

2020

WSIS | Workplace Safety
and Insurance System

Annual Meeting

Working together to build a safety culture

Agenda

- *Welcome*
- *System Performance*
- *Key Initiatives*
- *Guest Speaker – John Garth MacDonald*
- *Questions and Answers*

COVID 19 Response



**Thank you for
helping us keep our
workplace safe.**

GROCERY STORE INITIATIVE • APRIL 2020
SAFETY BRANCH



153 **STORES VISITED**
IN NOVA SCOTIA



145 WERE FOUND TO BE
IN COMPLIANCE



8 STORES TO **IMMEDIATE**
ACTION TO GET
INTO COMPLIANCE

CONSTRUCTION WORKPLACE INITIATIVE • APRIL 2020
SAFETY BRANCH



142 **WORK SITES VISITED**
IN NOVA SCOTIA



127 WERE FOUND TO BE
IN COMPLIANCE



14 WORK SITES ARE ADDRESSING
COMPLIANCE ISSUES



1 WORK SITE IS STILL BEING
REVIEWED



System Performance

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Workplace Fatalities 2019

5 ACUTE FATALITIES
[THERE WERE 14 IN 2018]

17 CHRONIC DEATHS:
[THERE WERE 26 IN 2018]

5 OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE

12 OTHER HEALTH CONDITIONS

Funded Position: Canadian Perspective



At the end of 2019,
the WCB was **96.5%
funded.**

Note: Data in the
graph is from 2018

Initiatives

- *Providing more online services*
- *Implementing the Report and Recommendations for Health Care*
- *Developing mental health resources for First Responders*
- *Implementing the AG report recommendations*
- *Supporting the Safety Leadership Charter*
- *Building the WCB's new Strategic Plan*

Expanded WCB Coverage for Volunteer Firefighters

- *Changes to the Workers Compensation Act will come into effect on October 30, 2020*
- *All volunteer firefighters, including DND, will be covered by the WCB with access to the PTSD and cancer presumption provisions*
- *Municipalities are responsible for obtaining this coverage*
- *Volunteer firefighters who have received a diagnosis within the year leading up to the effective date will be eligible*
- *Consultation with stakeholders on the WCB policy (wording) change will happen this fall*

Enhanced Workers' Compensation Benefits for Firefighters

Recommendations:

- *Expand list of cancers*
- *Add presumptive coverage for heart attacks that happen within 24 hours of an emergency response call*
- *LAE's recommendation is being provided for government to consider in developing regulations*

Occupational Health and Safety Advisory Council

MANDATE

- *Advise the Minister about system-wide concerns, problems and initiatives*
- *Identify safety issues, current or anticipated, and provide guidance for resolution*
- *Facilitate communication back to our stakeholders at large*
- *Provide WSIS partners with input and advice, ensuring that the entire OHS system acts in the public interest*

FOCUS

- ✓ **Mental Health** – *Recommendation from the Council has been submitted to LAE*
- **Occupational Health** – *Draft of Recommendation is almost complete*
- **Training** – *Work to start in Fall 2020*

Inter-departmental Restaurant Initiative

COVID-19 RESTAURANT COLLABORATION



380 INSPECTIONS COMPLETED BY LAE



**SUCCESSFUL USE OF EDUCATION COMPLIANCE
FRAMEWORK** FOR RESTAURANTS **NOT IN COMPLIANCE**



CONTINUED WORK WITHIN THE GROUP TO IDENTIFY OPPORTUNITIES
TO **REDUCE COVID-19 RISKS ACROSS THE PROVINCE.**

Supports around serious injuries/fatalities

New initiatives

- *Victim Services support*
- *Serious incident data*
- *Reporting*
- *Information Bulletins*



WSIS Aligned Organizations

Working together to build a safety culture

Aligned Organizations

- *Office of the Worker Counsellor*
- *Office of the Employer Advisor*
- *Pictou County Injured Workers Association*
- *Cape Breton Injured Workers Association*

Office of the Worker Counsellor (OWC)

- *Opened 324 new worker files*
- *Made over 3051 phone calls*
- *Assisted with 111 appeals*
- *Developed a new catalogue of OH&S workshops*
- *Worked with WCB leadership to improve special investigations and privacy practices*

Office of the Employer Advisor (OEA)

- *Co-hosted the 11th annual Employer Conference with McInnes Cooper*
- *Offered education sessions for businesses*
- *Provided navigation to employers on individual program matters*
- *Provided program services assistance to employers*

Pictou County and Cape Breton Injured Workers Associations

- *Provided assistance, advocacy and support to injured workers and their families*
- *Supported workers in return to work/case conferences*
- *Assisted with case management and appeals*
- *Participated in consultations/committees*
- *Engaged in community activities*

Guest Speaker

John Garth MacDonald
Advanced Care Paramedic

Questions

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Thank you for attending the 2020 WSIS Annual Meeting Webinar

The meeting has now concluded

Visit **wsis.ns.ca** for more information about WSIS
performance and activities