

Insight

August 2020



Policy Development Framework

Sharing our approach to policy development and consultation.



Virtual public hearing on proposed amendments to the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation

Inviting your feedback on proposed regulatory changes.



Results from the 2020 Innovation at Work competition

Seven applicants received funding to transform their novel ideas into practical solutions.



Introducing the 2020 Research Training Awards recipients

Five students received awards to support their training as emerging researchers.

Discover more at worksafebc.com

Bookmark our Current Consultations and Public Hearings

page. Check for regular updates and view the upcoming public consultation opportunities on policy and regulation issues.

We are accepting applications for our **Specific Priorities grant competition** on COVID-19. [Learn more and apply.](#)

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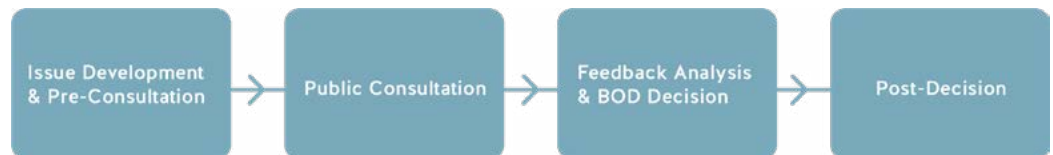
August 2020



Policy Development Framework

WorkSafeBC is governed by a Board of Directors (BOD), whose mandate includes developing policies related to workers compensation, occupational disease, employer assessment, and occupational health and safety (OHS). The role of our Policy, Regulation and Research Division (PRRD) is to assist the BOD in fulfilling its mandate by developing evidence-informed policy options.

The Policy Development Framework outlines the role of policy in the workers' compensation system in B.C. and describes our approach to making policy. It includes information about how policy issues are identified and prioritized, as well as the policy development, consultation, and approval processes.



The Policy Development Framework was created to document our robust approach to policy development. This process is critical to the effective execution of our responsibilities and mandate, and to ensure consistent and high-quality policy to support workers and employers across B.C.

View our Policy Development Framework [here](#).

Insight

August 2020



Virtual public hearing on proposed amendments to the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation

We will be holding a public hearing on Wednesday, September 30, 2020 on proposed amendments to the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation.

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions currently in place, the public hearing will be held virtually and will be available by live stream in two sessions.

The first session will take place from 11:00 a.m to 1:00 p.m. and the second from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Details on how to view or participate in the public hearing will be posted on worksafebc.com and communicated through [enews](#) by September 1, 2020.

Use the links below to view the proposed amendments with explanatory notes:

- [Part 6](#) – Restricted entry intervals for pesticide application
- [Part 8](#) – High visibility apparel
- [Part 8](#) – Safety headgear*
- [Part 16](#) – Mobile equipment
- [Part 18](#) – Traffic control
- [Part 21](#) – Blasting operations

* Public consultation for this item closed on July 31 and we are reviewing the feedback. Proposed amendments will be posted prior to the public hearing.

How to provide feedback

We welcome your feedback on the proposed amendments by written submission or by participation at the virtual public hearing. Written submissions will be accepted until **4:30 p.m. on Friday, October 2, 2020**.

All feedback received will be presented to our Board of Directors for their consideration.

For more information on how to provide feedback on the proposed amendments, please visit worksafebc.com.

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Insight

August 2020

Innovation at Work

Results from the 2020 Innovation at Work competition

Innovation at Work (IAW) research grants support small-scale research projects to develop practical solutions to workplace health and safety issues. These grants are open to all Canadian residents, including those with academic and non-academic backgrounds.

Following a rigorous evaluation process, seven applicants have been awarded IAW research grants for 2020.

This year's projects span a variety of topics, industries, and approaches:

- **Dr. Florriann Fehr and Michelle Seibel at Thompson Rivers University** aim to determine the long-term effectiveness of cognitive rehearsal training as a tool to understand of how nurses address workplace bullying.
- **Dr. Mohamed Issa at the University of Manitoba** will develop a web-based tool that will allow organizations in the B.C. construction industry to assess and benchmark their disability management and return to work performance.
- **Dr. John Madden at the University of British Columbia** will develop and test a new sensing device for pressure ulcer wound care management and prevention.
- **Jackie Ellis at Fraser Health and Dr. Chun-Yip Hon at Ryerson University** will evaluate the effectiveness of a drug transfer device to reduce hazardous drug contamination in health care workplaces by preventing drug aerosolization, leakage and spills.
- **Dr. Thomas Tenkate at Ryerson University** will develop a software tool to assist Canadian small to medium-sized workplaces to undertake risk assessments of the chemical or hazardous products they use, and help them to implement effective control measures.

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WORK SAFE BC

Insight

August 2020

- **Dr. Joseph Puyat at the University of British Columbia** will pilot a work-related stress and burnout intervention in a sample of Providence Health Care long-term care centers to build resilience among staff and mitigate the impact of resident deaths.
- **Dr. Paul Amyotte at Dalhousie University** will create a new risk assessment and communication approach to better assess and reduce the risk of combustible wood dust explosions in the B.C. wood pellet manufacturing industry.

The next Innovation at Work competition will launch in November 2020. To learn more, visit worksafebc.com.

Insight

August 2020

Research Training Awards

Introducing the 2020 Research Training Awards recipients

Research Training Awards are available to full-time graduate students in B.C. whose research focuses on occupational health and safety. These awards support students as they work with established researchers to develop their skills as researchers.

Research Services is pleased to announce five recipients of Research Training Awards for 2020.

This year's funding is going to students from across the province:

- **Sarah Lawrason, a doctoral student at UBC Okanagan**, will identify key factors related to increasing physical activity in spinal cord injury patients who have the ability to walk, and design an exercise intervention to support their return to work.
- **Kohle Merry, a doctoral student at UBC**, will develop and evaluate the effectiveness of a home-based exercise program for patients with Achilles tendinopathy to improve patient recovery times and ability to return to work.
- **Marisa Harrington, a master's student at the University of Victoria**, will compare physiological and cognitive responses to shift work in pre- and post-menopausal nurses to gain a better understanding of how shift work affects nurses.
- **Elizaveta Mojaeva, a master's student at UBC**, will aim to prevent and treat repetitive stress injuries in the wrist from tree planting by evaluating rigid wrist taping as an injury management intervention, and investigating wrist postures.
- **Pascale Fricke, a doctoral student at UBC**, will examine sources of psychological stress among first responders, including the role of public scrutiny, media, and sense of purpose to better understand how to mitigate psychological injury.

The next Research Training Awards competition will launch in November 2020. To learn more, visit worksafebc.com.

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