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Part 3: Rights and Responsibilities, relating to the orientation and training needs of young or new workers

1. Name: Sherry Earl

(a) Feedback is provided: on own behalf

Organization:

(b) Feedback is provided: from a worker's perspective

2. E-mail:

3. Feedback:

Part 3 Young and New Workers Regulatory Proposal 3.23-3.26

Everyday we send young workers and new workers into workplaces where they are exposed to risks they have no clue about. They are not adequately trained and definitely not supervised. I work in a major grocery store in Fernie, and have been the worker co chair of our JOH&S committee for 7 years.

Who would ever believe we would have young workers exposed to such things as toxic paint? Required to work next to painters wearing ventilators and protective equipment. These young and new unprotected workers becoming so stoned they would go into the washrooms to vomit, so overcome they could not have thought to leave the building. Along with this we also had two young women both pregnant, unaware they had been exposed to a chemical in the paint that was an embryo toxin.

Four high school students, required cleaning the bakery ceiling, left to their own devices.were ending up using a chemical "Blockwhitner" nine times more corrosive than battery acid. It was and absolute miracle that they where not blinded by the dripping corrosive chemical, or overcome by the fumes. The employer, only understanding they had used four mops at \$25.00 a piece.

Young workers left to lift weights they should never attempt on their own. Resulting in injuries they are coerced into not reporting. My own son, a new driver, required to drive an ill maintained, overloaded lumber truck that blew a tire putting him into the path of an on coming semi truck.

Everyday young workers and new workers are put at risk. Any training they

receive, if at all, is usually done when they are first hired. Information read out of a manual quickly gone over with all the other information required to train them in regard to the job, not much being retained. The training received being nothing more than a paper shuffle. I believe the proposed changes should speak to the worker co chairs, or the worker representative being involved in such training, and any training that is done should be reevaluated by the committee to understand the effectiveness of the program and to determine if these young workers are protected from any risk associated with the jobs they are performing.

For the seven years I have been involved in the JOH&S committee I find it simply unbelievable the resistance from management in getting a health and safety program in place. Other than the initial general training we are never retrained in WHMIS, Violence in the Workplace, Emergency Preparedness, and other areas that are required by WCB regulation. In my sons workplace they are required to have a JOH&S committee. What I understand from him, is that the owner of the lumber yard and his son just fill in the required page work to satisfy the WCB. With this kind of attitude towards the health and safety of workers, many of whom are young and new workers it is understandable why these workers are at risk. Respectfully, we can have all the regulations we want, much of which sits in filing cabinets or on shelves gathering dust, with employers ignoring or ignorant of their responsibility. We need to hold these employers responsible, and we definitely need more enforcement to make certain that employers are complying with the WCB regulations and Act.

Sincerely
Sherry Earl

4. Please indicate your level of support of the proposed amendments:generally agree