

OHS Prevention in Alberta

AWCBC Meeting

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Presentation and Discussion

A year of change...



Focus on fiscal restraint



- Oil prices fell
- Do more with less
- Applies to OHS despite alternative funding model

New Government



- NDP elected May 5, 2015 on a pro labour platform
- Intent to stay very true to their platform

New Ministry Structure



- Split OHS – delivery and strategy & policy divisions
- Policy shop
- Strong bonds in OHS program
- New leadership - DM

New Legislation



- Bill 6

OHS Policy & Program Development



1. Policy and Legislation
2. Innovation and Strategic Priorities
3. Occupational Disease and Injury Prevention
4. Medical Unit

Staff



- 51 Staff members
- Multidisciplinary OHS policy professionals including engineers, hygienist, policy analysts, nurses and doctors.
- Research and data specialists with interest in occupational disease and injury prevention.
- Program design, education and best practice experts.
- Administrative support

Operations



- Policy and Legislation development and support
- First Aid, Audiometry and Spirometry, Blaster's programs
- Data, research, surveillance and evaluation to drive evidence informed decisions
- Education and Awareness
- Inter-jurisdictional coordination (CAALL)

Stakeholders



- Industry and Labour Organizations
- Health and Safety Associations
- Universities
- WCB
- OHS Council
- Medical Panels Commissioner
- Individual employers and workers

Policy Updates

**OHS Code
Update**

**Labour
Package**

**New West
Partnership**

Bill 6

Mandate



Pre-Incident

Post-Incident

Alberta  Labour

Improve workplace compliance with occupational health and safety legislations by enhancing evidence-based prevention initiatives, while balancing education and enforcement activities

WCB

Administering the workers' compensation system in Alberta by providing liability and disability insurance, which protects workers and employers against the impact of work-related injuries and illnesses

Alberta 

Key Activities

OHS Program

- Legislation Development
- Education
- Awareness
- Compliance
- Prevention

WCB

- Customer Services
- Legal Services
- Disability Management
- Appeals Management
- Risk Management
- Financial Management
- Investment Management
- Actuarial Services
- Auditing

WCB Review

- An [independent three-member panel](#) will conduct a formal review of the workers' compensation system.
- This system includes the [WCB](#), the [Appeals Commission](#) and the [Medical Panel Office](#).
- The review will examine the:
 - WCB's governance and effectiveness
 - principles of compensation
 - policies of WCB including those related to privacy and confidentiality
 - transparency of processes and decision-making.
- Based on this review, the panel is expected to provide a progress update to government in fall 2016 and a final report in spring 2017.

Alberta OHS Structure

- **OHS Policy & Program Development Branch**
 - OHS Policy & Legislation
 - **Innovation and Strategic Priorities**
 - Occupational Disease and Injury Prevention
 - *Office of Director of Medical Services
- **OHS Delivery Branch**
 - Inspections Program North and South
 - Investigations and Mining
 - Partnerships in Injury Reduction
 - Quality Assurance, Training and Development

Strategic Approach

Vision

Healthy and Safe is How Alberta Works

Mission

To prevent workplace injury and illness by building and strengthening a health and safety culture through partnerships, policy, education, enforcement and innovation

Our Goal

Promoting Safe and Healthy Workplaces

Prevention Mandate

To champion safe and healthy workplaces by transforming information into actions

Synthesize and promote prevention priorities

- Use evidence from research and analytics to inform prevention strategic priorities.
- Communicate priorities with program areas.

Conceptualize, plan and enact prevention programs, projects and strategies

- Partner with internal and external stakeholders to lead the development of prevention programs, projects, and strategies.

Implement and facilitate knowledge translation activities

- Produce and disseminate targeted information resources that will raise awareness, increase understanding and stimulate positive OHS action.
- Enact strategies to build relationships and communicate with industry, labour, and government stakeholders.

Key Approaches

Synthesize and promote prevention priorities

- Use evidence from research and analytics to inform prevention strategic priorities.
- Communicate priorities with program areas.

- **Key activities**

- **Research committee**
- **Scoping activities**
- **Strategic Programs & Compliance**
- **Certificate of Recognition Program**
- **Investigations**

Strategic Programs

Alberta.ca » Labour » OHS » Prevention » Compliance » Proactive strategic programs

Employment Standards Occupational Health & Safety Immigration Labour Skills & Training Our Department Newsroom

OHS Laws

Prevention

Compliance

Inspections

Proactive strategic programs

Orders

Violation tickets

Administrative penalties

Investigations

Partnerships in Injury Reduction

Certificate of Recognition (COR)

Health and safety management systems

Work Safe Alberta

OHS Futures

OHS I&E Grants Program

How can we help?

Permits & certificates

Proactive strategic programs

OHS carries out inspection and education programs to help employers understand their legislated health and safety requirements.

Through proactive strategic programs, Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) works with employers to improve health and safety at provincially regulated work sites. Every year, Alberta OHS selects employers for enhanced inspection and education activity. For many of the proactive strategic programs, an index is used to help identify those that will benefit the most from additional interaction with OHS.

Employers selected for one of the OHS strategic programs are not generally included in a second program. An exception to this is the Employer Review Program.

What's important to know

An OHS index is a model of employer health and safety performance over a 4-year period. The OHS index is built from statistics collected by the Alberta Workers' Compensation Board.

Selection criteria are specific to each of the proactive strategic programs. Participation is not optional for employers selected into these programs.

Contact OHS

1-866-415-8690 (toll-free)

780-415-8690 (Edmonton)

TTY: 780-427-9999 (Edmonton)

TTY: 1-800-232-7215

[View more contact options](#)

Related information

- [OHS laws](#)
- [OHS Index: How it works \(PDF, 2 pages\)](#)

Related services

- [Report an incident](#)
- [File a complaint](#)
- [Subscribe to OHS updates](#)
- [Incident investigations](#)

Other Prevention Tools

- **OHS Magazine**
- **Promotional Items**
- **Website**
- **Stats and Reports**
 - **Employer Records**
 - **Investigation Reports**

Innovation and Engagement Grants Program

- **Capacity Building**
- **1st cycle launched in January 2015**
- **Funded 20 projects**
- **Almost \$500k**
- **Categories up to 50k**
 - **Momentum**
 - **Action**
 - **Capacity Building**
- **Evaluate 1st cycle before 16/17 launch**

OHS Futures

- Stimulate research activity that supports OHS policy, program development and planning needs;
- Identify occupational hazards and mitigate associated risks;
- Determine whether occupational and environmental exposures are risk factors for certain diseases;
- Enable OHS programs to have current and relevant scientific information to support decision-making; and
- Increase Alberta OHS profile within the research community, stakeholders and the public.
- Priorities
 - Behavioural change
 - Hazard investigation
 - Surveillance, data, metrics

Key Approaches

Conceptualize, plan and enact prevention programs, projects and strategies

- Partner with internal and external stakeholders to lead the development of prevention programs, projects, and strategies.

- **Key activities**

- **Education and Awareness Strategy**

- **Resource development**

- Need to shift to thinking about other types of resources that promote education and awareness
 - Use the tiered information approach
 - User engagement

Resources



Hazard Assessment and Control:

a handbook for Alberta employers and workers

BP018



Leading Indicators for Workplace Health and Safety:

a user guide

BP019



Supervisor Roles and Responsibilities:

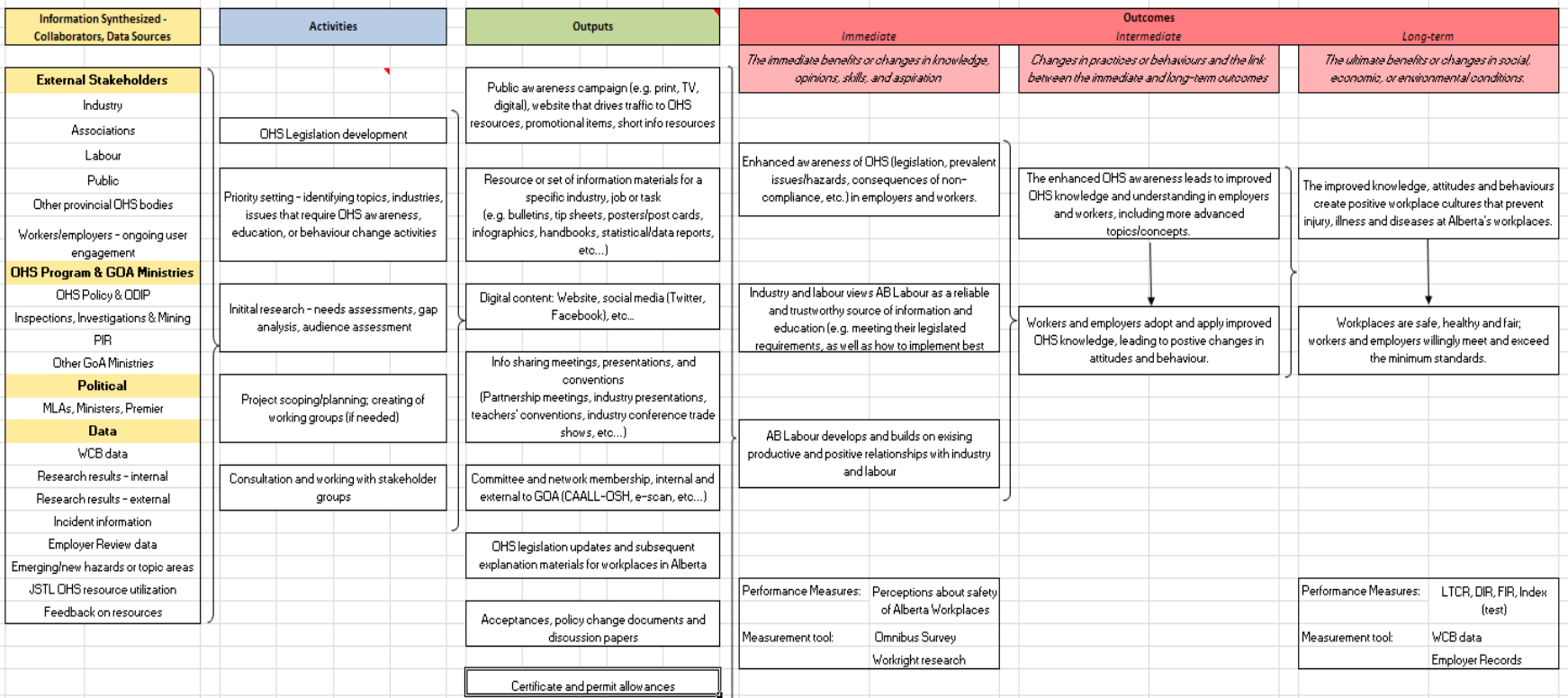
an occupational health and safety handbook

BP020

Education and Awareness Strategy - Draft

Program: OHS Program Awareness, Education, & Behaviour Change Strategy

Situation: Across the OHS program, various branches undertake activities related to awareness, education, and behaviour change in order to improve workplace OHS cultures. Generally the goal is to move employers and workers through the spectrum (from unaware -> aware -> educated -> changing behaviours). As there will always be workers and employers who are different points in this spectrum, activities and resources will be continuously targeted at all aspects of this spectrum.



Key Priorities

Implement and facilitate knowledge translation activities

- Produce and disseminate targeted information resources that will raise awareness, increase understanding and stimulate positive OHS action.
- Enact strategies to build relationships and communicate with industry, labour, and government stakeholders.

- **Key activities**

- **Public awareness campaigns**

- **Strategic Communications Plan for OHS program**

- OHS Magazine
 - eNews
 - NAOSH week
 - Website updates
 - Relationship with Communications
 - Government priorities

Work Right

**WORK
RIGHT**



**DO YOUNG
WORKERS HAVE
SPECIAL
RIGHTS?**

- A) Probably
- B) They get bi-weekly pizza parties
- C) Yes. Different rights for different ages.
- D) Not in the slightest

SUBMIT

YOUNG WORKERS

DEDUCTIONS

VACATION DAYS

WORKING ALONE

Programs

- **Student Video Awards**
 - **Most applicants this year**
- **Work Safe Alberta Awards**
 - **Most applicants this year**
 - **Council is committed to 1 more year**
- **Road Safety at Work**
 - **Partner with Alberta Transportation and external stakeholders**
 - **Increased emphasis on this within the OHS program**

Tools & Projects Under Development

- Retail employer, worker & ES resource
- Health care worker guide
- Truss tie off for fall protection resource
- Post secondary initiative

Issues Management

- **Farm and Ranch**
- **Medical Marijuana/marijuana legalization**
- **Mental health in the workplace**
- **Retail fuel sales and convenience store safety**
 - **Working alone**
 - **Workplace violence**
- **Wildfire Recovery Task Force**

Opportunities

- **Joint work**
 - **Employment Standards**
 - Commitment on both sides
 - **Service Alberta/SFHW**
 - OHS App
- **Others?**

Questions?