

Honourable Paul Davis

Minister of Service NL
Second Floor, West Block
Confederation Building
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

Dear Minister Davis:

Re: 2011-12 Annual Activity Report for the Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Safety

In compliance with the *Transparency and Accountability Act*, I am pleased to provide you with the 2011-12 Annual Activity Report for the Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Safety.

Yours truly,



Wayne Pardy

**Advisory Council on
Occupational Health and
Safety**

**Annual Activity Report
2011-12**

For More information:

ONLINE

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REFERENCE PERIOD

This report covers the period April 1, 2011 through March 31, 2012,
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 2011-12. 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 Council to prepare an annual report. The Council is accountable for the preparation of this report and for the results reported.

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

Yours truly,



Wayne Pardy

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 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.

Physical Location or Representation:

Member	Representation
Mr. Wayne Pardy	Chairperson
Ms. Margie Hancock	Vice-Chairperson
Ms. Goldie Porter	Labour Representative
Mr. Mike Power	Labour Representative
Mr. Jerome O'Keefe	Labour Representative
Mr. Bob Pike	Management Representative
Ms. Sue Anne Thistle	Management Representative
Mr. Woodrow French	Management Representative
Mrs. Leslie Galway	Ex-Officio – Chief Executive Officer, Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission (WHSCC)
Ms. Kim Dunphy	Ex-Officio –Assistant Deputy Minister, Occupational Health and Safety, Service NL
Ms. Heather Clarke	Secretary, Manager, Occupational Health and Safety Division (OHSD) – Service NL

Revenues and Expenditures:

The Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Safety is funded through the Occupational Health and Safety Branch of Service NL. The Branch operates on a maximum 5% of the annual assessment revenue paid to the Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission. 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.

Vision

The Vision of Council is: People in Newfoundland and Labrador living and working in healthy and safe environments with access to efficient and responsive programs and services.

Mission

The primary mission of Service NL is to have enhanced program and service delivery through improved standards and regulatory processes that promote living and working in a healthy, fair and safe environment. The Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Safety contributes to the department's mission by providing advice on improving health and safety in the province's workplaces. For more information see the department's 2011-14 Strategic Plan available online at <http://www.servicenl.gov.nl.ca/publications/>.

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 include: employers, employees, the Occupational Health and Safety Branch of Service NL, the Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission (WHSCC) and the public at large

Values:

The Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Safety is focused on improving the health and safety of all workers and workplaces in this province. In achieving its vision, Council has chosen to adopt the values of Service NL and will communicate these values to its stakeholders through the following action statements:

Integrity: Each individual engages in ethical behaviour and exercises the proper use of authority and responsibility.

Collaboration: Each individual supports others through communication and consultation with coworkers, industry partners and the public.

Accountability: Each individual accepts responsibility for their actions and is responsive to meeting public needs and delivering on Departmental commitments in a timely, efficient and satisfactory manner.

Respect: Each individual accepts differences, embraces diversity and exercises a caring attitude in their encounters with others.

Excellence: Each individual demonstrates excellence in providing service to the public.

Highlights and Accomplishments

For the fiscal year 2011-2012, the Advisory Council had discussed and focused on the following key areas.

- New safety requirements for mining, as discussed under the “Results Achieved” for the Outcome of Objective 1
- Atlantic Accord amendments incorporating an offshore Occupational Health and Safety Regime - ongoing
- Process Safety Management Code of Practice
- WHSCC Initiatives, Prevention Strategy, Training Standards, Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Regulations Workshops
- Update on the Labrador West Dust Study and Medical Surveillance
- Auditor General’s review of the Occupational Health and Safety Inspections program and report

Outcome of Objectives:

Goal:

By March 31, 2014, the Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Safety will have advised the Minister of Service NL regarding its recommendations on occupational health and safety issues and legislation.

Objective for current reporting year:

Objective 1: By 2012, the Advisory Council will have advised the Minister of Government Services (now Service NL) on the draft Mines Safety of Worker’s Regulations.

Measure: Advised the Minister on draft Mines Safety of Worker’s Regulations.

Indicators:

- Proposed Mines Safety of Worker’s Regulations reviewed.
- Review stakeholder feedback.
- Recommendations formulated.
- Recommendations submitted to the Minister.

The following represents the outcome of objectives for the Council's activities in this fiscal year, as set out in its 2011-14 Activity Plan.

Results Achieved:

During the 2011/12 reporting period the major accomplishment of the Council was the review of the proposed amendments to the OHS Regulations as it relates to mining safety. Council was kept informed of stakeholder feedback during the consultation process, and recommended to the Minister approval of the proposed amendments, which were formulated by the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Division in consultation with the Department of Justice. The Council submitted a letter to the Minister in which it expressed its support for the proposed amendments and recommended they be incorporated into the OHS Regulations.

Objective for upcoming reporting year:

Objective 2: By 2013, the Advisory Council will stay abreast of large construction projects and the implications of same for enforcement, prevention and resources and submit its recommendations to the Minister.

Measure: Mechanisms to inform Minister.

Indicators:

- Meet and discuss issues a minimum of three times a year.
- Communicate with the Department of Government Services (now Service NL) and the Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission.
- Stay abreast of trends, analysis and issues pertaining to occupational health and safety.

Opportunities and Challenges Ahead

- Finalizing Process Safety Management Code of Practice will provide the opportunity of safer work processes in the Petroleum Sector.
- Remain informed of the progress of the medical audit of the mining properties in Labrador West.
- Remain informed and provide feedback of activities and initiatives ongoing at the OHS Division and WHSCC.
- Provide timely feedback to Minister on current occupational health and safety regulatory concerns.