

Live Safe! Work Smart!

eNewsletter for Ontario Teachers • September 2015

Mandatory Awareness Training

As of July 1, 2014, every employer must ensure their workers and supervisors complete a basic occupational health and safety awareness training program. To assist employers, the Ministry of Labour offers a free awareness training program suite that is available in multiple formats and languages.

The ministry is working to ensure that as many young workers as possible receive this training before entering the workforce. To make this possible, we are working with the Ministry of Education to make our awareness eLearning modules available to school board staff as well as students. This will help ensure that co-op students complete training prior to going out on placement.

[Learn more](#) about the regulation, training requirements, and our free online training program suite.

It's Your Job... to enter the 2016 Student Video Contest!

The Ministry of Labour is accepting entries to the 2015/16 "It's Your Job" video contest. All Ontario secondary school students are eligible. Get your creative students ready to develop an original video that can be used in social media to illustrate the importance of working safely on the job.

Students and their schools can win cash prizes and provincial and national recognition. This year the first place national contest winner will get the chance to attend the North American Occupational Safety and Health (NAOSH) Week Launch ceremony on May 2, 2016, in Ottawa, where their video will be announced and shown.

The deadline to submit videos is **March 11, 2016**. Learn more about the [contest and prizes](#).

See, share and show the videos to your students! Check out our [2014/15 winners](#) for some inspiration.

Changes to Minimum Wage

Minimum wage is the lowest wage rate an employer can pay an employee. Effective October 1, 2015, the general minimum wage rate will go up from \$11.00 per hour to \$11.25 per hour.

The student minimum wage will also increase from \$10.30 per hour to \$10.55 per hour on October 1, 2015. This rate applies to students under the age of 18 who work 28 hours a week or less when school is in session, or work during a school break or summer holidays. Students who work more than 28 hours a week while school is in session are entitled to the general minimum wage.

Learn more about the [minimum wage](#).

Links

Ministry of Labour [resource website for teachers](#)

[Read previous editions of the newsletter](#)

Have ideas for an article? Email: Shipra.Sethi@ontario.ca