



# **Student Injury Prevention Initiative**

**Council of Ontario  
Directors of Education**



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Student Injury Prevention Initiative

# **MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENT**



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## Background

- Between September 2011 and June 2012, Ministry of Labour (MOL) inspectors visited Ontario schools to determine compliance with minimum requirement of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* (OHSA) and its regulations.
  - Focused on chemical storage, housekeeping practices, equipment maintenance and safe operation of equipment
  - Other assessment criteria were availability of appropriate personal protective equipment, eye-wash stations and dousing showers.
- Outcome: MOL released their report on non-compliance orders including 'stop work' orders.



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## Funding Announcement

- Deputy Minister Zegarac announced a one-time funding allocation of \$9.9 million to be provided to all school boards for supporting a culture of safety mindedness. This includes a priority focus on procedures and environmental concerns in technological education facilities and science labs.
- There are two components to this funding:
  1. Funding for improvements to board-level safety activities (a minimum of 35%); and
  2. Funding for safety issues and environmental concerns in technological education facilities and science labs (a maximum of 65%).



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## **Board-Level Safety**

- A minimum of 35% of funding for expenditures related to:
  - Board Plan Development/Update
    - Review and develop/update existing health and safety plan(s); and/or
    - Conduct an independent inspection of technological education facilities and science labs.
  - Board Plan Implementation
    - Provide professional development for staff and for training students; and/or
    - Develop or enhance board communication/awareness/promotional activities for staff and students.



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## **Safety and Environmental Concerns**

- A maximum of 65% of funding for expenditures related to:
  - Installation of emergency safety stops and machine guards, lock out procedures and upgrades to shop ventilation, eye-wash stations, chemical storage cabinets, etc.
  - Costs related to the certification and repair of equipment; and/or
  - Safe operation of equipment in technological facilities and science labs.



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## Project Objectives

- This one-time funding is intended to ensure that:
  - Students have access to the broadest range of hands-on learning experiences in their technological education facilities and science labs using safe equipment in risk-free environments.
  - Boards and schools have an up-to-date health and safety plan.
  - School staff have a safety mindset and have relevant and current expertise to address injury prevention in technological education facilities and science labs.



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# **COUNCIL OF ONTARIO DIRECTORS OF EDUCATION (CODE)'S ROLE**



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**CODE is helping boards meet the Student Injury Prevention Initiative project objectives by providing:**

1. Access to a Health and Safety Team for advisory support;
2. Exemplary practices for the administration and management health and safety practices in science and technology;
3. Provincial needs assessment;
4. 4 training modules for board administrators;
5. Sample H/S resources and vendors;
6. Project related materials and communication;
7. Review of board reports on how funds were spent on or before September 30, 2013;
8. Support in French and English.



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## CODE Health and Safety Team

- Health and Safety specialists with expertise in in the area of science and technology, science education and technological education and training:
  - Bob Emptage, CODE Health and Safety Team Chair
  - Bill Keith, School Board Health and Safety Management;
  - Dave Graves, Health and Safety in Technological Education, 9 - 12;
  - Milan Sanader, Health and Safety in Science Education 9 – 12,
  - Ingrid Munson, Safety in Science and Technology, 7 & 8;
  - Robert Moulder, Safety in Science and Technology, 7 & 8;
  - Connie Devlin, Provincial Health and Safety Standards and Legislation;
  - Pat Campbell, Project Coordination and Training Development.



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## **CODE H/S Team Advisory Support**

- CODE will communicate the mandate of the health and safety team to all English and French-language school boards and offer to provide advice and support to individual school boards upon request.
- This support could include:
  - Assistance with the development or updating of individual board plans to ensure the essential components are adequately addressed;
  - Assistance with inspections of physical plants through qualified service providers;
  - Participation in meetings with school board teams; and/or
  - Assistance with board-specific staff training as available.



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## Exemplary Practices

- CODE will develop and share health and safety exemplary practices to be used in management and oversight of technological education facilities and science labs within schools. These practices will be developed from, but not limited to:
  - Existing health and safety resources developed by professional associations (e.g. OASBO, PSHSA, WSPS, OSBIE, SBCI, etc.)
  - Health and safety guiding principles, policy statements and checklists to be used by school boards; and
  - Leading health and safety standards of practice that are identified in the MOL school board inspections or Ministry operational review reports.



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## **Provincial Needs Assessment**

- CODE will work with the Ministry to develop a needs assessment tool that requests baseline data from school boards.
- This tool will provide the Health and Safety Team with a snapshot of the requirements in each school board.



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# Training

- Four professional development modules will be created to support school and school board staff that work in and/or oversee technological education and science programs (i.e. Supervisory Officers, Principals and Vice Principals)
- Topics will be identified by the CODE Health and Safety Team based on the provincial needs assessment and in consultation with advisory associations and reference group.
- Training modules will be delivered by CODE to school boards fall, 2013.
- The delivery of professional development to school boards is to be completed no later than March 31, 2014.



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## Resources and Vendors

- CODE will develop a menu of sample resources available to support school boards in meeting the project objectives. These include but are not limited to:
  - A reposition of Questions and Answers accessible for school boards through the CODE website during the project;
  - Safety checklists for supervisory officers and principals, vice principals overseeing science and technological education programs posted on the CODE website by June 30, 2013; and
  - A sample list of safety experts/vendors currently being used by boards to inspect technological education facilities and science labs.



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## **Materials and Communication**

- CODE will develop communication materials based on input and feedback from school boards, Ministry of Labour, and subject and professional associations.



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# **CONSULTATION PROCESS**



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## **Advisory Committee**

- CODE Health and Safety team members has invited education and health and safety organizations to act as ambassadors and champions for the project. More specifically, this Advisory Group will:
  - Promote the project within their individual organizations and partner organizations;
  - Advise on issues impacting the deliverables of the project;
  - Share existing resources and best practices that are currently available to school boards.
  - Were possible collaborate on the development and delivery of school board support



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## **Advisory Committee**

- Ontario Association of School Board Officials;
- Ontario Council for Technology Education;
- Ontario School Boards' Insurance Exchange;
- Public Services Health and Safety Association;
- School Boards' Co-operative Inc.;
- Science Teachers' Association of Ontario; and
- Workplace Safety and Prevention Services.
- Others are welcome



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## **School Board Focus Group**

- Directors of Education for fifteen (15) school boards representative of education in Ontario have been asked to offer focussed input and advice to the CODE Health and Safety Team as it works on identifying promising practices.
- These school boards have been asked to:
  - Share internal processes and procedures which document the management of health and safety practices; and
  - Share existing resources and best practices that may be referenced in the exemplary practices document.
  - Provide a list of specific needs to meet project objectives.



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## School Board Focus Group

- Bruce Grey Catholic District School Board;
- Conseil scolaire public de district du Nord-Est de l'Ontario;
- Dufferin Peel District School Board;
- Durham District School Board;
- Greater Essex County District School Board;
- Halton Catholic District School Board;
- Halton District School Board;
- Hamilton Wentworth District School Board;
- Huron Perth Catholic District School Board;
- Lakehead District School Board;
- Toronto District School Board;
- Upper Grand District School Board;
- Waterloo Catholic District School Board; and
- Waterloo Region District School Board.



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## Reference Group

- CODE has a reference group of four (4) Directors of Education to provide them with advice on application of the work performed by the Health and Safety team.
- This group will also broker alignment with their colleagues at other school boards:
  - John Bryant, Blue Water District School Board
  - Linda Fabi, Waterloo District School Board
  - Michael Pautler, Halton Catholic District School Board
  - Roch Gallien, CSD du Nord-Est de l'Ontario



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**QUESTIONS?**



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