

Insight

October 2018



October public hearings on OHS Regulation amendments

The PRRD is holding public hearings on proposed amendments to the OHS Regulation.



Stakeholder consultations on proposed amendments

The PRRD is consulting on proposed policy amendments (Part 24) and OHS Regulation amendments (Part 16).



Introducing the 2018 Research Training Award grant recipients

Learn about the four recipients and their research projects.



2018 Canadian Association for Research on Work and Health (CARWH) Conference

This year's CARWH conference will be held in Vancouver.

Did you Know

Research Services is now accepting applications for our Specific Priorities grant competitions on three topics: claim suppression, commercial fishing, and sawmills. Learn more at worksafebc.com.

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October public hearings on OHS Regulation amendments

The Policy, Regulation, and Research Division (PRRD) conducts extensive public consultation on regulation and policy issues. The PRRD is required to hold a public hearing before changes can be made to the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation (OHS Regulation).

Prior to the public hearing stage, the PRRD conducted pre-consultation and public consultation on all the amendments listed below (except for the housekeeping amendments in Parts 20, 23, 24, and 34, and principal and prime contractor terminology in Parts 5, 23, and 29).

The PRRD will hold public hearings in October for the following proposed amendments to the OHS Regulation:

- Parts 8 and 34, sections 8.11(2) and 34.14(d), safety headgear
- Part 8, Personal Protective Clothing and Equipment, sections 8.14–8.18, eye and face protection
- Part 20, Construction, Excavation and Demolition, sections 20.1 and 20.17–20.26, concrete formwork and falsework
- Part 21, Blasting Operations, sections 21.61, 21.63, and 21.73, electrical initiation and returning to the blast site
- Part 24, Diving, Fishing and Other Marine Operations, sections 24.1, 24.69, 24.124, and 24.96.1–24.96.3, definitions, fishing operations, seining, and new sections
- Parts 20, 23, 24, 26, and 34, Various topics, sections 20.47(2), 23.22(a), 24.21(1), 34.4(1)(a)(i), and Table 26-8, housekeeping amendments
- Parts 5, 23, and 29, Chemical Agents and Biological Agents, Oil and Gas, Aircraft Operations, sections 5.27(3), 23.63(6), and 29.16(2), prime contractor

You can access the proposed amendments, along with explanatory notes and details of the public hearings, on [worksafebc.com](https://www.worksafebc.com).

Email: policy@worksafebc.com | **Tel:** 604.276.5160

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The public hearings are scheduled as follows:

- October 2 in Victoria
- October 4 in Kelowna
- October 11 in Fort St John
- October 16 in Richmond

In addition to attending the public hearings, stakeholders are invited to provide feedback via written submission. Submissions may be emailed to policy@worksafebc.com and will be accepted until 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, October 17, 2018.

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Stakeholder consultations on proposed amendments

The Policy Regulation and Research Division (PRRD) conducts extensive public consultation on Occupational Health and Safety Regulation (OHS Regulation) and policy amendments. The PRRD is currently seeking stakeholder feedback on the following:

OHS Regulation – Part 16

The PRRD is consulting with stakeholders on proposed amendments to Part 16 — Mobile Equipment of the OHS Regulation, in addition to consequential amendments to nine other Parts. The consultation offers stakeholders an opportunity to provide feedback prior to the proposed amendments being taken to public hearing in the spring of 2019.

The PRRD proposes to repeal and replace Part 16 in its entirety. A cross-reference between current Part 16 sections and proposed Part 16 sections has also been provided.

Feedback will be accepted until 4.30 pm on Wednesday, October 10, 2018.

Prevention Manual – Part 24

The PRRD is conducting a general review of Part 24 policies on Diving, Fishing, and Other Marine Operations. There are 19 policies in the Prevention Manual relating to Part 24 of the OHS Regulation. These policies are under review to ensure policies are streamlined and easy to understand, and to remove duplicate content. The PRRD is proposing to retire 18 policies and make revisions to one policy.

Feedback will be accepted until 4.30 pm on Friday, October 12, 2018.

How to provide feedback

The draft proposed amendments with explanatory notes are available on worksafebc.com. We invite you to provide comment through our online form or submit written feedback via mail or fax.

In addition, we're always interested to hear about issues affecting our worker and employer communities. Stakeholders can contact us any time to suggest items for the policy and regulation workplans at policy@worksafebc.com.

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Introducing the 2018 Research Training Awards recipients

Research Services oversees and supports research activities at WorkSafeBC through a competitive grant program. We provide financial support for evidence-based scientific research that addresses operational needs, as well as practical, innovative projects that contribute to improving health and safety in B.C. workplaces.

Research Training Awards are available to qualified graduate students at the master's and doctoral level. To qualify, students need to be engaged in full-time research training, with a focus on occupational illness, injury, and disability.

"Since the Research Training Awards funding stream began 15 years ago, WorkSafeBC has provided funding for more than 50 occupational health researchers in the early stages of their careers," says Deepani Weerapura, Research Services manager. "They have gone on to make great achievements as researchers, policy experts, physicians, and scholars."

Recipients of 2018 awards

The four recipients of this year's awards come from a variety of fields, and represent the next generation of innovators in occupational health and safety and workers compensation research in B.C. This funding will enable them to train with established researchers in our province, as they develop their skills and build their careers.

The recipients and their research are summarized below:

Megan MacPherson, a PhD student at UBC Okanagan, is researching workplace accessibility of a diabetes prevention program using a mobile app. The app teaches self-regulation skills, with a goal of promoting long-term commitment to physical activity.

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Avisa Abbasi, a PhD student at UBC, is developing a novel bio-engineered skin substitute for pressure ulcers. This process combines a patient's own fat tissue stem cells with a skin technology called MeshFill to enhance healing of complex wounds. When MeshFill is used in its liquid form, it can fill cavities and harder-to-reach spaces in a variety of complicated skin injuries.

Sana Javaheri, a Master's student at UBC, is investigating the risks of worker exposure to antineoplastic (anti-cancer) drugs in cancer care settings. Because these drugs can be carcinogenic, understanding surface contamination levels is key to reducing worker exposure. This study will include data from about 20,000 surface wipe samples, collected from pharmacy and patient care areas in nine clinical facilities.

Corey Coehoorn, a PhD student at the University of Victoria, is looking at what happens in the human body during periods of rapid heat acquisition, which occurs during activities like firefighting. The research will explore effects on decision-making ability, brain wave activity, and oxygenation of the brain, as well as the effect of rapid increases in core body temperature on heart rate.

The next Research Training Awards competition will launch in early 2019. To be notified of when the competition opens, or to learn about other opportunities, subscribe to our [Research Services enews](#).

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2018 Canadian Association for Research on Work and Health (CARWH) Conference

CARWH and the School of Population and Public Health at UBC will be hosting CARWH 2018 in Vancouver, from October 21 to 23, 2018.

The CARWH conference is the only national conference focused exclusively on research for work and health. This conference is the primary forum for knowledge exchange and collaboration on issues related to the health of workers in B.C.

"The conference represents the current and best research on workplace health. A key focus is workers in vulnerable working situations," says conference co-chair Dr. Chris McLeod.

The conference will open with a student day, followed by two days of keynote speakers, presentations, poster sessions, and symposia. This year's conference theme is "Research and Practice to Improve Health in a Changing World of Work." The conference touches on a variety of topics, such as diversity and inequality, vulnerable workers, health outcomes, and prevention.

Who should attend

- Workers and employers with an interest in workplace health and safety research
- Clinicians who provide services to workers
- Policy-makers from government ministries and agencies related to labour, health, the environment, human resources, and social development
- Representatives from non-profit and non-governmental organizations
- Health and safety specialists from the public and private sectors
- Scientists, researchers, and students from any discipline related to work and health

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Networking and engagement

The conference is focused on sharing knowledge, creating opportunities for networking and stakeholder engagement, and fostering collaboration between researchers and knowledge users.

"This will be an engaging, fast-paced conference in a beautiful setting. Attendees can expect to learn about new and relevant research findings and make connections with national researchers," Chris says. "CARWH has become a main event for Canadian researchers in the area of work and health, and the quality of research rivals — or surpasses — many larger international conferences".

For details, and to register, visit the [CARWH 2018 website](#).