

Working together to build a safety culture

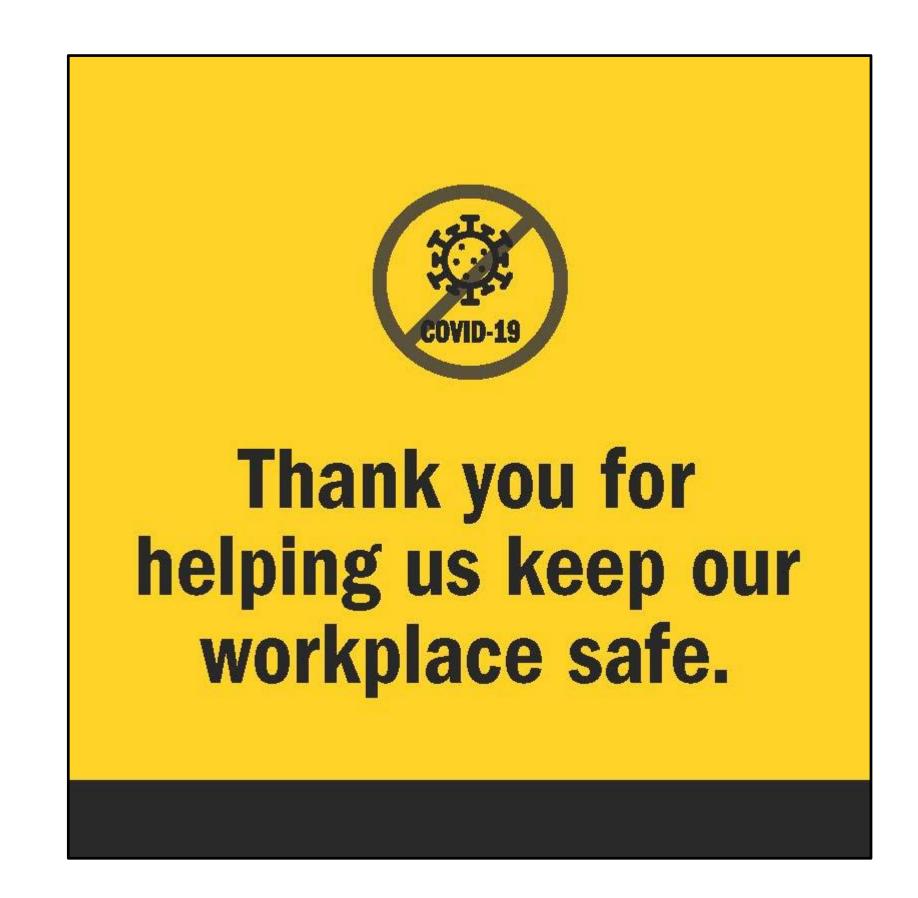


## Agenda

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



## COVID 19 Response





#### **GROCERY STORE INITIATIVE • APRIL 2020 SAFETY BRANCH**



**STORES VISITED** IN NOVA SCOTIA



WERE FOUND TO BE IN COMPLIANCE



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

#### CONSTRUCTION WORKPLACE INITIATIVE • APRIL 2020 **SAFETY BRANCH**



WORK SITES VISITED
IN NOVA SCOTIA



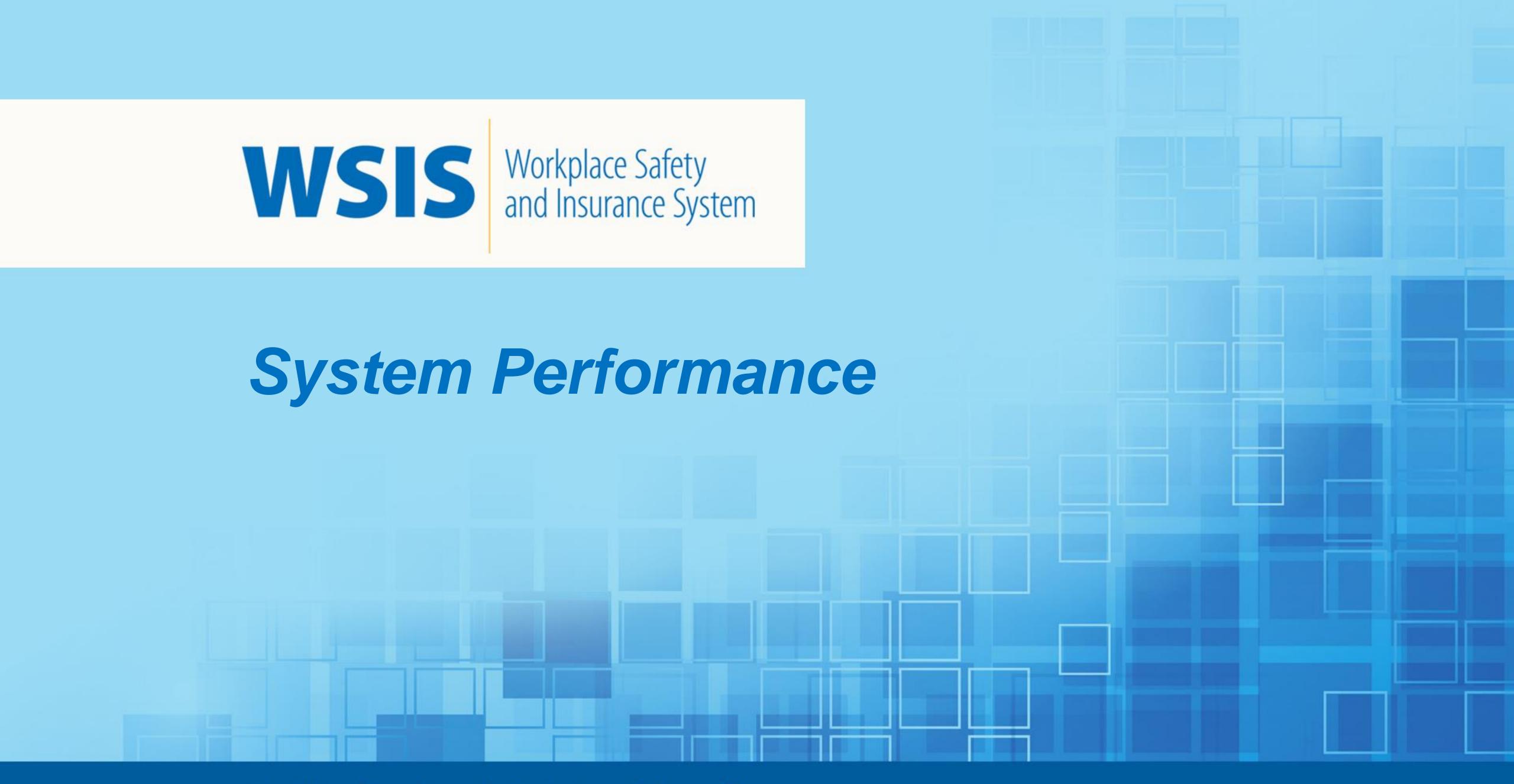
WERE FOUND TO BE **IN COMPLIANCE** 



WORK SITES ARE ADDRESSING **COMPLIANCE ISSUES** 



WORK SITE IS STILL BEING **REVIEWED** 





## Workplace Fatalities 2019

ACUTE FATALITIES
[THERE WERE 14 IN 2018]

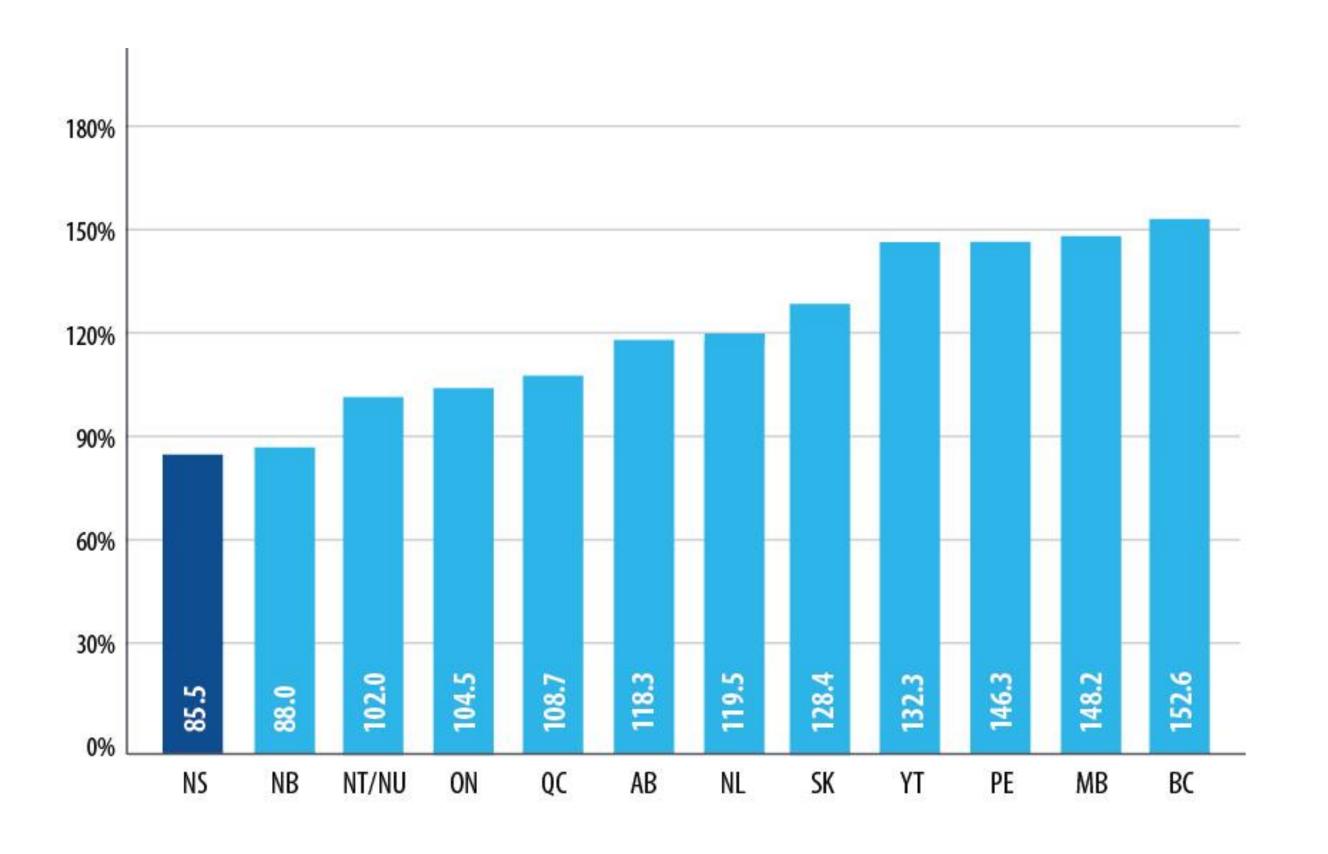
7 CHRONIC DEATHS: [THERE WERE 26 IN 2018]

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





## 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





# 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