

About the Safe Work Toolkit for Newcomers

The Safe Work Toolkit for Newcomers is designed to help settlement services staff and other trainers in Ontario provide newcomers with information on the occupational health and safety and workers' compensation systems in the province. The intended students are newcomers enrolled in either an English-language class (CLB 4 or above) or an employment-preparation program.

The toolkit was produced by the Institute for Work & Health (IWH) in Toronto.

Such a resource is needed because research conducted by IWH indicates that:

- Newcomers to Ontario are more likely than Canadian-born workers to be employed in jobs with a higher number of workplace health and safety hazards.
- The first jobs for newcomers to Canada are often precarious and lacking in workplace health and safety protections.
- Newcomers face obstacles in accessing information about occupational health and safety and workers' compensation systems.

These factors put newcomers at a higher risk of work injury and illness and make them less likely to access workers' compensation.

What is included in the toolkit?

The toolkit contains everything needed to deliver instructional sessions on two separate, but related, topics within an Ontario context:

- health and safety at work
- work injury and illness.

For each of these two topics, the following resources are provided:

- a fact sheet for learners
- a guide for trainers, which provides a sample lesson plan for delivering the information in the fact sheet and offers tips on how to handle challenging issues that may arise while discussing these topics
- a PowerPoint slide deck that complements the information in the fact sheet, including scenarios and exercises.

While the modules in this toolkit provide general information about occupational health and safety and workers' compensation, the teaching of these modules does not constitute or replace formal or legislated training on these subjects.