



## Your Monthly News & Updates

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

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### Suspended Access Equipment Initiative Begins Phase II

Ontario's Ministry of Labour (MOL)'s suspended access equipment initiative began last month and will assess compliance with Infrastructure Health and Safety Association (IHSA) standards. Focused inspections will begin on August 6th and will run until September 27th, 2019. The initiative has resulted in an estimate 1,000 tool kits (all sectors) being requested, up from only 90 in the previous year.



The ministry will continue to focus on fall protection following the slips, trips and falls all-sector initiative. MOL plans to follow up on the industry's compliance with the regulatory changes on the use of suspended access equipment which came into effect on January 1, 2017.

Inspectors will be responsible for checking to see if:

1. Suspended access equipment has been designed, constructed, inspected, tested and maintained according to the law; and,
2. Workers have received appropriate training.

Refer to sections 137 – 142 of [Ontario Regulation 213/91: Construction Projects](#) for specific requirements about suspended work platforms and boatswain's chairs. The technical guideline on [suspended access equipment on construction projects](#) provides more information about the legal requirements for suspended work platforms.

Ministry inspectors will focus inspections in:

- industrial, commercial and institutional building construction
- residential building construction
- civil engineering and roadwork

[Click here to learn more](#)

To access additional IHSA resources including fact sheets, risk assessments, and work plan templates, [please click here](#).

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### MOL Announces Future Initiatives and Blitzes

Ontario has released notices on future blitzes and initiative which concern our industry including:

**September 1 to December 27, 2019** - Healthy workers in healthy workplaces – musculoskeletal disorders and respiratory hazards

**January 6 to March 13, 2020** - Lack and misuse of personal protective equipment such as foot, eye, hearing and respiratory protection devices.

[Click here to learn more](#)

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Register for SAIA Convention -  
September 23-26th

**SAIA** SCAFFOLD & ACCESS  
INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

The Scaffold and Access Industry Association (SAIA) will be hosting its annual convention at the

Sheraton New Orleans from September 23-26th, 2019. This event is the largest gathering of scaffold and access industry professionals in the world and will feature training courses, educational sessions, networking receptions, social events, and an Exhibit Hall with dedicated show hours.

[Click here to learn more.](#)

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## Federal and Provincial Governments Prioritize Skilled Trades

### Ontario and Alberta Focus on Skilled Trades and STEM

Newly appointed Minister of Education Stephen Lecce has announced the development of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which will aim to support and enhance opportunities for elementary and secondary students in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) fields, and ensure that the skilled trades are recognized as a career of choice by young people, parents and educators. [Click here to learn more.](#)

### Province Boosts Pre-Apprenticeship Training

Ontario is investing an additional \$5 million into the province's pre-apprenticeship training which will allow colleges and other community organizations to offer 84 programs across the province that will introduce over 1,600 people to the trades. [Click here to learn more.](#)

### Prime Minister Celebrates World Youth Skills Day

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau recently celebrated World Youth Skills Day and emphasized what Canada has been doing to improving access to education and skilled trades including:

- Announcing Canada's first-ever [Youth Policy](#) focussed on innovation and skills;
- Funding for initiatives like the [Canada Service Corps](#);
- Launching the modernized [Youth Employment and Skills Strategy](#);
- Supporting programs like [CanCode](#) and [Junior Astronauts](#), which will give students more chances to learn about STEM

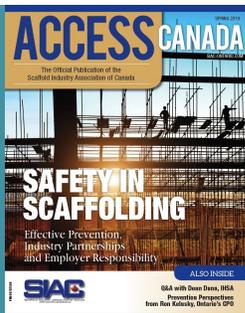
[Click here to learn more.](#)

### Future Skills Centre Announces New Projects

The Future Skills Centre is an initiative by the Canadian government to fund and evaluate new approaches to skills development in Canada, and convene partners across the country in the process.

Recently the Centre announced the appointment of [Executive Director](#) as [Pedro Barata](#) and revealed that it will be [investing \\$7.65 million into 10 new innovation projects](#) to assist mid-career workers in adapting, retraining, and/or upskilling in the future economy.

[Click here to learn more.](#)



## Feature Your Company & Projects in SIAC's Magazine

If you would like to highlight your company in SIAC's next issue of our Access Canada magazine, please reach out to [info@siac-ontario.ca](mailto:info@siac-ontario.ca). First come, first serve!

Access Canada is distributed to over 1,000 companies in the construction industry as well as Ontario's Ministry of Labour officials and others.

If you would like to inquire about advertising, member features, or article submissions for SIAC's future issues, please contact [info@siac-ontario.ca](mailto:info@siac-ontario.ca).

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## IHSA Labour-Management Health & Safety Committee Update

IHSA's Provincial Labour-Management Health and Safety Committee (Construction) met on July 3rd, 2019. The following topics were discussed:

### WSIB Employer Classification Tool

WSIB is working on an employer classification tool for employers under the new Rate Framework which will limit increases to employers to 15% in any year. An update to clearance services will be

completed in September with a refresh of online services.

### **WSIB Small Business Awards**

There were over 140 applications for WSIB's Small Business Awards, demonstrating a 71% increase from last year. Applications are currently under review.

### **Updates from MOL Prevention Office**

MOL's Prevention Office is currently in the process of reviewing and completing consultations on their five-year strategy.

On the recent announcement of working at heights (WAH) [exceptions to automotive manufacturers](#), MOL confirmed that they are also considering amendments to oil and gas and mining sectors.

### **WSIB Health and Safety Excellence Program (HSEP)**

The WSIB is in the process of integrating their three incentive programs (Small Business Health and Safety, Safety Groups Program, and Workwell) into one [Health and Safety Excellence Program \(HSEP\)](#), which will be launched in 2020.

WSIB's Board has now approved HSEP and guidelines for the 36 HSEP elements will be shared in the fall. Preferred providers will be running the programs and they will be submitting a business plan for a service level agreement. Employers will complete a needs assessment to assist in selecting elements and WSIB is currently receiving applications to become preferred providers.

### **CLRC Knots in Lifelines Update**

The IHSA's Construction Legislative Review Committee (CLRC) have deferred a discussion regarding a Section 26.9 Working Group to address knots in lifelines for travel restraint, pending a response from CSA and rope manufacturers to see if they will permit knots. The CSA standard committee has agreed to review this issue and MOL's Prevention Office has issued a notice to IHSA and not changed their position.

*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 July 3rd meeting minutes [HERE](#).*