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An electronic newsletter for Island Employers on Workers Compensation and Occupational Health and Safety Matters

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June 2019, Vol. 15 Issue 6

Department Name Change

On May 9th 2019, Dennis King was sworn in as Prince Edward Island's 33rd Premier in Georgetown, PEI. Also, welcomed was the new members of the Executive Council.

"I am honoured to serve as Premier of Prince Edward Island, and I look forward to working with the new members of cabinet," said Premier King. "We have been presented with a unique privilege to serve the people of Prince Edward Island each and every day. As we move forward, together, we will fulfill our commitment to working hard for, and with, Islanders to strengthen our province."

With these new changes, comes some new departments including a change to our division. We are still Labour and Industrial Relations but will now be under the new

Department of Economic Growth, Tourism and Culture.

POLICIES REVIEW DEADLINE

The Workers Compensation Board of Prince Edward Island has approved, in principle, the following policies:

- **POL-61**, Pre-Existing Conditions
- **POL-NEW**, French Language Service and Communications

The policies have been placed on our website for viewing and comment. They will remain on our website **until June 30, 2019** under the heading of "Policy Consultation-Draft Policies". Persons wishing to access these policies and provide comment online may do so at <http://www.wcb.pe.ca/Information/PolicyConsultation>

Should you have any questions or comments about these policies or any other policies of the Workers Compensation Board, you may contact Barbara Groome Wynne, Senior Policy and Planning Coordinator, at blgwynne@wcb.pe.ca or [902-368-5562](tel:902-368-5562).

Tips for YOUNG WORKERS...

Help ensure your own safety by knowing what to look for when entering a new or different work situation, and by knowing what questions to ask your potential or present employer. Injuries and accidents can have many root causes including:

- Unsafe working conditions
- Lack of supervision
- Lack of training
- Improper Equipment
- Overall disregard for health & safety

All workers (young and old) are encouraged to protect themselves by asking their employer the following questions:

- What are the dangers of my job?
- Are there any hazards (noise, ergonomic, chemical, radiation, etc.) that I should know about?
- When will I receive job safety training?
- Is there any safety gear that I'll be expected to wear? When will I receive training in how to use it?
- When will I be trained in emergency procedures (fire, chemical spill? Etc)
- Where are the fire extinguishers, first aid kits, and other emergency equipment located?
- What are my health & safety responsibilities?
- Who do I ask if I have a safety question?
- Who is on the Health & Safety Committee and when do they meet?
- What do I do if I get hurt? Who is the first aid person?

Source: Worksafe BC, Raise Your Hand

A few more practical tips for Young Workers..

- **KEEP** an eye out at your interview for signs that the employer takes safety seriously (eg. Warning signs in hazardous areas, employees wearing protective equipment, safety posters)
- **ASK** for a copy of the safety rules, if you aren't given one
- **ASK** experience employees, during training, about safety hazards
- **WRITE** down the product name from the label along with the name of the manufacturer or supplier, then look up the MSDS to find out more information about a chemical
- **LEARN** how to recognize the WHIMIS hazards symbols and know what they mean
- **KNOW** how to wear your personal protective equipment properly
- **FOLLOW** all safety precautions
- **NOTIFY** your supervisor if you experience any symptoms of an injury
- **DO NOT BE AFRAID** (or too shy) to ask your employer to go over something to make sure you've got it right, or to ask to watch you to make sure you are doing something correctly.

REMEMBER...

- *If there is ANY doubt in your mind as to the safety of the materials you are handling or the duties of your employment, you have the right and the responsibility to bring your concerns to your supervisor's attention.*
- *ULTIMATELY, all employees, including students, have the right to refuse to do work that is unsafe, and employers cannot fire anyone for exercising this right.*

To achieve the highest level of safety, you must possess **KNOWLEDGE** about the hazards you encounter, **PRACTICAL SKILLS** to avoid them, and the **MOTIVATION** to apply your safety skills and knowledge.

TAKEN FROM THE FOLLOWING WEBSITE:

<https://www.ccohs.ca/youngworkers/resources/tips.html>

Please contact your local office of the occupational health and safety agency for your jurisdiction if you have specific questions that apply to your workplace.