

# Live Safe! Work Smart!

Health and safety e-news for Ontario teachers

## Summer: Stay Safe; Stay Tuned

BY TISH AMICO, Education Consultant for the Ministry of Labour

Although we never thought summer would arrive, here it is and hopefully, you are all off either enjoying the summer months at a cottage, teaching summer school, taking courses or maybe even just going through all the books you wished you had time to read during the school year! However you're spending your summer, make sure it's a safe one.

During this past year (March – June), I have had the pleasure of delivering *Live Safe! Work Smart!* presentations to over 1500 teachers and students at various boards around the Greater Toronto Area and in other locales. I may have seen you at a couple of conferences this past spring, or maybe even at your board, but if I haven't been to your "neck of the woods" for a while, please know that I would be happy to come to present at a PD event or at a Co-op or Tech Meeting. You can always reach me at [tishamico@sympatico.ca](mailto:tishamico@sympatico.ca).

Also, this past year there have been six newsletters published on topics of interest to all of you who are involved with Experiential Learning Programs. Thanks so much to all of you who read the newsletters and respond with questions or concerns. Replies to some of your questions are published to provide some clarification to teachers when placing students in the workplace. Don't hesitate to write to me with any comments or recommendations to make the newsletters even more applicable to the situations that you sometimes face.

Stay tuned for many changes that will be coming to Ontario's occupational health and safety prevention system as we move into the next school year.

Don't forget: The Ministry of Labour is conducting its summertime new and young worker enforcement "Blitz" (May – August 2011), and many of your students will be working when a Ministry of Labour health and safety inspector comes to call! The inspectors are focusing on the health and safety of new and young workers (new workers include: student workers, co-op placements and apprentices). Inspectors are visiting construction sites, health care establishments, retail stores, golf courses, camps, and many other sites. So all of the health and safety education and awareness that you've delivered in your courses are being put to the test, and I have every confidence that your students will pass with flying colours!

It's hard to quantify the **prevention** of workplace accidents, but I know that every day, in your classrooms, you "stand and deliver" the necessary health and safety awareness that is keeping our elementary and secondary students safe when they move from the predictability of the classroom to the unpredictability of the workplace.

Thank you for all that you do... and all that you are. Teachers are the profession that teaches all others and, on behalf of the Ministry of Labour, thank you, once again, for helping to keep our greatest resource – our children – safe.

See you in September!

We welcome your questions, comments and suggestions for future newsletters at [info@livesafeworksmart.net](mailto:info@livesafeworksmart.net)

**Disclaimer:** This newsletter has been prepared to help the workplace parties understand some of their obligations under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* (OHSA) and regulations. It is not legal advice. It is not intended to replace the OHSA or the regulations. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE SEE THE [FULL DISCLAIMER](#).