



Your Monthly News & Updates

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

Happy Canada Day!

We hope your long weekend was filled with celebration and wish you a great summer season. As the weather warms up, please be sure to highlight methods of heat stress and exhaustion prevention with any employees working outdoors. For more information and helpful tips, [please click here](#).

Ontario Gets New Minister of Labour



On June 20th, 2019, Ontario Premier Doug Ford announced a cabinet shuffle which changes who now holds several prominent positions in government.

Ontario's Minister of Labour is now The Hon. Monte McNaughton, who previously acted as Minister of Infrastructure. MPP Jane McKenna has been confirmed as the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Labour.

To access the full list of cabinet positions [please click here](#), and to view all parliamentary assistant appointments [please click here](#).

Member Survey Results: Safety Belts

The Provincial Labour Health & Safety Committee (PLHSC)'s Construction Legislative Review Committee has put forward a proposal to **remove reference of safety belts in mobile elevated work platforms (MEWPs) from Regulation 145/00**.

After commissioning a survey of members to determine SIAC's official position, the results of the survey have demonstrated that it appears member opinions are evenly divided. **In order to ensure that we represent all members, SIAC has decided to not take an official stance and instead encourage members to submit their thoughts independently.**

The PLHSC's review of Section 26.4 (1) Removal of Body Belts is now out for 90-day review to accommodate summer recess, ending in September, 2019. If you would like to provide feedback to the Committee, please contact lmadmin@ihsa.ca.

Suspended Access Equipment Inspection Initiative Underway

The Ministry of Labour (MOL)'s workplace inspection initiative on suspended access equipment's first phase has now begun and will emphasize compliance assistance with the Infrastructure Health and Safety Association (IHSA). The second phase on focused inspections will begin on August 6th. The initiative will end on September 27th, 2019.

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.

Inspectors will aim their attention at:



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

To learn more about these inspections, [please click here.](#)

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

Working at Heights Training at Auto Manufacturing Plants Regulatory Amendments Coming into Effect

On July 1st, the amendment to O. Reg. 297/13 – Occupational Health and Safety Awareness and Training aimed at reducing the regulatory burden on the automotive sector is coming into effect. The amendment creates a targeted exemption for workers employed directly by automobile manufacturing plant employers from Chief Prevention Office-approved working at heights training.

For more information on O. Reg. 191/19, [please click here.](#)



Member Feature in SIAC's Fall Magazine

If you would like to highlight your company in SIAC's Fall 2019 issue of our Access Canada magazine, please reach out to 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.

MOL Webinar on Suspended Access Equipment Initiative - July 9th

MOL and the IHSA will be hosting a free 90-minute webinar on Tuesday, July 9th at 1:00pm to discuss what workplaces need to do to keep workers safe when working from suspended access equipment like suspended work platform systems. Ministry staff will review regulatory requirements for installing, inspecting, testing, operating, and maintaining the equipment on construction projects. Links to information resources and training will also be provided.



To register for this webinar, [please click here.](#)

IHSA Labour-Management Health & Safety Committee Update

IHSA's Provincial Labour-Management Health and Safety Committee (Construction) met on June 5th. The following topics were discussed:



Rope Access Permitted in Window Washing

Pierre Rouleau, MOL's Provincial Coordinator clarified that currently, neither the Act nor the Regulation prohibit window washing and MOL has therefore determined that, provided a firm complies with the Act and Regulation, window washing is permitted.

On the issue of whether rope access is allowed for activities other than window washing, Pierre informed the Committee that Section 125 is highly prescriptive and rope access is not one of them. MOL is not aware of prohibition regarding maintenance in an industrial

establishment.

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.

Preferred providers will be running the programs and they will be submitting a business plan for a service level agreement. The committee clarified several items of interest and WSIB expressed that recent problems with clearance certificates at WSIB are being addressed and they will not be putting a cap on what providers can charge as an administrative fee. WSIB also indicated that they will be performing initial desk audits then determine which firms require onsite audits and that there will be standards that WSIB preferred providers will have to meet.

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.

IHSA Awards

Applications for nominations of the Gill Samson Award, Roy A. Phinnemore Award, and the John M. Beck Award are open until July 31st, 2019. To find out more and access nomination forms, [please click here](#).

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 June 5th meeting minutes [HERE](#).