

The Purpose of Joint Occupational Health & Safety

Committees:

The employer is required by WCB regulations to establish a valid occupational health and safety program. They are also required to provide training during the employee's workday (see below). In Chilliwack the CTA, CUPE and the District have an established District Advisory Committee on Health & Safety (DACHS) as defined in Article D.31 of our Collective Agreement. DACHS oversees the entirety of the District Health & Safety programs and provides advice and assistance to all JOHS committees. It is encouraged that all JOHS committees review documents produced by DACHS and discuss them during each monthly meeting.



Workers Compensation Act—Part 2, Division 5, Section 41— Educational leave:

41 (1) Each member (Administrators, CTA, CUPE) of a joint committee is entitled to an annual educational leave totalling eight hours, or a longer period if prescribed by regulation, for the purposes of attending occupational health and safety training courses conducted by or with the approval of the Board.

The School District provides this mandatory OHS Training every year for new and experienced H&S Reps.



Congratulations!

You are a CTA Health & Safety Rep!

President: president@chilliwackteachers.com

1st Vice President: vp@chilliwackteachers.com

2nd Vice President: vp2@chilliwackteachers.com

Office Manager: office@chilliwackteachers.com

What is a Health & Safety (H&S) Rep?

A H&S Rep is the representative of the Chilliwack Teachers' Association (CTA) that serves on the Joint Occupational Health & Safety (JOHS) committee at each school site. The H&S Rep is elected each year, usually in June or September, by members of the teaching staff.

The school H&S Rep is a union role as an advocate and advisor for the rights of teachers to a safe workplace.



Basic Health & Safety Rights of Workers:

1. The Right to Know

All workers have the right to know what hazards exist in the workplace. This includes all physical and mental hazards. This also includes hazards such as risk of violence.

2. The Right to Participate

All workers have the right to participate in Occupational Health and Safety activities in the workplace. This right includes being able to participate in the Joint Occupational Health and Safety (JOHS) Committee, and to report hazards and injuries.

3. The Right to Refuse

All workers have the right to refuse work that is hazardous.

4. The Right to No Discrimination

All workers have the right to be free from reprisal for refusing unsafe work or contacting WCB.

Roles of Joint Occupational Health & Safety Committee:

- **Identify situations** that may be unhealthy or unsafe for workers, and advise on effective systems for responding to those situations. Document concerns in minutes during your monthly JOHS meetings.
- **Consider, and promptly deal with complaints** relating to the health and safety of workers.
- **Consult with workers and the employer** on issues related to occupational health and safety, and the occupational environment.
- **Make recommendation to the employer** and the workers for the improvement of the occupational health and safety, and the occupational environment of workers as per Part 3 of the OHS provisions of the Workers Compensation Act.
- **Advise the employer** on programs and policies required under the regulations for the workplace, and to monitor their effectiveness.
- **Advise the employer** on proposed changes to the workplace, including significant proposed changes to equipment and machinery, or the work processes that may affect the health or safety of workers.
- **Ensure** that accident investigations and regular inspections are carried out as required.
- **Ensure** minutes of all meetings and investigations are maintained and sent to all staff
- **Participate in inspections, investigations and inquiries** as provided in Part 3 of the *Workers Compensation Act* and Part 3 of the Regulation.
- **Review** the minutes and updates from the District Advisory Committee on Health and Safety (DACHS).

If you need any information on your roles and responsibilities or require support in any union matter, please contact the CTA Office.