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Features

Nova Scotia Safety Leaders Honoured with Mainstay Awards

(excerpted from a joint WCB and the Department of Labour and Advanced Education press release)

Nova Scotian leaders in workplace safety were recognized for their positive contribution to the province's safety culture.

The Mainstay Awards, presented by the Workers' Compensation Board of Nova Scotia (WCB) and the Nova Scotia Department of Labour and Advanced Education, honour excellence in occupational health and safety, including initiatives around injury prevention and return-to-work programs.

"This year's recipients truly take workplace safety to heart and have gone the extra mile to create safety programs, and put supports in place to ensure their workers and colleagues go home to their families at the end of a workday," said Stuart MacLean, Acting CEO of the WCB. "By recognizing their efforts, we hope to encourage others to follow their lead."

Nine Mainstay Awards are handed out in six categories including the highest safety honour in Nova Scotia – the *Safety Award of Excellence*. The top honour went to Edmonds Landscape and Construction Services Limited for its role in making a safety a priority in the landscaping industry.

The other categories and winners include: *Safety Award of Excellence (Individual)* - Peter Hollett, Halifax Harbour Bridges, *Safety Transformation* - Irving Shipbuilding Ltd., *Individual Safety Champion* - Karla Hamilton, Ultra Electronics Maritime Systems, *Employer Safety Champion* - Aecon Atlantic and Sobeys, and *Employer Return-to-Work Champion* - Cape Breton District Health Authority, Sobeys and Clearwater Seafoods Limited Partnership.

"Creating safe work environments takes time, effort and commitment from both employers and workers, and too often that work goes unnoticed," said Marilyn More, Minister of Labour and Advanced Education. "The Mainstay winners have inspired us with their safety leadership and it's an honour to recognize them for making workplace safety a priority."

Limited Partnership

To learn more about the Mainstay Awards, visit www.mainstayawards.ca.

Congratulations to OHS Officer, Blaise MacNeil

In the fall of 2010, NSPI spearheaded a group of stakeholders with a focus of doing something proactive in the Industrial Cape Breton area for the 2011 NAOSH week. In addition to NSPI, the stakeholders included, the Sobeys Group, Shannex, CBU, CBRM, NSCC, WCB and us. Department of Labour and Advanced Education's OHS Officer Blaise MacNeil was our representative on the committee.

The committee's contribution to NAOSH week was quite notable and included mall displays, radio spots relating to safety, and a young, motivational speaker from B.C. (who had been seriously injured in a workplace accident) presenting at several local high schools. By all accounts the committee's work made a very significant contribution to the success of this year's NAOSH week. Members of the NAOSH Committee including Blaise were recently presented with a "2011 safety Excellence Award" by NSPI for their work on the committee.

Workplace Initiatives Division Programs

Workplace Innovation and Productivity Skills Incentive Program

Workplace Innovation and Productivity Skills Incentive (part of the new Productivity Investment Program-PIP), launched in December 2010, has an 8 million dollar annual and is co-managed by the Departments of Labour and Advanced Education and Economic and Rural Development and Tourism. WIPSI is a significant new training incentive for the employed workforce and is designed to help companies train their employees in order to improve productivity, adapt to new technology and strengthen their international competitiveness. Examples of commonly-requested business training include: LEAN Manufacturing, ISO training leading to certification, software training, new equipment training and HR Management and Advanced Leadership training. To learn more about this incentive, the guidelines and how to apply, visit www.gov.ns.ca/econ/pip/ or contact the Program Coordinator directly at 424-5794.

Workplace Education Program

Workplace Education is a program that helps your business manage change and increase employee engagement. It can improve communications and teamwork and help recruit and retain employees. Workplace Education is a flexible, partnership-based model which encourages government, business and labour to invest in education and training, cultivates a culture of learning within workplaces. Organizations are eligible for a provincial grant to hire an instructor to deliver the program(s). Each year Workplace Education funds programs across the province at all types of businesses and organizations – large and small. Examples of programs include reading, communications, computer, leadership and document use.

The programs are designed for employees, by employees, using topics and materials from the workplace. The focus is on essential skills, such as math, reading, writing, speaking and listening, critical thinking and more. These skills help people to evolve with their jobs and adapt to workplace changes. For more information please call 902-424-0492.

Winter Driving

Driving in winter presents its own unique challenges; particularly in a rapidly changing environment such as ours. It is not unusual for us to experience mild and rainy weather to only have temperatures drop suddenly and have freezing rain and sleet conditions; or drive into a storm. Three key elements of safe winter driving are staying alert, slowing down and staying in control. Drive accordingly – what are the highway and weather conditions and keep a safe distance between you and the vehicle in front of you so you can avoid situations where you have to brake suddenly on a slippery surface. In Nova Scotia you can call 511 to check on highway conditions or 1-888-432-3233 for local road conditions. For additional resources please go to:

NS Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal suggest the following items as part of Emergency Car Care Kit:

Blanket	Flash light + batteries
Matches	Extra clothing
Food pack with chocolate, nuts or dried fruit	Deep can to melt snow or hold a candle
Plastic garbage bag to provide a vapour barrier over clothing	Flash flag that can be tied to the aerial of your car

Other resources

- NS Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal: [Driving Tips Brochure](#) and [Winter Time](#)
- Ontario Ministry of Transport: [Winter Driving](#)
- Canadian Center for Occupational Health and Safety: [Winter Driving Tips](#)

Province Announces Workforce Strategy

(excerpted from Premier's Office press release)

On November 22nd the Province launched its Workforce Strategy to help to address the economic challenges presented by a shrinking workforce and help Nova Scotians to acquire the right skills for good jobs. The Workforce Strategy describes a number of actions under three priority areas: increasing the amount of learning and skills development in the workplace; helping Nova Scotians to prepare for and connect with good jobs; and growing the workforce, both in numbers and skills.

The strategy provides supports to help young people and their parents make informed decisions about career options, and expands adult learning and online learning opportunities. It provides programs for Nova Scotians who are unemployed or underemployed and returning to the workforce or looking for their first job. It also targets groups that are under-represented in the workforce: women, African and Aboriginal Nova Scotians, people with disabilities, older workers, low-skilled individuals and those who may face other barriers to finding work.

The strategy can be downloaded by going to www.gov.ns.ca

FYI

Safety Services Nova Scotia Conference Registration is now open

Registration is now open for Conference Delegates wishing to attend SSNS' 30th Annual Conference. The conference theme is *Great Expectations: Standards, Innovation and New Technology*. The theme relates to all the new things that are being done in the health and safety field...new CSA or other standards created, new equipment invented (such as patient lifting equipment for health care workers), innovative new health and safety campaigns and so on. To register please click on the following: [Safety Services NS 30th Annual Conference Delegate Registration](#)

Recall Notice for Protecta Shock Absorbing Lanyards

Capital Safety (USA) recently released a recall notice regarding the locking snaphook used in several of Y-shaped Protecta Lanyards having twin elastic lanyard legs that attach directly to the eye of the snaphook. You may view the recall notice here [Recall Notice: Protecta Shock Absorbing Lanyards](#)

Recent Incidents

Chemical Splash: Recently an employee sustained injuries to skin and eye due to chemical splashed on them as a result of horseplay. A bottle containing degreaser was thrown as an end result of horseplay involving the throwing of a tin foil ball. The bottle hit an appliance and the degreaser was splashed onto an employee's face and neck. Management was not present during the incident and was unaware of the horseplay taking place. Orders were written with regards to: requirement for an OHS program; violence in the workplace risk assessment and development of a policy regarding potential violence and horseplay; ensuring that hazards to eyes, face or neck are eliminated or minimized through the use of appropriate personal protective equipment and or safe work procedures

Excavator electrical contact: An excavator applying gravel made contact with an electrical wire. A person was attempting to act as a spotter as part of other duties assigned to them. Specifically, the person was not assigned to be a spotter, had not received training in how to be a spotter and was trying to discharge his other duties. The employer had obtained a safe clearance report and hazard assessment had been done. Orders were written for working to close to an energized line, not having a spotter, and for not providing safe work instructions/procedures.

CNIB and Protective Eyewear

CNIB's Industrial Eye Safety Program is aimed at educating organizations and their workers about eye safety in the workplace, building a culture of safety and reducing the associated costs of workplace eye injury. Why not book an eye safety workshop with them.



Having trouble getting your employees to wear eye protection?

We can help.

To learn more, call 506.875.8322 or visit cnib.ca/eyesafety.

cnib seeing beyond vision loss
inca voit au-delà de la perte de vision

Knowledge Base provides OHS Info

The Division continues to develop its new OHS Knowledge Base. The page provides an easier method of navigating and finding occupational health and safety information that is relevant to you. As one user noted *"I'm very happy to be able to use the on line OH&S Knowledge Base. Its interactive, easy to use format allows the user to access a searchable data base, which includes legislation, FAQs, Hazard alerts, and news items. It has become my first stop when searching for answers to OH&S related questions."* Give Knowledge Base a try at [OHS Knowledge Base](#)

Links to related Agencies and Sites

- [Nova Scotia WCB](#)
- [Workers Compensation Appeals Tribunal \(WCAT\)](#)
- [Workers' Advisers Program \(WAP\)](#)
- [Workplace Safety and Insurance System \(WSIS\)](#)
- [Office of the Employer Advisor Nova Scotia](#)
- [Service Canada / Français](#)
- [Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety / Français](#)
- [CanOSH \(Canada's National Workplace Health and Safety Website\) / Français](#)