



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)

2. What is OHSA? Answer:

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

3. What does OHS do? Answer:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- _____

- _____

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

- _____