

**Advisory Council on
Occupational Health and
Safety**

**Annual Activity Report
2017-18**

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REFERENCE PERIOD

This report covers the period April 1, 2017 through March 31, 2018,
the fiscal year of the Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Safety.

Chairperson's Message:

As Chair of the Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Safety I am pleased to submit the Annual Activity Report for the activities of the Advisory Council for 2017-18. This report is prepared in compliance with the *Transparency and Accountability Act* which categorizes the Advisory Council as a Category Three entity and requires the Advisory Council to prepare an annual report. The Advisory Council is accountable for the preparation of this report and for the results reported.

On behalf of the members of the Advisory Council, I would like to re-affirm our commitment to working closely with all stakeholders in order to provide strategic advice to the Minister of Service NL in helping create safe and healthy workplaces throughout the Province.

Yours truly,



Travis White

Government Entity Overview

Mandate

The Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Safety is established pursuant to section 12 of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*. The duties and responsibilities of the Council are established pursuant to section 17 of the Act. They include providing advice to the Minister on the administration of the Act and the regulations; on occupational health and safety; and on any matter relating to occupational health and safety that the Minister has referred to the Council for its advice.

Representation

The Advisory Council has 11 members, including Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, two ex-officio positions, secretary, and the remaining membership consisting of equal representation from labour and management. Members are appointed for terms not exceeding three years, and are eligible for reappointment for not more than two consecutive terms.

Member	Representation
Mr. Travis White	Chairperson
Ms. Yvette Coffey	Vice-Chairperson
Mr. Robert Richards	Labour Representative
Ms. Kristy Reid	Labour Representative
Ms. Mary Kathleen King	Labour Representative
Mr. Derrick House	Management Representative
Ms. Lana Marie Collins	Management Representative
Ms. Cathy Ivany	Management Representative
Mr. Dennis Hogan	Ex-Officio – Chief Executive Officer, WorkplaceNL
Mr. Julian McCarthy	Ex-Officio –Assistant Deputy Minister, Occupational Health and Safety (OHS), Service NL
Ms. Heather Taylor	Secretary, Manager, Occupational Health and Safety Division (OHS), Service NL

Revenues and Expenditures

The Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Safety is funded through the Occupational Health and Safety Division of Service NL. The Branch operates on a maximum five percent of the annual assessment revenue paid to WorkplaceNL. Approximately \$25,000 is budgeted for the operation of Council on a yearly basis, which would include reimbursement as per Treasury Board Guidelines for Boards, Commissions and Agencies.

Primary Clients

The Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Safety is focused on improving the health and safety of all workers and workplaces in this Province. The clients of the Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Safety are: employers, employees, the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Division of Service NL, WorkplaceNL and the public at large.

Highlights and Partnerships

During the 2017-18 reporting period, the Independent Appointments Committee worked with Service NL and was successful in appointing all new membership for the Occupational Health and Safety Advisory Council. This accomplishment will ensure the Council will continue to provide advice on improving health and safety in the province's workplaces.

Goal

The Advisory Council performs two functions – advising the Minister on the administration of the Occupational Health and Safety Act and associated regulations and making recommendations to the Minister on issues that are raised by stakeholders in relation to occupational health and safety.

By March 31, 2020, the Occupational Health and Safety Advisory Council will have advised the Minister of Service NL regarding its recommendations on occupational health and safety issues and legislation.

Indicators:

- Recommendations made regarding various initiatives undertaken by Service NL and WorkplaceNL.
- The Minister is advised on the Council's recommendation on the implementation of the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System Regulations (WHMIS).
- The Minister is advised on the Council's recommendations on the review of the Radiation Health and Safety Act and Regulations.

Objective for current reporting year:

Objective 1: By March 31, 2018, the Advisory Council will remain informed of initiatives that have been undertaken by Service NL and WorkplaceNL and provide feedback or make recommendations to the Minister as required.

Indicators:

- Meet and discuss issues a minimum of three times a year.
- Communicate with Service NL and WorkplaceNL.
- Provide feedback to Service NL and WorkplaceNL on various initiatives as necessary.

The following represents the outcome of objectives for the Council's activities in this fiscal year, as set out in its 2017-20 Activity Plan.

Results Achieved:

During the 2017-18 reporting period, the Independent Appointments Commission worked with Service NL and was successful in appointing all new membership for the Occupational Health and Safety Advisory Council. The new members were appointed in March 2018. There was no activity during the reporting period 2017-18 for the OHS Advisory Council.

Objective for upcoming reporting year:

Objective 2: By March 31, 2019, the Advisory Council will have reviewed the implementation of the 2015 Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) Regulations and advised the Minister of Service NL.

Indicators:

- Review implementation of 2015 WHMIS.
- Advise the Minister on Council's recommendations on the implementation of the 2015 WHMIS.

Opportunities and Challenges Ahead

- The Advisory Council, with all newly appointed members, will have the opportunity to learn more about occupational health and safety issues within the workplaces of Newfoundland and Labrador and to provide advice to the Minister on occupational health and safety regulatory and prevention issues to ensure that the legislative and regulatory framework remains relevant and appropriate.
- The Minister of Service NL indicated in the House of Assembly on March 28, 2018 that the Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Safety would be tasked with reviewing and making recommendations on harassment and violence provisions of

the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations. The Advisory Council will be consulted on this issue and will provide advice to the Minister.

- The Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) 2015 will come into force in July 2018, and the Advisory Council will remain engaged in its implementation and any challenges that it may present for stakeholders.
- The Advisory Council will also be engaged in the consultations and review of the Radiation Health and Safety Act and any challenges that this process may present as it progresses.
- The Labrador West Medical Audit and the progress of recommendations will continue to be an item of interest for Council.
- The successful management of safety on the numerous large construction projects that are underway or about to begin in this province will present many opportunities as well as challenges to enforcement. This will continue to be one of the key focus areas for the Advisory Council.
- The Advisory Council will continue to remain informed and be provided with opportunities for input on activities and initiatives ongoing at the OHS Division and at WorkplaceNL.