



IHSA launches hands-on training centre

After months of renovations, IHSA's Voyager Training Centre is open for business once again. On September 5, representatives of Ontario's construction industry were invited to 21 Voyager Court South in Etobicoke to mark the official re-opening of the building, which now houses several more classrooms and state-of-the-art equipment for hands-on skills development. Members of the Provincial Labour-Management Health and Safety Committee were on site, along with the Regional and Trade Committee co-chairs. Representatives of the Ministry of Labour and the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board were also there. Patrick Dillon, Business Manager and Secretary Treasurer of the Provincial Building and Construction Trades Council of Ontario, told the crowd, "This facility and organization are uniquely positioned to deliver the much-needed mandatory entry-level training for the construction industry."

The facility, which was the head office of the former Construction Safety Association of Ontario, is a mix of classrooms, meeting rooms, and hands-on training areas. "The Voyager Training Centre is equipped to deliver safety education and skills development for programs such as *Working at Heights* and *Confined Space Entry*," says Al Beattie, IHSA President and CEO. "It's part of our commitment to provide the sectors we serve with solutions to high-risk activities. We lead the province in this area."

IHSA delivers more than 50 specialized health and safety training courses to workers and employers engaged in high-risk activities, including working at heights, using suspended-access equipment, and hoisting and rigging. Many of these courses will now be taught at the Voyager Training Centre.

"This facility demonstrates forward thinking on the part of IHSA. With Bill 160 and the required training that

we're anticipating, demand is going to exceed supply. This new training facility will put IHSA in a strong position to meet the needs of the industry," says Jim LaFontaine, Health, Safety, and Environment Manager at Dufferin Construction and Co-Chair of the Provincial Labour-Management Health and Safety Committee.

As a result of the report of the Expert Advisory Panel on Occupational Health and Safety and Bill 160, both of which call for mandatory entry-level training in the construction industry, a large increase in the demand for training is expected. Thanks to the expanded training centre, together with the addition of more front-line staff, IHSA will be in a position to meet that demand.

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The Voyager Training Centre isn't the only expansion IHSA has taken on. This past spring, IHSA launched a training facility at Confederation College in Thunder Bay to help make training more accessible in the province's northwest. IHSA also has satellite training centres at Cambrian College in Sudbury and at St. Clair College in Chatham. The Skills Development Centre, which is a highly regarded hands-on training facility for the electrical industry, continues to operate in Mississauga.

For more information about IHSA's training programs, visit ihsa.ca/training. You can view detailed descriptions and search for upcoming courses in your region.