



## CLB 5 Right to a Safe Workplace

Everyone has the right to be safe at work. A right is something a person is allowed to have, get, or do. There are health and safety laws to protect workers in Canada.

**Instructions:**

1. Read the article.
2. Answer the questions.

### Right to a Safe Workplace

#### In Canada, we have the right\* to a safe workplace.

Each province/territory in Canada has a government department responsible for occupational health and safety. For example, Ontario's *Occupational Health and Safety Act, Regulations and Code (OHSA)*, is the law\* protecting most workers in Ontario. OHSA laws are similar from province to province.

**READING TIP:**

When you see an asterisk (\*), that usually means there is more information about the word at the end of the reading. The extra information might be a definition.

- OHSA gives workers & employers **rights and responsibilities\***
- The government makes sure everyone follows the rules of Occupational Health and Safety Act.
- It does not matter if you have been in the province only a short time.
- It does not matter where you are from.

#### Employers' responsibilities

Employers have responsibilities under Ontario's OHSA law. For example:

- Employers have to protect the health and safety of their workers.
- Employers have to tell workers about their responsibilities and duties under OHSA.
- Employers must provide proper training.

#### Workers' responsibilities

Workers also have responsibilities under Ontario's OHSA law. For example:

- Workers have to follow the health and safety rules of their workplace.
- Workers have to take care to protect the health and safety of themselves and their co-workers.
- Workers can **refuse\*** work if they feel that it is unsafe.

Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) is part of the Ontario government. OHSA **enforces\*** the law. OHSA Officers make sure that workplaces are safe.

Contact OHSA at any time:

- You can get information about workplace safety.
- If a danger is **neglected\*** at your work, you can report it to OHSA.

**OHSA Contact Centre**  
**1-877-202-0008 (toll-free).**  
**Your call is confidential\*.**  
**You can call ANY TIME.**

**CULTURE TIP:**

If you see a safety issue, tell your supervisor. In a Canadian workplace, it is everyone's job to make sure the workplace is safe.

Adapted from: Government of Alberta Employment and Immigration. (2008). Worker's guide [to the] Occupational Health and Safety Act. [PDF file]. Retrieved from <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/worker-s-guide-to-the-occupational-health-and-safety-act>

### Vocabulary

**\*confidential:** secret/anonymous

**\*enforce:** to make sure that people follow laws, rules, etc.

**\*law:** rules made by a government (municipal, provincial, federal)

**\*neglected:** not taken care of/ignored

**\*refuse:** to firmly say no to something

**\*right:** something that a person is legally allowed to have, get, or do

**\*responsibility:** something that you should do because it is legally required

## Questions

1. What right do workers in Ontario have? (Computer can't read this answer)

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2. What is OHSA? Answer:

- a) Occupational House and Security
- b) Occupational Health and Security
- c) Occupational Health and Safety Act
- d) Occupational Health System Action

3. What does OHS do? Answer:

- a) Makes sure workplaces are safe
- b) Gives workers protective equipment
- c) Hires employees
- d) Make sure employees follow the rules

4. Who makes sure employees and employers follow the OHSA rules? Answer:

- a) The employer
- b) The Ontario Government
- c) The Canadian Government
- d) The employee

5. How long do you need to live in the province to be protected by OHSA? Answer:

- a) 1 year
- b) a short time
- c) 5 years
- d) 10 years

6. What is one employer safety responsibility? (Computer can't read this answer)

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7. What is one employee safety responsibility? (Computer can't read this answer)

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8. How do you contact OHS? (Computer can't read this answer)

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9. When can you call OHS? (Computer can't read this answer)

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10. Why would you call OHS? Give two reasons. (Computer can't read this answer)

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- \_\_\_\_\_

11. It says that the call to OHSA would be 'confidential'. What does that mean?  
(Computer can't read this answer)

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