

Ministry of Labour

Office of the Chief Prevention Officer

400 University Avenue
14th Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1T7

Tel.: 416 212-3960
Fax: 416 314-5806

Ministère du Travail

Bureau du directeur général de la prévention

400, avenue University
14^e étage
Toronto (Ontario)
M7A 1T7

Tél.: 416 212-3960
Télééc.: 416 314-5806



Dear Occupational Health and Safety Partner,

It has been an honour and a privilege to be Ontario's Chief Prevention Officer for the past three years.

During this time, I met frequently with system partners, and spoke to many workers, employers, and health and safety practitioners. Many of these partners are doing great work to keep our workplaces safe and healthy. I also read many studies and reports on occupational health and safety.

Throughout my work, one theme emerged: Ontario is already one of the safest provinces in Canada. But while we can take some comfort in that, there is room for improvement.

We need a better understanding of the factors that influence workplace health and safety. Finding the means to effectively measure our prevention activities, and better target our initiatives and programs is one of our next steps. This is why my [Prevention Works](#) health and safety strategy focuses on tracking and using the best evidence possible to evaluate and improve workplace health and safety:

This new strategy builds on the previous Healthy and Safe Ontario Workplaces Strategy and the work the system has collectively done over the past ten years. Together, we have:

- Implemented the Supporting Ontario's Safe Employers (SOSE) Program, which recognizes employers who implement accredited national and international occupational health and safety management systems.
- Created and implemented new working at heights training standards and built a robust administrative framework to help keep workers who work at heights safe and get the great training they deserve.
- Implemented standards to strengthen the internal responsibility system in Ontario by strengthening Joint Health and Safety Certification training to ensure certified members can help keep their workplaces safe.
- Developed mandatory basic worker and supervisor health and safety awareness training and created eLearning programs, which have been completed by millions of Ontario workers and supervisors.
- Created accessible and affordable Health and Safety Representative (HSR) training to support small business.

- Modernized the ministry's funding relationship with the Health and Safety Associations (HSAs) to increase accountability and ensure better use of evidence and performance measurement and improved return on investment.
- Implemented the majority of deliverables of the Construction Health and Safety Action Plan
- Conducted risk assessments and root cause analysis to lay the foundation to focus our work and built capacity within the Health and Safety Associations (HSAs) for conducting risk assessment and root-cause analysis workshops in the future.

We have made progress towards working together as a system, but there is still more to be done. While our understanding of the system has grown, over the next five years, we need to build new partnerships and expand our work, especially in the areas of occupational illness, work-related mental health and violence and harassment.

The past 18 months have been challenging, but they have also reconfirmed something I've always known: The system works better when we work together. We saw this during the pandemic, as we worked cohesively to roll out guidance documents, provide additional training, including a free basic infection prevention and control eLearning course and new technology, and gradually reopen the province while keeping workers healthy and safe.

This strategy builds on our recent momentum to help ensure every worker returns home safely each and every day. And, although I will not be here to implement it, I know the strategy will be in good hands.

In closing, I want to commend all our system partners on the work they are doing and the support they have given me and my team over the past three years. I hope this support will continue into the future.

I look forward to watching the implementation of the strategy, in my retirement.

Thank you all,

Ron Kelusky

Chief Prevention Officer

Ontario Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development