

**Ministry of Labour,  
Training and Skills  
Development**

Prevention Council

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**Ministère du Travail,  
de la Formation et  
du Développement  
des compétences**

Conseil De La Prévention

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**Statement from Prevention Council and Ontario's Chief Prevention Officer**

December 2020

Ontario's Prevention Council and Chief Prevention Officer Ron Kelusky released the following statement today:

As we are managing a second wave, we would like to commend you, the workers and employers of Ontario, for your hard work and dedication and the many ways you have stepped up during this unprecedented pandemic. From healthcare, to retail, and in every other sector, you have worked tirelessly to serve the people of Ontario while keeping them safe and healthy. Your dedication is inspiring.

We would also like to recognize your continued commitment to workplace health and safety during these challenging times.

On November 3rd, the Ontario government released its COVID-19 Response Framework to ensure public health measures are targeted, incremental and responsive to help limit the spread of COVID-19. On Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup> the Province announced that certain public health unit regions would move into new levels in the Framework to help slow the spread of COVID-19, which includes moving Toronto and Peel into 'lockdown' level restrictions. We encourage you to remain vigilant and continue to follow the occupational health and safety procedures in your workplaces as well as the COVID-19 guidance and resources issued by the ministry. Please also remember the value and importance of involving your Joint Health and Safety Committee and/or Health and Safety Representative in identifying and addressing health and safety concerns specific to your workplace.

Workplace health and safety is our shared responsibility and we are here to support you. The council and the ministry will continue to provide you with COVID-19 guidance and resources. The Minister has also committed to hiring 98 new inspectors to provide you with compliance

support to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Let's continue working together to ensure that everyone goes home safe and healthy at the end of each work day.

Please review the list of resources and programs below.

**The ministry and our occupational health and safety partners' resources on preventing occupational injury, illness, and fatalities:**

- [Preventing COVID-19 in the workplace](#)
- [Ministry of Health COVID-19 Screening Tool For Workplaces](#)
- [Guide to the Occupational Health and Safety Act](#)
- [Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System \(WHMIS\)](#)
- [Health and Safety Awareness Training](#)
- [Mandatory Workplace Poster](#)
- [Report an Incident](#)
- [File a workplace health and safety complaint](#)
- [Reprisals](#)

**For sector-specific advice, services, and training, contact:**

- [Infrastructure Health & Safety Association](#) for the construction, electrical and utilities, aggregates, natural gas, ready-mix concrete and transportation sectors
- [Public Services Health & Safety Association](#) for hospitals, nursing and retirement homes, residential and community care, universities and colleges, school boards, libraries and museums, municipalities, provincial government and agencies, police, fire and paramedics and First Nations
- [Workplace Safety North](#) for the forestry, mining, smelters, refineries, paper, printing and converting sectors
- [Workplace Safety & Prevention Services](#) for the agriculture, manufacturing, and service sectors
- [Workplace Safety Insurance Board \(WSIB\)](#) for all sectors
- [Workers Health and Safety Centre](#)

Employers can ensure they have the resources and equipment they need to keep their workers safe by using the [Ontario Together PPE Directory](#). This site lists suppliers of masks, sanitization, eye protection, gowns, gloves, and sneeze guards.

The WSIB's [Health and Safety Excellence program](#) provides a clear roadmap for you to improve safety in your workplace, whether you are just getting started or want to improve

systems and processes you already have in place.

Please make sure you are familiar with [your responsibilities](#) under the [Occupational Health Safety Act](#).

You can learn more about the Prevention Council by visiting its [website](#).

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National Health and Safety Representative, International Brotherhood of Boilermakers

**Brian Arnold**

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