



Labour-Management Network Update

The Labour-Management Network of Health and Safety Committees is one of the principal reasons why Ontario is the safest place in North America for workers. The Network—which is the only one of its kind in North America—consists of the Provincial Labour-Management Health and Safety Committee for construction, as well as 16 Regional and 24 Trade/Sector Labour-Management committees. These groups represent hundreds of thousands of construction workers, trade unions, and construction employers. Here we feature some of the latest news and information from the network.

Supervisor seminar a popular event

A one-day session on supervisory training and communications best practices was held on September 6 at IHSA's newly renovated training facility at 21 Voyager Court in Etobicoke.

IHSA's Labour-Management Network arranged this comprehensive session to tie in with a Ministry of Labour (MOL) blitz of construction sites in which they were investigating supervisors' credentials or general awareness of health and safety hazards.

The keynote speaker, Wayne De L'Orme (pictured above), who is Assistant Director of the Occupational Health and Safety Branch at the Ministry of Labour, talked about the MOL blitz and provided important details about what to expect from MOL inspectors when they come calling during the blitz.

After the keynote address, the participants could choose to attend any one of four smaller sessions:

- John Kelly presented a session for supervisors on the use of log books, due diligence, and safety talks.
- Robbie Shaw gave a presentation on resources and research techniques, including auditing principles, the Certificate of Recognition (COR™), and site inspections.
- Lou Terpstra gave a session on inspections and running effective meetings.
- Doug Heintz hosted a presentation on effective communications, the use of personal influence, and adult education.

While the participants were enjoying lunch, they had an opportunity to network and visit with representatives of the MOL, the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB), the Ministry of Transportation (MTO), the Electrical Safety Authority (ESA), and the College of Trades, all of whom were on hand to provide information on their organizations and answer questions.

During a panel discussion, guests from the MTO, MOL, WSIB, IHSA, and ESA gave a brief overview of what their respective organizations do and how they interact with supervisors. Then the floor was opened to the audience for questions about a number of workplace situations.



Would this kind of session be of interest to your community or sector?

Due to the success of the communications seminar, some regional and trade committees may consider running another session. Watch for more information in the future.

Other projects

The Labour-Management Network is always busy with new projects and ideas. Here are just a few that the various committees have been working on:

- All Labour-Management Committee co-chairs met on September 5 to discuss topics of common interest and share information. The meeting was held at IHSA's revamped Voyager Court training facility. Visitors were able to see the new classrooms and hands-on training facilities during the event.
- The inaugural issue of a new publication called *Network e-News* has been introduced and sent to all members of the network. This is based on a newsletter that used to be published by the former Construction Safety Association of Ontario; it was brought back due to popular demand. It is e-mailed to all members of the network.
- Occupational health risks brochures for a number of trades have been completed and are posted on the IHSA website under Products.

- The Pipe Trades Committee investigated the benefits of pre-job stretching exercises at the jobsite. The committee decided that IHSA's *Before You Start Work Exercises Card* (VO12) was a good tool for use in a worksite program on pre-job stretching exercises.
- The Mechanical Advisory Council has endorsed IHSA's recently completed *Supervisor Log Book* (RF008).

That is just a sample of the many activities taking place in the network. The committees strive to keep abreast of new issues and work with IHSA to come up with strategies to reduce hazards in the various industries IHSA represents.

If you would like to learn more about the IHSA Labour-Management Network of Health and Safety Committees, please contact George Iacono at IHSA.

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