



## Your Monthly News & Updates

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

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### MOL Appoints New Deputy Minister



Following Ms. Sophie Dennis' long and distinguished career with the Ministry of Labour, Mr. David Corbett has been appointed to take her place as Deputy Minister of Labour. Mr Corbett previously acted as chair of the Workplace Safety and Insurance Appeals Tribunal (WSIAT) and has extensive experience in labour and employment law.

[Click here to learn more](#)

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### Suspended Access Equipment Initiative Continues with Phase II

Ontario's Ministry of Labour (MOL)'s suspended access equipment initiative's focused inspections have begun 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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**Canadian Delegates Meeting at 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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## MOL Current and Future Initiatives & Blitzes

Ontario has begun and announced several 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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## Free Seminar on Navigating Employment Standards Act

Sherrard Kuzz LLP, Employment & Labour Lawyers will be hosting a free seminar on "Navigating the Ontario Employment Standards Act, 2000: Common Employer Pitfalls (and how to avoid them!)". The seminar will take place on Wednesday, September 25th and will discuss practical and strategic approaches to address common Ontario *Employment Standards Act, 2000 (ESA)* violations and risks associated with non-compliance.

Topics include:

1. **Hours of Work** - *What records must be kept? How to manage and track hours in the world of "remote work".*
2. **Overtime Pay** - *Who is (and is not) entitled to overtime pay? How to effectively use overtime agreements in your workplace.*
3. **Employee Misclassification** - *When is an "independent contractor" actually an employee?*
4. **Self- Audits and Ministry of Labour Complaints** - *Understand the Ministry of Labour's new self-audit process. Practical tips to handle a Ministry of Labour complaint.*
5. **Class Action Liability for an ESA Violation** - *How class action litigation can lead to significant liability under the ESA. Practical tips to avoid a potential class action claim.*

[Click here to register and learn more](#)

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## 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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