



## MOL to review OHS prevention and enforcement programs Expert advisory panel to make recommendations this fall

The Province has announced the creation of an [expert advisory panel to conduct a review of the province's occupational health and safety \(OHS\) prevention and enforcement programs](#). The panel, struck in January, will be chaired by Tony Dean and will report back to Labour Minister Peter Fonseca in the fall of 2010.

“We are starting from a position of advantage,” says Dean. “We have an OHS regime that has been broadly emulated. For the most part, I think it works well. Over the last five to seven years, the system has been driving the numbers in the right direction. The lost-time injury rate is down and fatalities are down, but obviously we have more to do if we want to be the safest jurisdiction in the world.

“Given how hard people work at every level in our health and safety system, I believe they want to be the best. At the end of the day, this is all about keeping people safe at work.”

### Tony Dean

[Tony Dean](#) is a former Secretary of the provincial Cabinet, and has served as Deputy Minister of Labour. He is currently a professor in the University of Toronto's School of Public Policy and Governance and a Senior Research Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School.

According to Dean, the Minister has asked the panel to examine a range of issues, including:

- 1. The continuum of safety practices in a workplace.** High-performance workplaces, says Dean, embed health and safety into the life cycle of their organizations. It is part of their work practices, processes, training, and orientation. Dean wants to identify all the points on the continuum where staff intersects with health and safety, and find ways to encourage other workplaces to adopt best practices.
- 2. The impact of the underground economy on OHS practices.** The panel will address how workplaces and the nature of work are changing, and how we adapt our prevention and enforcement system to keep pace with these changes.
- 3. How existing legislation serves worker safety.** The panel will review how Ontario's prevention and enforcement programs actually work in the workplace, what outcomes they generate, and what improvements need to be put in place.

The panel's work will progress in three phases: research, consultation, and development of options and recommendations.

The Institute for Work and Health will conduct an “inter-jurisdictional research review” that looks at what we can learn from how other jurisdictions manage their prevention and enforcement models.

The consultation phase will involve health and safety delivery partners, such as industry associations, labour, and the corporate community.



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The final phase will encompass options and recommendations that address the Minister of Labour's priorities.

To learn more, please visit

<http://news.ontario.ca/mol/en/2010/01/review-of-workplace-safety-system-in-ontario.html>

For more details about Tony Dean, please visit

<http://news.ontario.ca/mol/en/Tony%20Dean-Jan-2009.pdf>