



**Supporting Inclusive Resource Development (SIRD)  
East Africa  
TRAINING PROGRAM: MODULE 4  
JUNE 2019**



THE CANADIAN  
BAR ASSOCIATION



Global Affairs  
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Canada



# OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY IN CANADA: OVERVIEW/HISTORY

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*These materials are provided for information purposes only and are not legal advice*



# OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

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## OVERVIEW

- Economic Growth/Poverty Reduction/Technology Transfer
- Hazardous working conditions
  - Exposure to contaminants/pollution
  - Accidents
  - Occupational diseases
- Collective Efforts of Governments, Industry and Employees
  - Rules
  - Operation
  - Training



# DEVELOPMENT OF OHS LAWS IN CANADA

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- 1976 Royal Commission (Mines)
  - Discussion of internal responsibility
- 1997 Westray Mine Public Inquiry
  - Focus on internal responsibility
  - “Paramount Consideration”
  - Criminal negligence in serious injury or death
- Performance Based Regulation
- Right to Know
- Right to Meet
- Right to Refuse Unsafe Work



# WORKPLACE HAZARDS & CAUSES OF “INCIDENTS”

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- Physical Hazards
- Ergonomic Hazards
- Biological Hazards
- Chronic Health Effects
- Psychosocial Hazards

Organisational Inadequacy (identify/assess risk)

Personal inattention (industry/employee)

Inadequate work standards and/or procedures



# JOINT OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

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- Internal Responsibility System
  - Training
  - Issue-Driven / Regular Meetings
  - Share Information
    - Obligation for employer notices
  - No Legal Responsibility
  
- Duties and Responsibilities
  - Employer
  - Worker



# HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

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- Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS)
  - Education
  - Communication
  - Logistics
- “Workplace”
  - Common Areas
  - Transportation Systems
- Right to Refuse Unsafe Work





THANK YOU