

Work Safe Alberta: History

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AIHA Alberta Spring Symposium

Work Safe Alberta



Work Safe Alberta: history

- Industry's request to improve Alberta's workplace health & safety
- The Minister's challenge:
 - To reduce Alberta's lost-time claim rate by 40%
- The Provincial Strategic Working Group formed

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Work Safe Alberta: History

- The Joint Industry and Government Strategy on Workplace Health & Safety
 - Working collaboratively with industry, labour, safety associations and government.
- 2 Minister's Forums
- Initial strategy – 2002
- WICI Branch formed to operationalize innovation and continuous improvement
- New strategy developed and implemented 2006-2008

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Workplace Innovation and Continuous Improvement Branch

- WICI works with external stakeholders as well as other government branches to find and implement new ways to improve Workplace Health and Safety
- WICI fulfills its mandate through a variety of functions, including:
 - Strategic management
 - Best practices research and development
 - Program evaluation and performance measurement
 - Internal audits for program efficiency, effectiveness and economy

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Themes for Work Safe Alberta: 2006

- **Theme 1: Expand collaboration across government and industry**
- **Theme 2: Provide access to workplace health and safety information**
- **Theme 3: Develop effective practices and educate employers and workers**
- **Theme 4: Extend awareness campaigns and communications efforts**
- **Theme 5: Measure performance and continuously improve**
- **Theme 6: Strengthen the legislative framework**

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Successes to date

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Work Safe Alberta: Successes

➤ **Legislation:**

- Amendments to the *Occupational Health & Safety Act*
- Occupational Health and Safety Code

➤ **Enforcement/Compliance**

- Targeted Employer Program

➤ **Partnerships in Health & Safety**

- Program Review
- Strategic Plan

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Work Safe Alberta: Successes

➤ Information and Awareness

- Public Awareness Campaigns
- Web-based Information Sharing Network
- eLearning programs: 11 developed to date
- Information products

➤ Awards

- Innovation Awards
- Best Safety Performer Awards
- Work Safe Leaders Award
- Work Safe Most Improved Award

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Work Safe Alberta: Successes

➤ **Cross-ministry initiatives:**

- Road Safety at work: *Transportation*
- Infusing workplace health and safety resources into Alberta schools: *Alberta Education*
- Health care health and safety initiative: *Alberta Health and Wellness*

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Work Safe Alberta: Successes

➤ **Young Workers**

- Young Worker Provincial Advisory Committee
- Work Safe Passport
- Tip sheets
- Web section
- Awareness campaign

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Work Safe Alberta: Successes

➤ Research

- Best Practices Inventory: CCOHS
- Alcohol and drug testing programs: UofA: 3 projects
- Inspection best practices: UofA: in progress
- Best practices in Healthcare H&S: CCOHS: in progress
- Residential construction strategies: in progress
- Effectiveness of health and safety management systems: proposed
- Creation of the Disabling Injury measure (Alberta injury statistics)

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Work Safe Alberta: Successes

➤ *Best Practices and Toolkits* (completed and in progress)

- ✓ Framers
- ✓ Siding and Eavestroughing
- ✓ Roofing: Flat and sloped
- ✓ Ground Disturbance
- ✓ Small Business (2)
- ✓ Automotive Dealers
- ✓ Pandemic Influenza
- ✓ Safe Stages
- ✓ Staffing Firms
- ✓ School-kit
- ✓ Indoor Air Quality
- ✓ Vibration
- ✓ Heat and Cold
- ✓ Mould

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Work Safe Alberta: Coming Soon

➤ **Training Standardization**

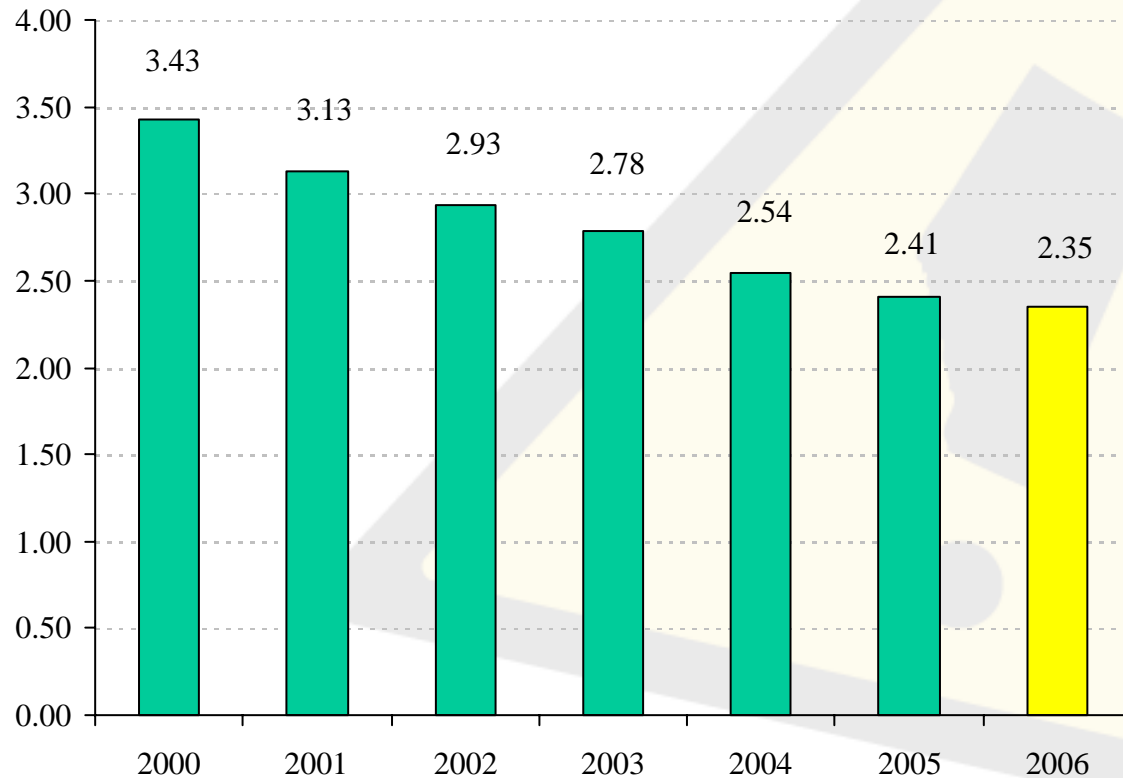
- Health and Safety Association Network (HSAN)
- Industry Training Tracking System (ITTS)

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Work Safe Alberta: Results to Date

Progress - Lost Time Claim Rates



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Work Safe Alberta: Successes

In less than six years:

- ✓ **32% reduction in the workplace lost-time injury rate**
- ✓ **Over 16,800 fewer lost-time injuries on the job each year**
- ✓ **\$290 million saved each year in reduced injury claims costs**
- ✓ **Reduced Workers' Compensation Board premiums for Alberta employers**

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Work Safe Alberta: What is Next?

2009-2012: Working Together

- What do we need to do to have the greatest impact?
- Continue to work in partnerships with others
- *Changing Albertans' health and safety attitudes and behaviours – at work and beyond: Creating a culture where health and safety is the norm*

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Work Safe Alberta: What is Next?

- Visit worksafely.org for resources
- Send new innovative ideas for provincial programs to:
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Questions



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