

Our Vision is:

To provide awareness, education and training, creating positive work environments with reduced risk.

Our Mission is:

To improve the health and safety of all members of the Mechanical Contractors Association of Toronto.

WSIB ANNOUNCES SIGNIFICANT REBATE FOR MOST ONTARIO EMPLOYERS

In recognition of the significant impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on many businesses, a business's rebate of approximately 30 per cent of their premiums paid in 2019 or 2020, whichever is higher. Eligible businesses will have their credit amount displayed on their statement of account.

Businesses must meet all the following eligibility requirements to receive a rebate of surplus funds in April 2022:

- Have an active account as of January 31, 2022
- Had premium obligations in either 2019 or 2020
- Have not been convicted of a *Workplace Safety and Insurance Act* or an *Occupational Health and Safety Act* offence

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ONTARIO TO EXPAND HEALTH & WELLNESS BENEFITS

The Ontario government is seeking advice to design a plan that would provide workers with benefits such as health, dental and vision care. Their intention is to appoint an advisory panel to recommend a system for workers with limited to-no benefit coverage. Ontario would be the first province in Canada to pursue such a benefits program. [Learn more](#)



ELECTRONIC MONITORING

The Ontario government introduced new legislation that would require employers to inform workers if and how they are being monitored via their computers, cell phones or other electronic devices. If passed, Ontario would become the first province to require electronic monitoring policies and protect workers privacy by requiring employers to be transparent on how employees' devices are being tracked. [More details](#)

ONTARIO LAUNCHING Skilled Trades Ontario

The Ontario government has launched the new Crown agency to improve trades training, help promote and market the trades, develop the latest training and curriculum standards.

(STO) Skilled trades Ontario has **replaced** the Ontario College of Trades and compliance and enforcement is now the responsibility of the Ministry of Labour Training and Skills Development (MLTSD).

The new [online services](#) will help apprentices conveniently manage their careers in one place with an online one-stop-shop for scheduling classes and exams, submitting forms, paying fees and more.



ONTARIO REMOVING BARRIERS FOR OUT-OF-PROVINCE SKILLED WORKERS

The Ontario government will introduce changes that would help workers in over 30 in-demand professions move here with their families while continuing their careers. The changes if passed, would help tackle Ontario's labour shortage by ensuring out-of-province workers can register in their regulated profession or trade within 30 days.

Unfilled jobs cost the province billions in lost productivity, and between July and September of 2021, there were 338,835 vacant jobs across Ontario including many in the skilled trades.

This would make it easier for engineers, auto mechanics, plumbers and several other regulated professionals that Ontario needs to move to the province to fill vacant in-demand jobs and drive economic growth.

In addition, the government is proposing to recognize three fuel-related professions under the [province's skilled trades legislation](#), meaning Ontario will take steps to officially recognize all 55 Red Seal Trades.

[More details](#)

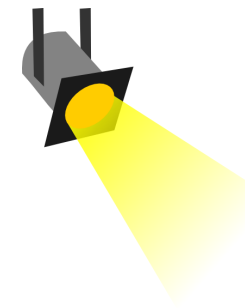


EXTENSION OF PROVINCIAL ANTIGEN SCREENING PROGRAM

The Ministry of Health launched the Provincial Antigen Screening Program (PASP) to provide free rapid antigen tests to participating organizations to screen their employees until March 31, 2022.

The MOH has announced the PASP extension to at least **July 31, 2022**.

All organizations that are open and operating can continue to access free Rapid Antigen Tests through regular distribution channels; please refer to the [Ontario Together Portal](#).



With **2-Minute News**, you can read the health and safety information related to your industry in two minutes or less! It's emailed to subscribers monthly. To subscribe to *2-Minute News*, click [subscribe](#).

Samples of 2-Minute News Articles are:

- ◆ IHSA Safety Talk: Eye Protection
- ◆ Podcast episode features winter driving safety advice
- ◆ Silica control tool pilot program for construction industry now available in Ontario
- ◆ IHSA training spotlight: JHSC Certification - Part 1

The Infrastructure Health and Safety Association (IHSA) is proud to announce that we have been approved to deliver **Joint Health and Safety Committee Certification – Part One, JHSC Certification Part Two and JHSC Certification Refresher training** programs by the Chief Prevention Officer (CPO).

2022 COR VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

IHSA invites you to register for one of two available COR™ Virtual Conferences: **April 5th or 26th, 2022**. During this online session, you will obtain valuable information, tools, and experiences that can help you to be successful in achieving your COR™ certification using the COR™ 2020 audit tool.

IHSA SMALL BUSINESS RESOURCE

Every company needs to understand their obligations under the Occupational Health and Safety Act. (OHSA) so the IHSA has added the [Small Business Resource page](#) which will have health and safety information based on the size of your organization.

IHSA - NEW MENTAL HEALTH SAFETY TALKS

A safety talk is a hands-on way to remind workers that health and safety are important on the job. The Infrastructure Health and Safety Association (IHSA) has produced several new safety talks that focus on specific areas of mental health related to the workplace. [To see these and many other downloadable safety talks visit the IHSA website.](#)

COMING SOON...

**SAFETY AND HEALTH WEEK
MAY 2-8, 2022**

Safety and Health Week runs May 2 to 8 this year and the [Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety](#) (CCOHS) is taking celebrations virtual.

Now more than ever occupational health and safety is in the spotlight, and top of mind.

To help workplaces celebrate this important week, CCOHS is offering a free program of live virtual events on workplace wellness, mental health support, pandemic planning, and risk assessments.

**WORLD DAY FOR SAFETY
& HEALTH AT WORK**

The World Day for Safety and Health at Work is celebrated annually on April 28th to promote the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases globally.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) began to observe World Day in 2003. April 28th is also the International Commemoration Day for Dead and Injured Workers organized worldwide by the trade union movement since 1996, also known as the International Day of Mourning.

RIGHT TO DISCONNECT

The “Right-to-Disconnect” law introduced by Ontario last year, dictates that employers with more than 25 staff and regulated by the province, have to come up with a written policy by **June** this year on how they will ensure that employees do not engage in “work-related communications” after work hours. [More Info](#)

Supporting Employees to Disconnect from Work

With the rise of mobile technology, alternative work arrangements, and the 24/7 economy, the boundary between “work time” and “personal time” has been blurred.

Every day outside of normal working hours in Canada¹:

- 43%** of workers check their work email
- 1 in 3** respond to work emails or answer work calls or texts
- 28%** perform work related to their job (aside from answering work emails, calls or texts)

Disconnecting is the ability for an employee to disengage from work by not having to attend to work-related electronic communications, including emails, texts and calls, outside their normal working hours.

Why don't workers disconnect?

- expected/nature of the job
- irregular working hours
- workload

Develop a policy on disconnecting

- Clearly define the boundaries between work time and non-work time.
- Address how labour or employment standards protections are being respected.
- Address the issue of working across different time zones.
- Consider how disconnecting impacts emergencies and other safety-related issues.
- Set expectations for response times to non-essential emails sent after working hours.

Effects

- Work-life interference
- Stress
- Health issues
- Burnout

What can we all do?

- ✓ Respect another person's efforts to disconnect by **not** routinely emailing or calling outside their normal working hours.
- ✓ Model behaviour by not checking and responding to emails during time off work.
- ✓ Be clear that any communications sent outside working hours do not require an immediate response, unless it's an emergency.

CCOHS.ca
Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety

Ontario**DID YOU KNOW?****OSHA's Top 10 Most Frequently Cited Standards**

1. Fall Protection, (29 CFR 1926.501)
2. Respiratory Protection, (29 CFR 1910.134)
3. Ladders, **construction** (29 CFR 1926.1053)
4. Scaffolding, **construction** (29 CFR 1926.451)
5. Hazard Communication (29 CFR 1910.1200)
6. Control of Hazardous Energy (Lockout/Tag out), (29 CFR 1910.147)
7. Fall Protection - (29 CFR 1926.503)
8. Eye and Face Protection (29 CFR 1926.102)
9. Powered Industrial Trucks, (29 CFR 1910.178)
10. Machinery and Machine Guarding, (29 CFR 1910.212)