strategic Plan available online at: <http://www.servicenl.gov.nl.ca/publications/>

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.

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, Workplace NL and the public at large.

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 NL. 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 2015-16, the Advisory Council discussed and focused on the following areas:

- The status of the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Review of the proposed Model OHS Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) Regulations and implementation of the Global Harmonization System Process for hazardous products.
- Workplace NL initiatives: Amending of the OHS Committee and Workplace Health and Safety Representative Training Standard, as well as the status of the new provincial central training registry.
- The status of the new Workplace NL Provincial 3203 high school course.
- The status of the new Prevention Strategy 2015-17.

Activities

Objective: 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.

Results Achieved

Council members met with senior representatives of both Service NL (OHS Branch) and Workplace NL during 2015-16 and were provided updates on both prevention and enforcement initiatives.

From a legislative perspective, the OHS Branch of Service NL gave Council a presentation on the draft amendments to 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*. During this presentation, Council did not identify any issues with key amendments including the transition period for implementation. Due to circumstances beyond the control of Council or Service NL, the new 2015 draft WHMIS regulations have not yet been approved and therefore could not be shared, nor did formal information sessions take place with stakeholders. It is anticipated this action will be achieved in the next reporting period.

Other key topics of discussion during the reporting period were:

The review of changes to the OHS Committee and Workplace Health and Safety Representative Training Standard and the new Certification Training Registry (CTR). Changes to the training standard were supported by Council.

The new CTR will link all key stakeholders, including training providers, trainers, workers, employers, Workplace NL and the OHS Division. This will allow for improvement in the auditing, enforcement and compliance of OHS training requirements.

Council was also informed of the 2015-17 Prevention Strategy and key focus areas including workplace violence and construction zone safety.

During this reporting period, Council was provided a detailed presentation on the Workplace NL data warehouse system which provided some insight into the complexities and limitations of data and information retrieval.

In addition, during the current reporting period, members of Council were provided copies of the newly published 3203 textbook “Building a Safer Tomorrow” and given an overview of the program and potential opportunities for expansion.

2016-17 Objective:

By 2017, the Advisory Council will have advised the Minister of Service NL on the review of the *Radiation Health and Safety Act* and Regulations.

Measure: Advised the Minister 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.

Opportunities and Challenges

- The Advisory Council will continue to monitor the proposed WHMIS 2015 regulations as they are approved and gazetted for legislation in NL.
- 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 large construction projects that are underway or about to begin in the province will present many opportunities and challenges for enforcement. This will continue to be a key focus area 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 Workplace NL with the goal of improving occupational health and safety in Newfoundland and Labrador.