

The Health and Safety Excellence program – building a safer Ontario

When it comes to injuries in the workplace, hindsight is always 20/20. Now, with the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board's (WSIB) new Health and Safety Excellence program, there is a clear path to help businesses make workplaces healthier and safer. The program provides Ontario businesses with a roadmap that helps develop health and safety systems based on best practice and accessible to businesses of any size.

Some businesses may be looking to build a new system, while others want to improve what's already in place - the Health and Safety Excellence program is easy to tailor to individual business needs to help improve health and safety outcomes and culture. Success in the program can lead to premium rebates and non-financial recognition.

The program has 36 topics spread across three levels – foundation, intermediate and advanced – to help develop and integrate health and safety into workplaces and take a business from awareness to excellence.

The WSIB has made it easy to get started.

First, a business can choose and register with a WSIB-approved health and safety provider listed on the program's website at wsib.ca/healthandsafety. Providers offer different supports to meet business needs, including in-person coaching, online, or over the phone.

The second step is to complete an online health and safety assessment. The assessment helps to evaluate what's already in place and what may be missing and suggests program topics that address each business's unique needs. These topics can be completed over a 12 month period at a pace and time that works best for each business.

At the third and final step, a business will submit evidence to the WSIB to show that the topics were completed. Once validated, the business will be eligible for financial and other incentives for every topic completed.

Financial incentives

Success in the program means saving money, paying lower premiums and receiving rebates on WSIB premiums. For example, depending on its size, a business could receive a 1.4%-2% rebate per topic. Most importantly, investments in health and safety prevent future workplace accidents and the costs associated with such events.



Work towards accreditation

Our program can also help businesses achieve best practice accreditation standards. Once a business has completed the Health and Safety Excellence program, and implemented and maintained a strong health and safety management system within their business, they should be ready for the third-party audit required to verify they meet one of the approved accreditation standards.

In 2020, we look forward to working with businesses to create healthier and safer workplaces, and a healthier and safer Ontario. Let's turn hindsight into foresight, together.

For more information, please visit our website at wsib.ca/healthandsafety.