



Acoustical Association Ontario

Volume 6 Issue 4 April 2011

Provincial in scope ...

Provincial in outlook

19th Annual Carpenters' Apprenticeship Contest



The Ontario government has acted on the recommendations of the Expert Advisory Panel (Dean Panel) which, at the request of then Minister of Labour Peter Fonseca, conducted a comprehensive review of Ontario's Occupational Health & Safety System.

Current Minister of Labour, Charles Sousa, introduced legislation on March 3rd amending both the Occupational Health & Safety Act and the Workplace Safety and Insurance Act to incorporate most of the forty-six (46) recommendations made by the Dean Panel. "Our government, along with labour and business leaders, are on the same page. We all want workers to be healthy and go home safe after work. These proposed amendments would help prevent injuries and create productive workplaces -- and that is good news for all Ontarians." Mr. Sousa said in a written statement.

In a statement, the Ministry of Labour said that "the amendments are in response to the recommendations provided by the Expert Panel on Occupational Health and Safety" If passed, Bill 160 would:

- Establish the Ministry of Labour as the lead for accident prevention, transferring it from the WSIB;
- Appoint a new Chief Prevention Officer to coordinate and align the prevention system;
- Create a new prevention council, with representatives from labour, employers, and safety experts, to advise the Chief Prevention Officer and the Minister;
- Identify and develop mandatory training requirements for very hazardous work, particularly construction work and work at heights;
- Improve the protection of new workers, youth, recent immigrants and foreign temporary workers through mandatory training, greater availability of multilingual and web-based health and safety resources.

The proposed amendments would also give the Labour Minister oversight of the province's Health and Safety Associations. The minister would also oversee the education, training and promotion of workplace health and safety.

WSIB e-Clearance Update

The WSIB recently announce that along with increasing to 90 days the time a clearance is valid, it has now established four "predictable renewal dates" -- February 20th, May 20th, August 20th, and November 20th. All clearance numbers will expire on those four dates each year. For example, if a contractor requests a clearance on July 2nd, that clearance will expire on the next predictable renewal date of August 20th even

though the date occurs before the 90 day allowable maximum.

Employers, who do not wish to use the electronic system, can still call the WSIB's Clearance Department at 416-344-1012/1-800-387-8638 to request clearances over the phone, or they can fax their request to 416-344-3410/1-877-849-4882.



The Mathews Dinsdale Minute



For this issue of the Mathews Dinsdale Minute we return to the epic tale of Joe's Drywall. When we last checked in on Joe's he was heading for trouble as a result of trying to make deals directly with his men. When we look in now Joe's is working to recover from the damages award it was dinged with at a grievance hearing at the Ontario Labour Relations Board (OLRB) for making the deal contrary to the terms of the Collective Agreement.

As part of its efforts, Joe's has been bidding work at a furious pace, including a job at a lawyers' office downtown – Sneeks, Cruks and Theeves. Given the amount of money Joe's had to pay because of the damages award, it really needs this work and sharpened its pencil as much as possible in making its bid. Joe's price was \$242,000 (they were nice offices) but he lost out to a non-union drywall company who bid \$161,000. What should Joe's do?

The Acoustical Association Ontario (AAO) has recently put a survey on its website asking contractors (like Joe's) to provide detailed information in circumstances like this experience for Joe's. By providing all of the important information, AAO will be able to compile all the data with specific information, putting the AAO in a better position in the next round of bargaining to assess its member's share of the market in relation to non-union competition. These surveys will give the AAO the empirical data at its finger tips with which to support the proposals it makes at the bargaining table that target those areas losing market share. The webpage is easily accessible and this gathering of information is exceedingly important for the AAO's ability to represent you in bargaining.

(As an aside, the law firm had to replace work that was done by the low bid contractor within 15 months to the tune of \$100,000.)



On-Line Verification of Compliance

It is our understanding that some General Contractors have instituted an "On-line Verification of Compliance" program whereby sub-contractors will be required to file documentation, over the internet, in order to be paid for services rendered. Furthermore, sub-

contractors will be required to pay the General Contractor in order to use of this service. Members may want to consider adding this cost to the list of exclusion when bidding on work that requires use of the On-line Verification of Compliance system.

Important Dates & Notes

AAO Board Meeting:	April 26, 2011 @ 2:00 p.m. (By conference call)
AAO Conference:	July 14, 2011—July 17, 2011—Niagara-on-the-Lake



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