

**NLSchools** refers to all public K-12 English schools and school-related facilities under the jurisdiction of the Department of Education, Education Operations Branch and all employees working therein, and all employees providing services and supports to such schools, including those who work in the areas of school facilities, student transportation, program implementation, student services, and procurement.

## **Occupational Health and Safety Policy Statement**

The Department of Education is committed to fostering a work environment that protects workers from injury and illness and in which employees, contractors and the public will not be exposed to unacceptable health and safety hazards.

The department is committed to taking every reasonable precaution for the protection of all workers within NLSchools. To fulfill this commitment, the employer shall provide and maintain a safe and healthy work environment, both physical and psychological; appropriate staff supervision; provision and maintenance of safe tools, equipment, and personal protective equipment; and training necessary to protect the health and safety of our employees.

The department recognizes and encourages the involvement of the Occupational Health & Safety Committees/worker representatives in the resolution of safety concerns and commits to consulting and co-operating with committees on matters concerning health and safety in the workplace. Committees are responsible to bring forth health and safety concerns; seek to identify and recommend corrective action; and to promote health and safety in the workplace. The department will ensure mechanisms are in place to follow recommendations of the Committees/worker representatives in OHS matters and will ensure quarterly meetings are held, as per the [Occupational Health & Safety Act](#) and [Regulations](#).

All employees are responsible to abide by all established policies and safe work practices and procedures and in doing so, properly utilize all tools, equipment and training provided for their protection. Employees are also responsible for reporting all identified hazards to their supervisor in order to effect corrective actions. It is the responsibility of each person to join in a commitment to injury and loss prevention.

All supervisors are responsible for ensuring that all work areas under the scope of their responsibility are maintained in a safe manner and that all health and safety concerns brought to their attention are acted upon in an expedient manner in order to avoid injury and loss. Supervisors are further responsible for ensuring that all

policies and safe work procedures are adhered to by all employees and/or contractors within their area, personal protective equipment is used and that corrective actions are taken to address any non-compliance issues.

All contractors/subcontractors conducting business on behalf of NLSchools are responsible to meet all regulatory health, safety and environmental requirements as defined under the [Occupational Health & Safety Act / Regulations](#), [Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Act 2002 / Regulations](#), [Highway Traffic Act / Regulations](#), and all other required legislative standards.

This policy statement will be reviewed on an annual basis and revised as necessary.