

Did you know?

Every day in B.C., 34 young workers are injured on the job – one every 42 minutes.

Young worker parent resource kit

By Susan Main

In the next hour in B.C., someone's child will get injured on the job. By the end of the day, one young worker will be injured for life. In fact, workers aged 15 to 24, particularly young male workers, are more likely to get injured on the job than any other group of workers.

These are startling statistics, but they don't seem to resonate with most people. WCB research shows that even parents of teenagers and young adults don't tend to give much thought to the risks their children may face on the job. There are so many other issues facing young people today – drinking and driving, drugs, and violence – that the idea of a workplace injury is just not on most parents' radar screens, says Karen Zukas, WCB manager of strategic programs. "However, once parents are aware of the risks, they're really motivated to do something. But they told us they need help."

That's why the WCB developed the *Young Worker Parent Resource Kit* – an all-new tool to help parents, teachers, and business and community leaders understand the dangers faced by young people in the workplace and raise awareness about the issue.

A call to action

The WCB created this resource in partnership with the B.C. Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (BCCPAC). It provides everything you need to give a presentation on young worker safety: a slide presentation, speaker's notes, information bulletins, even videos and discussion guides.

The WCB is inviting unions, youth groups, church groups, sports teams,

and employers – anyone who has the opportunity to reach B.C.'s young people – to spread the word about safety.

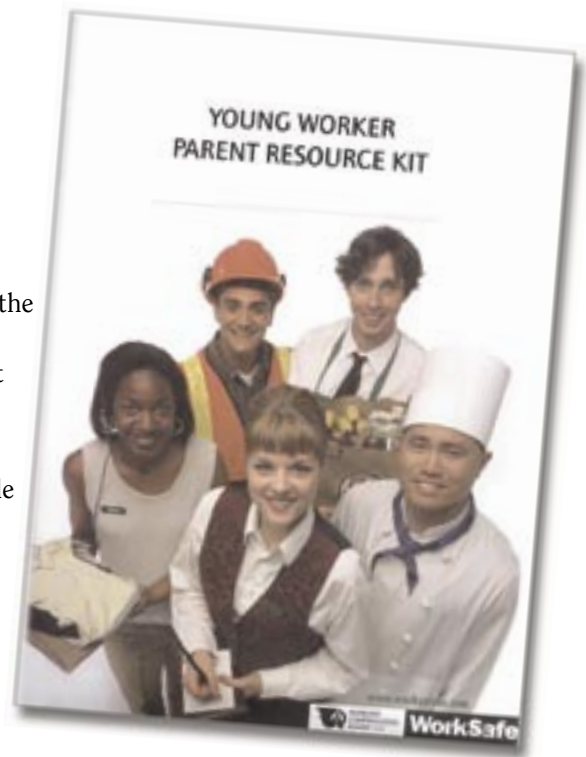
"When it comes to the safety of young workers, everyone has a role to play," says Steve Barnett, vice-president of the WCB's Program Design Division. "We have to work together to make sure that all young workers and their employers fully understand their rights and responsibilities before they enter the workplace."

The parent resource kit can help. "There are all sorts of ways people can deliver the young worker presentation," says Zukas. "It's not just for parents. Whether you're an aunt, uncle, grandparent, neighbour, coach, or friend – we all have a responsibility to ensure that young workers are safe. It's a community issue and we all have a stake."

The WCB isn't just relying on those outside the Board to spread the word. "We're stepping up to the plate as well," says Zukas. "We're working with the WCB's union and our own joint health and safety committees to bring this presentation to our staff – because we too can help raise awareness in our communities."

Download your copy today

The *Parent Resource Kit on Young Worker Health and Safety* is available online at <http://youngworker.healthandsafetycentre.org/s/Resources-Parents.asp>.



It includes:

- **Young Worker Safety:** Important facts and tips for parents – a slide presentation and speaker's notes
- **Is Your Child Safe at Work?** – Tips for keeping young workers safe
- **Information sheets** for parents, youth, community groups, educators, unions, and supervisors
- **A fact sheet** illustrating injuries to young workers
- **Profiles** of seriously injured young workers
- **Videos with discussion guides** are available upon request: Joe Who? and Lost Youth – Four stories of injured young workers

