

# ACTING ON WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY REGULATION GAPS PROTECT WORKERS AND BUSINESSES

**IN 2020, THE ASSOCIATION OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARDS OF CANADA (AWCBC) REPORTED ONTARIO HAD THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF INJURY-RELATED AND OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE-RELATED DEATHS IN CANADA.**

**T**wo years ago, the Ontario Government recognized the importance of supporting and nurturing a safety and health culture by creating Ontario's Occupational Safety and Health Day.

Occurring on the second Tuesday of May each year, Occupational Safety and Health Day, along with the National Day of Mourning on April 28, are crucial moments to honour those whose lives have been irreparably impacted by a workplace injury, illness or fatality. This includes committing to enhancing prevention measures in workplaces to limit injury and avoid fatalities.

With no existing government oversight mechanism and no mandatory educational or experiential standards for Occupational Safety and Health practitioners in Ontario, the clear next step in advancing prevention measures is title protection for the safety profession.

For far too long, employers looking for advice on any number of safety and health issues have had to navigate a myriad of titles and a lack of clarity on who is qualified to offer what advice.

Implementing title protection for safety professionals has already been recommended by the Ontario Prevention Council and endorsed by the Ontario Chamber of Commerce.

In reality, title protection fosters healthier workplace environments while enhancing business performance and public confidence. Rather than creating more red tape, title protection removes the risk for businesses by helping them identify competent safety professionals more easily.

As Ontario's economy reopens and grows rapidly, including rebounding construction, mining and manufacturing sectors, it is critical that employers across the province have access to qualified and certified health and safety professionals with recognized credentials.

## EVERY WORKER DESERVES TO BE PROTECTED AND RETURN HOME EACH AND EVERY DAY

**In 2021, the Prevention Council recommended the Minister's Office to review and consider title protection of Occupational Health & Safety Professionals as a means of protecting public and worker welfare in Ontario.**



The Ontario Chamber of Commerce, has called for the Ontario government to “prioritize title protection for OHS professionals, develop clear timelines, and an implementation plan for this initiative.”



3M Company  
Corteva Agriscience  
Minerva Canada Safety Management Education  
Modern Niagara Group Inc.  
Ontario Chamber of Commerce  
Redpath Mining Inc.  
University of Ottawa  
The University of Waterloo  
Workplace Safety North