

Health & Safety at Work

Prevention Starts Here

Ministry of Labour, Prevention Office Updates

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Purpose

The purpose of today's presentation is to provide an update on the following projects:

- Accreditation
- Research Opportunities Program (ROP)
- Occupational Disease
 - *Occupational Disease Response Team*
 - *General Electric Information Session*
- Working at Heights training extension

Accreditation

- Recommendation #23 of the [Expert Advisory Panel on Occupational Health and Safety](#) (2010) recommended that Ontario should have an “accreditation program that recognizes employers who successfully implement health and safety management systems.”
- Stakeholders have sought the implementation of a MOL accreditation program to incent and recognize strong health and safety management systems and performance, beyond minimum compliance.
- Generally, early research suggests that organizations with Occupational Health and Safety Management System (OHSMS) experience improved safety environments, increased hazard reporting by workers, increased organizational interest in occupational health and safety, reduced rates of lost-time injuries, and a decrease in workers’ compensation premiums

Amendments to Legislation for Accreditation

- Changes to the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* (OHSA) received Royal Assent in December 2016. These changes provide the CPO with the authority to:
 - Establish standards that occupational health and safety management systems would need to meet to become accredited by the CPO;
 - Approve existing or new occupational health and safety management systems that meet the CPO's standard;
 - Recognize employers that have been certified by an approved occupational health and safety management system and meet any additional criteria established by the CPO;
 - Publish the names of accredited programs and recognized employers;
 - Ability to allow the delegation of certain functions of the CPO relating to approvals of training programs and providers as well as accreditation and employer recognition, to a third party outside the ministry.

- In addition, the following definition was added to the OHSA which defines Health and Safety Management Systems:
 - “health and safety management system” means a coordinated system of procedures, processes and other measures that is designed to be implemented by employers in order to promote continuous improvement in occupational health and safety

Accreditation Consultation Plan

- Based on Feedback received during the legislative process, the Minister and CPO have committed to completing extensive consultation with both labour and employer stakeholders on:
 - The development and implementation of a proposed accreditation framework,
 - The standard elements,
 - Additional requirements for employer recognition; and
 - An incentive framework

- The Prevention Office is proposing a phased consultation, which includes:
 - **Phase One** Consultation meetings with key MOL Labour and Employer stakeholders that have expressed interest in the Accreditation Program
 - **Phase Two** Consultation which will be open for public comment, posted on the MOL website, and may include scheduled stakeholder sessions held in the GTA and regions across Ontario

Research Opportunities Program

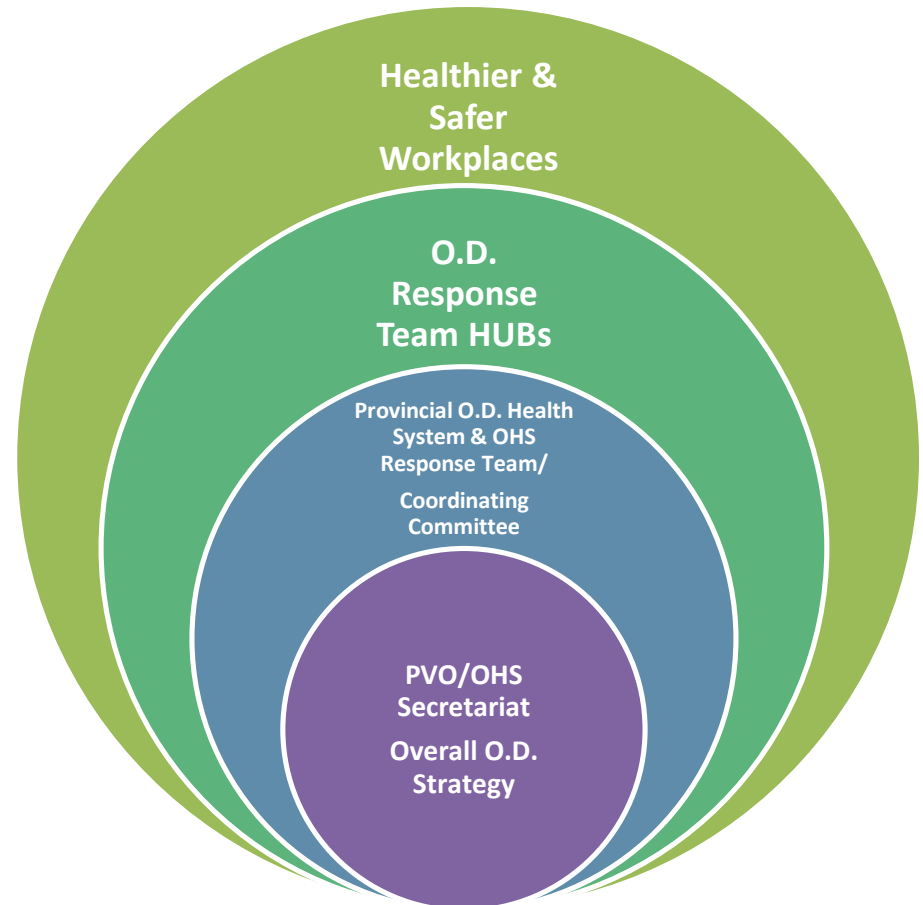
- Every year, the MOL invests in occupational health and safety research through the **Research Opportunities Program (ROP)** .
- ROP includes two research streams:
 - Research for the Workplace
 - Evidence for Practice
- ROP priorities are aligned with the *Healthy and Safe Ontario Workplaces* strategy:
 - Highest hazards that result in occupational injuries, diseases or fatalities;
 - OHS improvements in small business;
 - OHS research to address the vulnerability of workers.
 - Violence in the workplace; and
 - Mental health in the workplace.
- The 2016-17 ROP call for proposals was launched September 2016 and closed December 2016. A total of 46 research applications were received
- The applications will go through a 5-step review process (includes internal strategic review and external scientific review within the process).

Occupational Disease Response Team

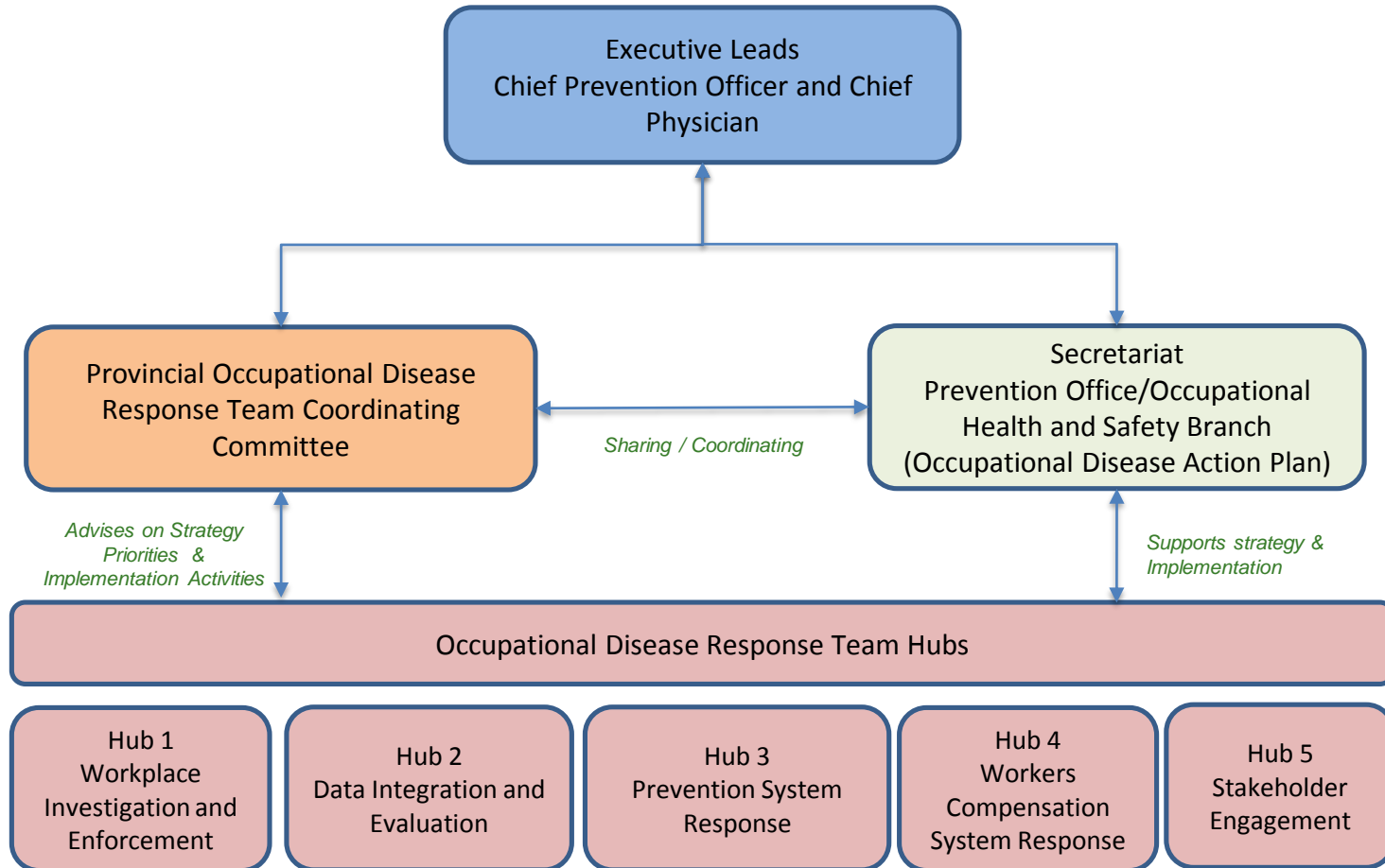
➤ Vision

- A continuum where workers affected by occupational disease are properly and fairly treated and workers not affected trust that the occupational health and safety and health care systems are protecting them
- Prevention of occupational disease will lessen the burden on workers, employers, and the provincial health care system

➤ Occupational Response Team Strategic Response



Proposed Provincial Occupational Disease Response



Current Status- Steps Taken to Date

➤ Secretariat support confirmed

- The Secretariat for the Provincial Occupational Disease Response Team Coordinating Committee will be established in the Prevention Office, Strategy and Integration Branch.

➤ MOHLTC Applied Health Research Questions (ARHQ)

- Engaged MOHLTC Strategic Policy and Planning Division, Research, Analysis and Evaluation Branch to inquire about the ARHQ process.
 - *The ARHQ process is built into funding agreements between MOHLTC and research funding recipients. At any time, MOL can engage researchers to discuss a potential research proposal. Ministries are encouraged to utilize this program.*
 - *Potential to engage research funding recipients with research question relating to occupational disease.*

➤ Occupational Disease Action Plan Team support:

- Occupational Disease Action Plan Implementation Team has been engaged to discuss a potential ways of supporting this initiative.

Applying the Response Team Framework

The Framework could apply in the following scenarios:

1. Emerging issue – current hazard e.g. cancer in firefighters
2. Emerging issue – historic hazard e.g. McIntyre Powder
3. Ongoing strategy to Prevent Occupational Disease in Ontario

E.g. Firefighters

Firefighters are exposed to cancer causing substances in the course of their work. The following slides apply the framework to this scenario as a current and ongoing hazard to Firefighters.

GE Information Sessions Summary

- MOL facilitated a 3 day information session with the WSIB, UNIFOR, OHCOW and the OWA, that provided GE workers, their families and the community at large with information relating to the claims process.
- **When:** March 28, 29 & 30 2017
- **Location:** Peterborough Naval Association Admiralty Hall
- **Results**
 - The total number of visitors to the information event was 240.
 - The WSIB received 17 requests for a new claim to be registered.
 - The event helped workers establish greater clarity. Some workers were very confused about where their claim was in the system. Others were unclear about the different roles of the systems partners and whether they had a case versus a claim.
- **Next steps**
 - The MOL, WSIB, OHCOW and Unifor met to discuss the event, resourcing and next steps.
 - OHCOW will provide a funding proposal for review early in the week of April 3, 2017
 - Unifor will provide an update on the status of the retrospective report.

Working at Heights

- The mandatory Working at Heights Training standard came into force as of April 1st, 2015.
- Employers must ensure workers (who work at heights) complete a working at heights training program that has been approved by the Chief Prevention Officer and delivered by an approved training provider.
- A six month extension (ending October 1, 2017) of the transition period was implemented April 1, 2017. This extension applies to workers who:
 - Have completed fall protection training that met the requirements of subsection 26.2(1) of O. Reg. 213/91 (Construction Projects) before April 1, 2015; and
 - Are enrolled in a CPO-approved working at heights training program that is scheduled to be completed prior to October 1, 2017.
- This extension is about ensuring that all required workers are able to receive this critical training.

As of March 31, 2017 the CPO has approved over 160 working at heights training programs and providers and over 300,000 learners have been trained to date.

Questions?