

Memo to ALIGN Membership Re: Occupational Health and Safety Grant

With the many changes brought about by Bill 17 in January 2018, and the amendments coming to the Occupational Health and Safety Act on June 1, 2018 through Bill 30: *An Act to Protect the Health and Well-being of Working Albertans*; agencies will have had many new things to learn and become educated in as well as continuing to do the necessary every day work of supporting Alberta's most vulnerable children and families.

What does this mean to you?

- The new OHS Act contains provisions on harassment, violence, and requires that many Albertan work sites have a joint work site health and safety committee or a health and safety representative. See Tip Sheet: <https://www.alberta.ca/assets/documents/ohs-changes-highlights.pdf>
- Bill 30 protects three basic rights of workers in Alberta through legislation.
 - Right to know • All employers must inform workers about potential hazards and have access to basic health and safety information on site.
 - Right to participate in workplace health and safety • Ensures workers are involved in health and safety discussions, including participation in health and safety committees.
 - Right to refuse dangerous work • Workers may refuse to perform dangerous work and are protected from any form of reprisal for exercising this right. • A worker must continue to be paid while a work refusal is being investigated. • Other workers may be assigned to the work if they are advised of the refusal, reason for it, and made aware of their own right to refuse the work after the employer determines there is not a risk.

ALIGN has some good news to share with our member agencies. We were successful in obtaining a 2018 Occupational Health and Safety Innovation and Engagement Grant in partnership with the Alberta Association for Safety Partnerships (AASP) from the Ministry of Labour to provide free training to representatives of member agencies who are interested in developing and implementing a formal Health and Safety Management System.

Who are our Partners?

Alberta Association for Safety Partnerships (AASP) is an Alberta Government approved Certifying Partner and a registered non-profit organization with expert trainers under the Society Act of Alberta. The AASP is a service focused Certifying Partner, providing a **practical and reasonable approach to health and safety in the workplace**. Through their commitment to their members, and solely through funding of memberships and course fees, the AASP has grown to be the second largest issuer of Certificates of Recognition (COR and SECOR) in the province.

AASP is a successful and respected leader in the occupational health and safety industry under the leadership of the AASP founder, Carol Ross, who will be presenting at our Membership's General meeting May 4, and Executive Director Jodi Stoddart, and under the direction of a diverse Board of Directors. The AASP is also the largest Certifying Partner that serves all industries in Alberta while receiving no government funding.

Roadmap to Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems Training.

Training is intended for member agency directors, supervisors or OHS representatives involved in applying the new OHS Act. It will be offered in Edmonton, Red Deer, Calgary and Lethbridge. Training will consist of three full days that build on each other with assignments in between, commencing in June 2018 with the second day in September 2018 and third one in the November/ December 2018. A fourth day for overview and review will be provided early in 2019. Dates to be determined. A strong commitment to attending all the training sessions is needed; training will be free and manuals supplied, individuals will be provided the support they need to be successful.

Once the training is completed and the agency has successfully developed and implemented a health and safety program that meets provincial standards, they will be in a position to apply for a Certificate of Recognition (COR) or a Small Employer COR (SECOR). The COR certifies that the employer's health and safety management system has been evaluated by a certified auditor and met the requirements as per the provincial standards. Certificates are issued by Alberta Labour and are co-signed by Alberta Association for Safety Partnerships (AASP). Achieving and maintaining a valid COR is required for earning a financial incentive through the WCB Partnerships in Injury Reduction Program.

How Do I Register?

Registration will be on a first come first serve basis and will be ready middle of May through Brown Paper Tickets. Only one individual per agency (OHS rep) will be accepted into the program as class size is limited. Larger agencies may place a second person on a wait list. If you have any questions please contact Cathy Mitchell at cathym@alignab.ca.