

YOUNG WORKERS

INFORMATION SHEET FOR YOUNG WORKERS

WHY FOCUS ON YOUNG WORKERS?

British Columbia has more than a quarter of a million workers aged 15 to 24 – and keeping them safe on the job is everyone's job. Everyone has a part to play – employers, supervisors, unions, co-workers, parents, educators, the WCB, the community at large and young workers themselves.

Did you know:

- More than 50 percent of work-related accidents happen during a young worker's first six months on the job?
- Males under 25 are much more likely to be injured on the job than any other workers?

Last year in B.C.:

- Each day in B.C., 34 young workers are hurt on the job, or one every 42 minutes.
- Every week, five of these young workers are permanently disabled in workplace accidents.
- In 2002, five young male workers were killed in work related accidents.
- Workers between the ages of 15 and 24 reported 8,630 workplace injuries in 2002. Many more go unreported.

WHY ARE YOUNG WORKERS GETTING HURT ON THE JOB?

- Young workers are not always aware of the risks of their jobs or what steps to take to protect themselves from workplace injury.
- Young workers take risks because they think they are invincible (“It won't happen to me”).
- Young workers are eager to impress their employer and may not ask questions for fear of losing their job or appearing incapable.
- Young workers lack proper safety education and training.
- Young workers are not aware of their rights and responsibilities in the workplace.

WHAT ARE MY HEALTH AND SAFETY RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE WORKPLACE?

You have the right to:

- Education and training about safe work procedures and how to recognize hazards on the job.
- Supervision to make sure you work without undue risk.
- Equipment and safety gear required to do your job safely (you are responsible for providing your own clothing to protect yourself against the natural elements, general purpose work gloves, safety footwear and safety headgear).
- Refuse to do tasks and to work in conditions that you think are unsafe, and you can't be fired or disciplined for refusing.

You are responsible for working without undue risk to yourself or others. To keep safe on the job:

- Don't assume you can do something you've never done before. Ask your supervisor to show you how to do it safely before you begin work. Ask your employer for job safety training.
- Use all safety gear and protective clothing when and where required.
- Always follow safe work procedures and encourage your co-workers to do the same.
- Immediately correct unsafe conditions or report them right away to your supervisor.
- Know how to handle any hazardous materials or chemicals you use on the job.
- If you have any doubts about your safety, talk to your supervisor.
- Tell your supervisor of any physical or mental conditions that may make you unable to work safely.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I'M INJURED?

All workers, including young and part-time workers, qualify for WCB benefits and services for work-related injuries and illnesses. These benefits can include payment for lost wages and medical costs for such services as hospital care, health care providers, medication and surgery.

If you are injured on the job:

- Report the injury to your supervisor or first aid attendant immediately and get medical treatment, if needed
- Check to make sure your employer fills out and sends a Report of Injury Form 7 to the WCB if you get medical treatment, or if you can't work because of your injury.

HOW CAN THE WCB HELP ME?

You have the right to a healthy and safe workplace. If you feel your rights have been violated or your safety has been put at risk, you can file an anonymous complaint with the WCB through the Prevention Information Line at 604 276-3100 or toll free at 1 888 621-SAFE (7233).

WHAT SPECIFIC INITIATIVES ARE BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE WCB TO REDUCE THE INJURY RATE OF YOUNG WORKERS?

- Partnerships with existing health and safety industry associations and/or employers and workers in the sectors with high young worker injury rates/claims
- Ongoing research with young people and stakeholders on why and how young workers are injured on the job and what can and should be done to reduce the risks young workers face
- Strategic partnerships in young worker education, training and best practices (i.e., Student WorkSafe, a comprehensive K-12 health and safety curriculum; a new Young Worker Certificate program; and Young Worker Safety Awards for youth and employers)
- Awareness initiatives with industry, labour, parents, educators, youth, government and community organizations (i.e., Annual safety awareness campaign; BC Student Voice forums; youth to youth theatre performance on young worker health and safety; presentations by injured young workers; new young worker video; parent resource materials and workshop)
- Multi-stakeholder initiatives including a Young Worker multi-stakeholder Steering Committee and Working Group with representatives from industry, organized labour, government, parents, educators, community groups and youth; Support/Advisory group for seriously injured young workers and their caregivers; and a Speakers Resource network of volunteer speakers

WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY?

If you have questions about workplace health and safety, visit www.worksafebc.com and follow the links to the Young Worker Health and Safety Centre. The website also contains resource materials that can be downloaded free of charge. In addition, you can purchase publications or videos by contacting Publications, Videos and Forms Distribution by phone at 1-866-271-4879 or e-mail at moore-wcb.customer.service@ca.moore.com. For more information on WCB's Young Worker Prevention programs, please call the Young Worker team at 604 231-8578 or toll-free at 1 888 621-7233, local 8578.

EMPLOYERS

INFORMATION SHEET FOR EMPLOYERS

WHY FOCUS ON YOUNG WORKERS?

British Columbia has more than a quarter of a million workers aged 15 to 24 – and keeping them safe on the job is everyone’s job. Everyone has a part to play – employers, supervisors, unions, co-workers, parents, educators, the WCB, the community at large and young workers themselves.

Did you know:

- More than 50 percent of work-related accidents happen during a young worker's first six months on the job?
- Males under 25 are much more likely to be injured on the job than any other workers?

Last year in B.C.:

- Each day in B.C., 34 young workers are hurt on the job, or one every 42 minutes.
- Every week, five of these young workers are permanently disabled in workplace accidents.
- In 2002, five young male workers were killed in work related accidents.
- Workers between the ages of 15 and 24 reported 8,630 workplace injuries in 2002. Many more go unreported.

WHY ARE YOUNG WORKERS GETTING HURT ON THE JOB?

- Young workers are not always aware of the risks of their jobs or what steps to take to protect themselves from workplace injury.
- Young workers take risks because they think they are invincible (“It won't happen to me”).
- Young workers are eager to impress their employer and may not ask questions for fear of losing their job or appearing incapable.
- Young workers lack proper safety education and training.
- Young workers are not aware of their rights and responsibilities in the workplace.

WHAT ARE MY HEALTH AND SAFETY RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE WORKPLACE?

As an employer, you have responsibilities to make sure young workers can do their jobs without unnecessary risk. Young workers are often inexperienced and unable to recognize hazards. Many won't ask questions about workplace safety for fear of looking incompetent or simply because they don't know what to ask. The procedures you have in place for workplace safety should take account of these and other facts about young workers.

- Know and comply with workplace health and safety regulations that apply to your workplace. Place these regulations where workers can see them and read them.
- Create a workplace culture that encourages young workers to ask questions about any health and safety concerns they may have.
- Involve supervisors and experienced workers in identifying potential health and safety problems and in developing prevention programs to eliminate these hazards.
- Provide comprehensive training to make sure that young workers recognize hazards and are competent in safe work procedures. Routinely check to see if they continue to recognize hazards and follow safe work procedures. Ensure supervisors of young workers are trained.
- Provide the required safety gear and protective clothing (workers are responsible for providing their own clothing to protect them against the natural elements, general purpose work gloves, safety footwear and safety headgear).

- Evaluate equipment that young workers might be required to operate to ensure that it is safe for their use. Make sure they know how to use any equipment safely.
- Make sure that young workers are appropriately supervised to prevent injuries and exposure to hazardous materials. Create an environment where "safe" behaviour is rewarded and recognized in your workplace.
- Provide managers and supervisors with knowledge of how to train new and young workers. Check back with them frequently to ensure they are following up with new staff to ensure that questions are being answered and to observe if the work is being done safely.

Remember, safety is smart business. A safe workplace, with employees trained in safe work procedures, is a more productive workplace.

WHAT SPECIFIC INITIATIVES ARE BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE WCB TO REDUCE THE INJURY RATE OF YOUNG WORKERS?

- Partnerships with existing health and safety industry associations and/or employers and workers in the sectors with high young worker injury rates/claims
- Ongoing research with young people and stakeholders on why and how young workers are injured on the job and what can and should be done to reduce the risks young workers face
- Strategic partnerships in young worker education, training and best practices (i.e., Student WorkSafe, a comprehensive K-12 health and safety curriculum; a new Young Worker Certificate program; and Young Worker Safety Awards for youth and employers)
- Awareness initiatives with industry, labour, parents, educators, youth, government and community organizations (i.e., Annual safety awareness campaign; BC Student Voice forums; youth to youth theatre performance on young worker health and safety; presentations by injured young workers; new young worker video; parent resource materials and workshop)
- Multi-stakeholder initiatives including a Young Worker multi-stakeholder Steering Committee and Working Group with representatives from industry, organized labour, government, parents, educators, community groups and youth; Support/Advisory group for seriously injured young workers and their caregivers; and a Speakers Resource network of volunteer speakers

WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUNG WORKER HEALTH & SAFETY?

If you have questions about workplace health and safety, visit www.worksafebc.com and follow the links to the Young Worker Health and Safety Centre. The website also contains resource materials that can be downloaded free of charge. In addition, you can purchase publications or videos by contacting Publications, Videos and Forms Distribution by phone at 1-866-271-4879 or e-mail at moore-wcb.customer.service@ca.moore.com. For more information on WCB's Young Worker Prevention programs, please call the Young Worker team at 604 231-8578 or toll-free at 1 888 621-7233, local 8578.

SUPERVISORS

INFORMATION SHEET FOR SUPERVISORS

WHY FOCUS ON YOUNG WORKERS?

British Columbia has more than a quarter of a million workers aged 15 to 24 – and keeping them safe on the job is everyone's job. Everyone has a part to play – employers, supervisors, unions, co-workers, parents, educators, the WCB, the community at large and young workers themselves.

Did you know:

- More than 50 percent of work-related accidents happen during a young worker's first six months on the job?
- Males under 25 are much more likely to be injured on the job than any other workers?

Last year in B.C.:

- Each day in B.C., 34 young workers are hurt on the job, or one every 42 minutes.
- Every week, five of these young workers are permanently disabled in workplace accidents.
- In 2002, five young male workers were killed in work related accidents.
- Workers between the ages of 15 and 24 reported 8,630 workplace injuries in 2002. Many more go unreported.

WHAT ARE MY HEALTH AND SAFETY RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE WORKPLACE?

As a supervisor, you have responsibilities to make sure young workers can do their jobs without unnecessary risk. Young workers are often inexperienced and unable to recognize hazards. Many won't ask questions about workplace safety for fear of looking incompetent or simply because they don't know what to ask. Providing adequate supervision is perhaps the single most important duty a supervisor has towards young workers, since they look to their supervisors as role models and to provide them with the necessary training and supervision they need to do their jobs safely.

- Ensure that your employer provides you with the adequate information, instruction, training and supervision necessary to ensure the health and safety of the workers you supervise.
- Encourage young workers to ask for help when they are unsure of a task.
- Know and comply with workplace health and safety regulations that apply to your workplace. Place these regulations where workers can see them and read them.
- Evaluate equipment that young workers might be required to operate to ensure that it is safe for their use and make sure they know how to use any equipment safely.
- Make sure that young workers are appropriately supervised to prevent injuries and exposure to hazardous materials. Create an environment where "safe" behaviour is rewarded and recognized in your workplace.
- Ensure that young workers under your supervision know their rights and responsibilities about workplace health and safety. These include the right to education and training about safe work procedures, how to recognize hazards on the job and the right to refuse to do tasks and to work in conditions they think are unsafe without being fired for refusing.
- Make sure you know the hazards associated with the jobs you are supervising and ensure your workers are made aware of all known or reasonably foreseeable hazards in the area.
- Know the laws and regulations that apply to the job(s) you are supervising.

Finally, keep in mind that young workers need a different kind of supervision. You may need to spend a bit more time making sure young workers understand why the task is performed in a certain way and making sure they are ready before leaving them to perform the work alone.

WHAT SPECIFIC INITIATIVES ARE BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE WCB TO REDUCE THE INJURY RATE OF YOUNG WORKERS?

- Partnerships with existing health and safety industry associations and/or employers and workers in the sectors with high young worker injury rates/claims
- Ongoing research with young people and stakeholders on why and how young workers are injured on the job and what can and should be done to reduce the risks young workers face
- Strategic partnerships in young worker education, training and best practices (i.e., Student WorkSafe, a comprehensive K-12 health and safety curriculum; a new Young Worker Certificate program; and Young Worker Safety Awards for youth and employers)
- Awareness initiatives with industry, labour, parents, educators, youth, government and community organizations (i.e., Annual safety awareness campaign; BC Student Voice forums; youth to youth theatre performance on young worker health and safety; presentations by injured young workers; new young worker video; parent resource materials and workshop)
- Multi-stakeholder initiatives including a Young Worker multi-stakeholder Steering Committee and Working Group with representatives from industry, organized labour, government, parents, educators, community groups and youth; Support/Advisory group for seriously injured young workers and their caregivers; and a Speakers Resource network of volunteer speakers

WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUNG WORKER HEALTH & SAFETY?

If you have questions about workplace health and safety, visit www.worksafebc.com and follow the links to the Young Worker Health and Safety Centre. The website also contains resource materials that can be downloaded free of charge. In addition, you can purchase publications or videos by contacting Publications, Videos and Forms Distribution by phone at 1-866-271-4879 or e-mail at moore-wcb.customer.service@ca.moore.com. For more information on WCB's Young Worker Prevention programs, please call the Young Worker team at 604 231-8578 or toll-free at 1 888 621-7233, local 8578.

UNIONS

INFORMATION SHEET FOR UNIONS

WHY FOCUS ON YOUNG WORKERS?

British Columbia has more than a quarter of a million workers aged 15 to 24 – and keeping them safe on the job is everyone’s job. Everyone has a part to play – unions, employers, supervisors, co-workers, parents, educators, the WCB, the community at large and young workers themselves.

Did you know:

- More than 50 percent of work-related accidents happen during a young worker's first six months on the job?
- Males under 25 are much more likely to be injured on the job than any other workers?

Last year in B.C.:

- Each day in B.C., 34 young workers are hurt on the job, or one every 42 minutes.
- Every week, five of these young workers are permanently disabled in workplace accidents.
- In 2002, five young male workers were killed in work related accidents.
- Workers between the ages of 15 and 24 reported 8,630 workplace injuries in 2002. Many more go unreported.

HOW CAN YOUR UNION SUPPORT THE RIGHTS OF YOUNG WORKERS?

Employers are responsible for providing a safe work environment for all workers. Your union can advocate to ensure young workers’ rights are upheld in the workplace.

All workers have the right to:

- Education about health and safety in the workplace.
- Training in safe work procedures and recognizing hazards on the job.
- Supervision to make sure they work without undue risk.
- Safety gear and protective clothing required to do their jobs safely (workers are responsible for providing their own clothing to protect them against the natural elements, general purpose work gloves, safety footwear and safety headgear).
- Refuse to do tasks and to work in conditions they think are unsafe, without fear of being fired or disciplined for refusing.

To keep safe on the job, young workers need to:

- Talk to their supervisors if they have any doubts about their safety.
- Immediately correct unsafe conditions or report them to their supervisors.
- Ask employers for job safety training if none is provided.
- Ask supervisors to demonstrate how to safely perform new tasks.
- Use required safety gear and protective clothing.
- Know how to handle any hazardous materials or chemicals they use on the job.

Your union can:

- Speak to your local schools and community groups about young worker health and safety.
- Conduct an awareness program with youth members on young worker health and safety.
- Work with the WCB on young worker health and safety programs and activities.

WHAT SPECIFIC INITIATIVES ARE BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE WCB TO REDUCE THE INJURY RATE OF YOUNG WORKERS?

- Partnerships with existing health and safety industry associations and/or employers and workers in the sectors with high young worker injury rates/claims
- Ongoing research with young people and stakeholders on why and how young workers are injured on the job and what can and should be done to reduce the risks young workers face
- Strategic partnerships in young worker education, training and best practices (i.e., Student WorkSafe, a comprehensive K-12 health and safety curriculum; a new Young Worker Certificate program; and Young Worker Safety Awards for youth and employers)
- Awareness initiatives with industry, labour, parents, educators, youth, government and community organizations (i.e., Annual safety awareness campaign; BC Student Voice forums; youth to youth theatre performance on young worker health and safety; presentations by injured young workers; new young worker video; parent resource materials and workshop)
- Multi-stakeholder initiatives including a Young Worker multi-stakeholder Steering Committee and Working Group with representatives from industry, organized labour, government, parents, educators, community groups and youth; Support/Advisory group for seriously injured young workers and their caregivers; and a Speakers Resource network of volunteer speakers

HOW CAN THE WCB SUPPORT YOUR YOUNG WORKER ADVOCACY?

If young workers feel their rights have been violated, they can file an anonymous complaint with the WCB through the Prevention Information Line at 604 276-3100 or toll free 1 888 621-7233. You can also call these numbers if you have questions about workplace health and safety and the young worker.

If you have any questions about workplace health and safety, visit our web site at www.worksafebc.com and follow the links to the Young Worker Health and Safety Centre. The website also contains resource materials that can be downloaded free of charge. In addition, you can purchase publications or videos by contacting Publications, Videos and Forms Distribution by phone at 1-866-271-4879 or e-mail at moore-wcb.customer.service@ca.moore.com. For more information on WCB's Young Worker Prevention programs, please call the Young Worker team at 604 231-8578 or toll-free at 1 888 621-7233, local 8578.

PARENTS

INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARENTS

WHY FOCUS ON YOUNG WORKERS?

British Columbia has more than a quarter of a million workers aged 15 to 24 – and keeping them safe on the job is everyone’s job. Everyone has a part to play – employers, supervisors, unions, co-workers, parents, educators, the WCB, the community at large and young workers themselves.

Did you know:

- More than 50 percent of work-related accidents happen during a young worker's first six months on the job?
- Males under 25 are much more likely to be injured on the job than any other workers?

Last year in B.C.:

- Each day in B.C., 34 young workers are hurt on the job, or one every 42 minutes.
- Every week, five of these young workers are permanently disabled in workplace accidents.
- In 2002, five young male workers were killed in work related accidents.
- Workers between the ages of 15 and 24 reported 8,630 workplace injuries in 2002. Many more go unreported.

WHY ARE YOUNG WORKERS GETTING HURT ON THE JOB?

- Young workers are not always aware of the risks of their jobs or what steps to take to protect themselves from workplace injury.
- Young workers take risks because they think they are invincible (“It won't happen to me”).
- Young workers are eager to impress their employer and may not ask questions for fear of losing their job or appearing incapable.
- Young workers lack proper safety education and training.
- Young workers are not aware of their rights and responsibilities in the workplace.

WHAT CAN I DO TO MAKE WORKPLACES SAFER FOR MY CHILDREN?

To make workplaces safer for your children, treat workplace health and safety the same as other health and safety concerns. Never assume that your children are safe on the job.

- Take an active role in your children’s employment decisions.
- Ask your children about the kind of work they do, and the health and safety training and supervision provided by their employer.
- Talk to your children about the dangers at their workplace and any special precautions they should take.
- Discuss how your children can protect themselves. For example, do they wear the protective equipment provided for them?
- Encourage your children to ask their supervisor for help and to ask questions when they feel uncertain about safe work practices or activities.
- Let your children know they have the right to work in a safe and healthy workplace.
- Encourage your Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) and school to focus on the issue of young worker health and safety.
- Work with the WCB on young worker health and safety programs and/or activities.

WHAT SPECIFIC INITIATIVES ARE BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE WCB TO REDUCE THE INJURY RATE OF YOUNG WORKERS?

- Partnerships with existing health and safety industry associations and/or employers and workers in the sectors with high young worker injury rates/claims
- Ongoing research with young people and stakeholders on why and how young workers are injured on the job and what can and should be done to reduce the risks young workers face
- Strategic partnerships in young worker education, training and best practices (i.e., Student WorkSafe, a comprehensive K-12 health and safety curriculum; a new Young Worker Certificate program; and Young Worker Safety Awards for youth and employers)
- Awareness initiatives with industry, labour, parents, educators, youth, government and community organizations (i.e., Annual safety awareness campaign; BC Student Voice forums; youth to youth theatre performance on young worker health and safety; presentations by injured young workers; new young worker video; parent resource materials and workshop)
- Multi-stakeholder initiatives including a Young Worker multi-stakeholder Steering Committee and Working Group with representatives from industry, organized labour, government, parents, educators, community groups and youth; Support/Advisory group for seriously injured young workers and their caregivers; and a Speakers Resource network of volunteer speakers

HOW CAN THE WCB HELP ME?

Young workers have the right to a healthy and safe workplace. If they feel that their rights have been violated or their safety has been put at risk, they can file an anonymous complaint with the WCB through the Prevention Information Line at 604 276-3100 or toll free 1 888 621-SAFE (7233).

You can also call these numbers if you have questions about workplace health and safety and the young worker. Visit the WCB web site at www.worksafebc.com and follow the links to the Young Worker Health and Safety Centre. The website contains resource materials that can be downloaded free of charge. In addition, you can purchase publications or videos by contacting Publications, Videos and Forms Distribution by phone at 1-866-271-4879 or e-mail at moore-wcb.customer.service@ca.moore.com. For more information on WCB's Young Worker Prevention programs, please call the Young Worker team at 604 231-8578 or toll-free at 1 888 621-7233, local 8578.

EDUCATORS

INFORMATION SHEET FOR EDUCATORS

WHY FOCUS ON YOUNG WORKERS?

British Columbia has more than a quarter of a million workers aged 15 to 24 – and keeping them safe on the job is everyone’s job. Everyone has a part to play - employers, supervisors, unions, co-workers, parents, educators, the WCB, the community at large and young workers themselves.

Did you know:

- More than 50 percent of work-related accidents happen during a young worker's first six months on the job?
- Males under 25 are much more likely to be injured on the job than any other workers?

Last year in B.C.:

- Each day in B.C., 34 young workers are hurt on the job, or one every 42 minutes.
- Every week, five of these young workers are permanently disabled in workplace accidents.
- In 2002, five young male workers were killed in work related accidents.
- Workers between the ages of 15 and 24 reported 8,630 workplace injuries in 2002. Many more go unreported.

WHY ARE YOUNG WORKERS GETTING HURT ON THE JOB?

- Young workers are not always aware of the risks of their jobs or what steps to take to protect themselves from workplace injury.
- Young workers take risks because they think they are invincible (“It won't happen to me”).
- Young workers are eager to impress their employer and may not ask questions for fear of losing their job or appearing incapable.
- Young workers lack proper safety education and training.
- Young workers are not aware of their rights and responsibilities in the workplace.

WHAT CAN I DO TO MAKE WORKPLACES SAFER FOR YOUNG WORKERS?

As an educator, you are in a unique position to provide students with learning opportunities about workplace health and safety from an early age. *Student WorkSafe* instructional materials for kindergarten to grade 12 are available from the WCB, your school librarian, or your Career and Personal Planning coordinator. These materials, which are provincially recommended by the Ministry of Education, can be integrated into many areas of study. You can also:

- Talk to your students about health and safety hazards in the workplace, and their rights and responsibilities as workers.
- Make sure school-based work experience programs give students information on workplace health and safety.
- Arrange with the WCB for an injured young worker to speak to students about his or her own experience and the importance of workplace health and safety.
- Invite a speaker from WCB’s Young Worker Speakers Resource to visit your school. This Internet-based resource will feature a network of volunteer speakers from industry, health and safety agencies and organizations and unions who can speak on a wide variety of topics related to injury prevention for young workers. Visit <http://youngworker.healthandsafetycentre.org> for more information (Fall, 2003).
- Encourage your Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) and school to focus on the issue of young worker health and safety.
- Contact your local WCB Prevention office and ask for an officer presentation to your students on workplace health and safety issues.

WHAT SPECIFIC INITIATIVES ARE BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE WCB TO REDUCE THE INJURY RATE OF YOUNG WORKERS?

- Partnerships with existing health and safety industry associations and/or employers and workers in the sectors with high young worker injury rates/claims
- Ongoing research with young people and stakeholders on why and how young workers are injured on the job and what can and should be done to reduce the risks young workers face
- Strategic partnerships in young worker education, training and best practices (i.e., Student WorkSafe, a comprehensive K-12 health and safety curriculum; a new Young Worker Certificate program; and Young Worker Safety Awards for youth and employers)
- Awareness initiatives with industry, labour, parents, educators, youth, government and community organizations (i.e., Annual safety awareness campaign; BC Student Voice forums; youth to youth theatre performance on young worker health and safety; presentations by injured young workers; new young worker video; parent resource materials and workshop)
- Multi-stakeholder initiatives including a Young Worker multi-stakeholder Steering Committee and Working Group with representatives from industry, organized labour, government, parents, educators, community groups and youth; Support/Advisory group for seriously injured young workers and their caregivers; and a Speakers Resource network of volunteer speakers

HOW CAN THE WCB HELP ME?

If you have questions about workplace health and safety, visit www.worksafebc.com and follow the links to the Young Worker Health and Safety Centre. The website also contains resource materials that can be downloaded free of charge. In addition, you can purchase publications or videos by contacting Publications, Videos and Forms Distribution by phone at 1-866-271-4879 or e-mail at moore-wcb.customer.service@ca.moore.com. For more information on WCB's Young Worker Prevention programs, please call the Young Worker team at 604 231-8578 or toll-free at 1 888 621-7233, local 8578.

COMMUNITY YOUTH GROUPS

INFORMATION SHEET FOR COMMUNITY YOUTH GROUPS

WHY FOCUS ON YOUNG WORKERS?

Did you know:

- More than 50 percent of work-related accidents happen during a young worker's first six months on the job?
- Males under 25 are much more likely to get injured on the job than any other workers?

Last year in B.C.:

- Each day in B.C., 34 young workers are hurt on the job, or one every 42 minutes.
- Every week, five of these young workers are permanently disabled in workplace accidents.
- In 2002, five young male workers were killed in work related accidents.
- Workers between the ages of 15 and 24 reported 8,630 workplace injuries in 2002. Many more go unreported.

WHAT CAN I DO TO MAKE WORKPLACES SAFER FOR YOUNG WORKERS?

Workplace safety concerns us all. As a community member involved with young people, you play a key role in raising awareness of workplace health and safety by creating a culture where young worker safety is a high priority. You can also:

- Be a young worker health and safety advocate in your community group.
- Arrange with the WCB for an injured young worker to speak to your group about his or her own experiences and the importance of workplace health and safety.
- Talk to young people about hazards in the workplace and their rights as workers.
- Include young worker health and safety at your meetings and in your publications.
- Work with the WCB on young worker health and safety programs and activities.

Young workers have the right to:

- Education and training about safe work procedures and how to recognize hazards on the job.
- Supervision to make sure they work without undue risk.
- Equipment and safety gear required to do their job safely (they are responsible for providing their own clothing to protect themselves against the natural elements, general purpose work gloves, safety footwear and safety headgear).
- Refuse to do tasks and to work in conditions that they think are unsafe.
- Make suggestions to improve health and safety at their workplace.
- WCB benefits and services for work-related injuries and illnesses.

Young workers are responsible for working without undue risk to themselves or others. In order to be safe on the job, young workers need to:

- Not assume they can do something they've never done before. Ask their supervisor to show them how to do it safely before they begin work. Ask their employer for job safety training.
- Use all safety gear and protective clothing when and where required.
- Always follow safe work procedures and encourage their co-workers to do the same.
- Immediately correct unsafe conditions or report them right away to their supervisor.
- Know how to handle any hazardous materials or chemicals they use on the job.
- Tell their supervisor of any physical or mental conditions that may make them unable to work safely.

WHAT SPECIFIC INITIATIVES ARE BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE WCB TO REDUCE THE INJURY RATE OF YOUNG WORKERS?

- Partnerships with existing health and safety industry associations and/or employers and workers in the sectors with high young worker injury rates/claims
- Ongoing research with young people and stakeholders on why and how young workers are injured on the job and what can and should be done to reduce the risks young workers face
- Strategic partnerships in young worker education, training and best practices (i.e., Student WorkSafe, a comprehensive K-12 health and safety curriculum; a new Young Worker Certificate program; and Young Worker Safety Awards for youth and employers)
- Awareness initiatives with industry, labour, parents, educators, youth, government and community organizations (i.e., Annual safety awareness campaign; BC Student Voice forums; youth to youth theatre performance on young worker health and safety; presentations by injured young workers; new young worker video; parent resource materials and workshop)
- Multi-stakeholder initiatives including a Young Worker multi-stakeholder Steering Committee and Working Group with representatives from industry, organized labour, government, parents, educators, community groups and youth; Support/Advisory group for seriously injured young workers and their caregivers; and a Speakers Resource network of volunteer speakers

HOW CAN THE WCB HELP ME?

Young workers have the right to a healthy and safe workplace. If they feel that their rights have been violated or their safety has been put at risk, they can file an anonymous complaint with the WCB through the Prevention Information Line at 604 276-3100 or toll free 1 888 621-SAFE (7233).

You can also call these numbers if you have questions about workplace health and safety and the young worker. Visit the WCB web site at www.worksafebc.com for news and information from the WCB. The website contains resource materials that can be downloaded free of charge. In addition, you can purchase publications or videos by contacting Publications, Videos and Forms Distribution by phone at 1-866-271-4879 or e-mail at moore-wcb.customer.service@ca.moore.com. For more information on WCB's Young Worker Prevention programs, please call the Young Worker team at 604 231-8578 or toll-free at 1 888 621-7233, local 8578.