

## Worker Safety Subcommittee Update

The members of the Worker Safety Subcommittee are pleased to be able to provide you with an update on the progress of Worker Safety Project.

The Worker Safety Subcommittee (WSS) (formerly Worker Safety Group) was struck as part of the agreement between the Employer and Labour representatives during the Provincial Discussion Table. Its goal is to advise, report, and make recommendations to the sector on systemic matters relating to the occupational health and safety of child welfare workers by way of the provincial Labour Relations Committee (LRC). Some of the aspects the WSS will consider are:

- Reviewing of applicable legislation and regulations,
- Existing policies and procedures,
- Identifying emerging H&S issues and trends,
- Sector specific tools and training,
- Best practices,
- Develop options to address systemic workplace issues for workplace Joint Health and Safety Committees consideration and,
- The development of recommendations to ensure a safe and healthy workplace.

As part of its work, the WSS was tasked to develop provincial strategies to address worker safety (dubbed the Worker Safety Project). To do so, the WSS was to select a consultant to survey the sector and research best practices, tools and training that can be used to support workers in the sector. Under the PDT, this work was to be funded by the Ministry of Child and Youth Services (MCYS). The funding had been delayed for a number of months when MCYS withdrew from the PDT process, but this issue has now been resolved for the first phase of the project.

The WSS is delighted to share that SPR Associates Inc. is the consulting firm that has been selected and that the research project will have the following four objectives:

- Research best practices in worker safety and risk reduction;
- Conduct a current state assessment of approaches to worker safety;
- Develop recommendations to inform the development of provincial strategies for the protection of workers, including policies, procedures, training and technology support; and
- Consider opportunities for a shared service approach to worker safety.

The consultant will be providing the WSS with the following reports:

1. Interim Report: Best Practice Research
2. Interim Report: Current State Assessment for Child Welfare in Ontario:
  - Survey tools for organizations and workers
  - Consultation with Labour groups, HR Network and Executive Directors
3. Interim Report: Report on recommendations and shared services options review
4. Final report

The consultation period beginning in January will provide an opportunity for everyone to be involved. Notices will be sent out shortly to permit necessary participation in this important project.

For more information, please contact your representative(s) (listed below) or the Worker Safety Subcommittee at [workersafety@oacas.org](mailto:workersafety@oacas.org).

## Committee Membership

OACAS Labour Relations Committee	
Sarah Declerck	CUPE
Cathy Matthe	CUPE (Windsor)
Tracy More	OPSEU
Jane Kaija	OPSEU (Sudbury)
Derek Widdicks	Simcoe EA
Kelly Ferris	Bruce-Grey
Pat Steward	Ottawa
David Rivard	Toronto
Terry Daly	Toronto Catholic
Patrick Lake	York
Chris Tremeer	OACAS

Worker Safety Subcommittee	
Andréane Chénier	CUPE
Cathy Matthe	CUPE
Terri Aversa	OPSEU
Jane Kaija	OPSEU (Sudbury)
Derek Widdicks	Simcoe EA
Tracey Vandervoort	Highland Shores
Jane Mitchell-Haynes	Toronto
Jane Gilmour	Toronto Catholic
Doug Smith	York
Bill Bevan	Windsor
Chris Tremeer	OACAS

(Labour Representatives are shaded in grey)

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