



Your Monthly News & Updates

Below please find an update on the latest SIAC activities and other important industry information.

National Day of Mourning - April 28th

The National Day of Mourning reminds us to honour those who have been deeply affected by work-related incidents and injuries, and reaffirms the SIAC's commitment to promote and advocate for health and safety on the job.

On this important day, the Minister of Labour, the Hon. Laurie Scott said, "We need everyone - the government, our health and safety partners, and workers and employers - working together to help promote health and safety to prevent further workplace tragedies."

"While today we remember those who have been killed or injured on the job", Minister Scott continued, "we are also committed to developing Ontario's next Occupational Health and Safety Strategy. Our strategy will focus on the message that everyone has a role to play in a safe workplace and the prevention of future deaths and injuries." [Read her full official statement here.](#)

Falls Awareness Week - May 6-10th

As an industry that is extensively involved at working at heights, ensuring a safe working environment is paramount. While accidents in our sector are rare, even one accident is too many, and we all have a responsibility to do everything we can to ensure our workers return home at the end of the day.

Next week is **Fall Awareness Week** (May 6-10th). During this important time, we encourage all members to evaluate the steps they take each day to help prevent falls. The Ministry of Labour and the IHSA have developed some excellent resources to assist in your planning, including a guide on how to hold a successful falls safety talk.

[View those resources here.](#)



Stop Falls Stand-Down

- Plan a toolbox talk or other safety activity
- Take a break to talk about how to prevent falls
- Provide training for all workers

SIAC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - MAY 16TH

You won't want to miss SIAC's Annual General Meeting (AGM), set for **Thursday, May 16th from 8:30am-12:00pm** at the Paramount Banquet Centre, 222 Rowntree Dairy Rd, Woodbridge. Join us for a light breakfast, presentations from an exciting lineup of speakers, and important industry and Association updates.

If you would like to put your name forward for SIAC's 2019-2020 Board of Directors, please email info@siac-ontario.ca.

REGISTER HERE

The SIAC's newly established [Scaffolding and Access Equipment Sector Committee](#) will have its inaugural meeting on May 14th, 2019



To hear about updates from their first meeting and have your say, we welcome SIAC members and guests to [attend the Association's Annual General Meeting](#) on Thursday, May 16th.

IHSA Labour-Management Health & Safety Committee Update

IHSA's Provincial Labour-Management Health and Safety Committee (Construction) met on April 3rd. The following topics were discussed:

Working at Heights

The [Institute for Work & Health \(IWH\) report](#) on [Working at Heights \(WAH\) training](#) in Ontario found that over 90% of construction employers were aware and compliant of the requirement for WAH training, and that 40% of respondents purchased new equipment and developed a fall rescue plan.

New Rate Framework

WSIB will be providing businesses with their premium rate statements in the Fall in advance of the New Rate Framework to be implemented in 2020. To learn more, participate in one of [WSIB's online webinars](#).

WAH Exemption for Automotive Industry

The Committee were informed that there is a [new posting on the MOL regulatory registry](#) which would exempt the automotive industry from participating in Working at Heights (WAH) training. The industry has argued that companies have already put in place programs to train workers at heights and have raised concerns that WAH standards would force them to be re-adjusted.

Ministry of Housing Building Code Regulations

The Committee was advised by the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) that the Ministry is not looking to increase regulations to [the Building Code](#) unless the recommended changes could be proven to save lives.

MMAH may add this to a list of items being used to harmonize with the [National Building Code](#), which may be accepted at the federal level. The Committee recommended instead addressing this through a code of practice which would not impact the regulatory burden.

IHSA agreed to share minutes from its construction PLMHSC with SIAC as part of our combined effort to strengthen the partnership between the Associations. You can find the complete April 3rd meeting minutes [HERE](#).



Feature Your Company in SIAC's Next Magazine

SIAC's quarterly magazine, Access Canada, is delivered to over 1,000 companies in the construction industry.

If you would like to inquire about advertising, member features, or article submissions for SIAC's next issue, please contact info@siac-ontario.ca.

WSIB Small Business Health and Safety Leadership Awards

The WSIB is now accepting applications for their [2019 Small Business Health and Safety Leadership Awards](#) which recognize outstanding health and safety achievements in businesses with fewer than 50 employees. The top three winners will receive cash prizes for their excellence in health and safety efforts. First place \$5,000, Second place \$3,000, Third Place \$2,000.