

Jurisdictional Highlights

AWCBC Prevention Committee

Jurisdiction: Prince Edward Island

Contact Person: Danny Miller

1. Legislation:

- Mandatory coverage for farmers under the Workers Compensation Act came into effect on January 1, 2017. There will no doubt be additional education work as a result. Not so much, new education, rather just new volume because farming was already under OHS Act (not regulations).

2. Regulations:

- WHMIS Regulations have been approved by the Board of Directors, following stakeholder feedback and OHS Advisory Council review. It is expected that the new regulations will be in place by the end of summer 2017.

3. Program Development:

- The OHS Leadership Program fosters safety champions in PEI High Schools. In 2016 the number of High Schools that are participating in the program has increased from 7 to 10 Island high schools. There are 15 high schools on PEI. Each student team (typically 2 students per school) must complete 6 activities throughout the school year.

4. OSH Promotion:

- Workplace Health and Safety Conference: Annually, the WCB hosts a workplace health and safety conference in Charlottetown to promote safety culture in the workplace. The 2017 conference will be held on May 4th and features Candace Carnahan as the keynote speaker. Ms. Carnahan is an injured worker who lost part of her leg in a workplace accident at the age of 21. She travels the world sharing her personal story of triumph- over-tragedy in an effort to help eliminate preventable injuries.
- Hazard Alerts issued in 2016:
 - Asbestos Hazards in Renovations and Demolitions;
 - Carbon Monoxide;
 - Oyster Barge Crane Boom Failure; and
 - Lockout/Tagout.
- Workplace Safety Competition: The annual Workplace Safety Competition was sponsored by the WCB as part of the provincial Skills Canada Competition. The top student was then mentored by our Youth Education Consultant to compete at

the 2016 national competition in Moncton, NB. The 2017 winner was also recently selected and will compete in Winnipeg.

5. Statistics:

Claim Data:

	2013	2014	2015	2016
Active Firms	5122	5158	5231	5404
Claims Filed	3783	4026	3914	3918
# of Time Loss Claims	1289	1406	1363	1385
Avg. Cost of Time Loss Claims	\$10,086.46	\$9,983.25	\$10,342.13	\$8,825.40
Avg. Length of all Claims (days)	72.69	72.21	67.92	54.91
Total Loss of all Time Loss Claims	\$13,001,449.15	\$14,036,455.90	\$14,096,327.46	\$12,223,180.42
Avg. Cost of Time Loss Claims in Accident Year	\$4,485.58	\$4,962.28	\$4,738.14	\$4,898.35
Total Cost of Time Loss Claims in Accident Year	\$3,561,551.29	\$4,332,073.02	\$3,776,293.85	\$4,261,562.51

6. Education:

- Educational workshops and workplace presentations were presented by OHS Educational Consultants. They made the following presentations in 2016:

OHS Education Consultants	186 presentations
Youth Education Consultant	188 presentations

- Workshops covered topics such as Due Diligence for Supervisors, Effective Safety Committees, Accident Investigations, Speak Up for Safety, Workplace Inspections and Hazard Assessments.
- OHS staff participated in several events across the province including the Federation of Agriculture AGM, Tractor Safety Day, Agriculture and Forestry Fun Day, the Delta Hotel Staff Safety Day, PEI Roadbuilders AGM, PEI Construction Association AGM, and the PEI Newcomers Conference for Entrepreneurs.
- The 2017 Student Video contest was completed with 7 entries received. The PEI winner finished 2nd in National contest and received additional \$1500 for student (s) and \$1500 for the Morell High School. There was a lot of coverage for this video (CBC, Compass, social media, and presentations to the students and teacher at our OHS Conference.
- The Safety Matters Award was presented to a graduating high school student for occupational health and safety excellence at school or in the workplace. This year's winner was a passionate, knowledgeable, all-around great student, and a great role model for her colleagues.

7. Future Initiatives:

- The OHS Division will continue to work closely with Island farm employers to help them develop effective safety programs and maintain safe workplaces. Educational material will be made available to farmers to assist with answering their questions and direct them to the appropriate staff and resources for information on mandatory coverage under the *Workers Compensation Act*.
- The WCB and Health PEI have identified wellness initiatives, safety culture, return to work, and disability management to be key objectives of their respective strategic plans. As a result, the two organizations have developed a partnership to collaboratively work towards improving the safety culture and return to work outcomes for Health PEI. Part of this partnership includes the development of a Steering Committee and a Working Group Committee, which consists of employees from both organizations.
- Members of CAALL-OSH (each province, territory, and Federal representative) have been requested by the Canadian Association of Administrators of Labour Legislation (CAALL) to identify policy areas which will allow jurisdictions to mutually recognize and/or harmonize requirements associated with OHS. As a result, CAALL-OSH has developed a workplan and is working to achieve proposed deliverables and timelines.
- The Atlantic Premiers have directed their respective officials to work toward a number of priorities. With respect to OHS, this includes “mutual recognition of targeted occupational health and safety equipment and safety training.” As a result, Provincial OHS leaders have developed a workplan and are working to achieve proposed deliverables and timelines.
- On October 27, 2016, the Executive Council Office’s Cabinet Committee on Priorities approved for the WCB to begin consultations with the fishing industry to promote the benefits of workers compensation coverage for their industry. This would also include an education and awareness initiative for the fishing sector with respect to their current responsibilities under the Occupational Health & Safety Act and Regulations. It is our hope the fishing industry would eventually come under mandatory WCB coverage. This would help alleviate the inequitable situation that currently exists where the fishing sector is not required by law to pay into the Workers Compensation system, which is entirely funded by employers of Prince Edward Island, but the sector does have an obligation under the Occupational Health and Safety Act to provide safe work places.