

Level II Committees

Prerequisite: Level I

Program Duration: 30 hours

One of the most important rights workers have won is the right to participate in matters affecting their health and safety. Workers best exercise this right collectively through trained representatives they chose to serve on joint health and safety committees or as a health and safety representative.

Ontario's *Occupational Health and Safety Act* and *Part II* of the *Canada Labour Code* require most employers to establish and maintain a joint health and safety committee (JHSC) at workplaces employing 20 or more workers. Under both laws worker JHSC members and representatives are legally empowered with significant functions aimed at identifying workplace hazards and their solutions.

TWO PROGRAMS, ONE OBJECTIVE

To help workers competently and confidently exercise their right to participate the Workers Health & Safety Centre (WHSC) offers *Level II Committees (Provincial)* for worker JHSC members employed in Ontario-regulated workplaces and *Level II Committees (Federal)* for those in federally-regulated workplaces.

Building on knowledge gained in the WHSC's *Level I* labour education program these advanced level training programs are jam-packed with participant discussions, skill developing exercises and practical tools worker JHSC members need to succeed. Participants gain a greater understanding of legislated roles and responsibilities for all workplace parties. Together, they learn how to chair an effective JHSC meeting, perform hazard assessments, undertake research, and evaluate scientific studies. The program takes participants through recognized steps involved in effective workplace inspections and incident and disease investigations. Throughout, the program focuses participants on communication skills, consensus building, conflict resolution, problem solving, goal setting, and presentation skills.

STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

Graduates of WHSC *Level II Committees* programs will be better equipped to ensure meaningful worker participation *and* full employer responsibility for the identification and elimination of workplace hazards. Consistent with WHSC labour education programs the *Level II Committees* programs also help participants develop strategies for employers who refuse to implement JHSC recommendations or comply with the law. For example, participants discuss Criminal Code provisions that establish legal duties for persons directing work and how these provisions can be used to remind employers of the consequences for ignoring their responsibilities.

Note: *Participants must successfully complete the WHSC Level I program before registering for WHSC Level II programs. In addition to Level II Committees the WHSC offers Level II Law programs, also for worker JHSC members employed in Ontario-regulated and federally-regulated workplaces.*