

## **Manual Materials Handling: A CRE-MSD Discussion Forum**

June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011

89 Chestnut Conference Centre, University of Toronto  
89 Chestnut Street, Toronto, Ontario M5G 1R1

The Centre for Research Expertise for the Prevention of Musculoskeletal Disorders (CRE-MSD) is holding a discussion forum on developing an Ontario Manual Materials Handling (MMH) program to prevent MSDs. It will be held in Toronto on Monday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

In response to the advice CRE-MSD has received from our Advisory Committee and Steering Group to be responsive to Ontario's focus on high-impact claims and to be involved in the next iteration of the Ontario MSD Strategy, CRE-MSD will host a one-day discussion forum on how other jurisdictions are providing guidance to workplace parties on their duties to protect workers from injury related to Manual Materials Handling (MMH).

The highest number of WSIB lost time, high-impact claims are associated with the lower back; the second most common ones are associated with the shoulder. In addition, the WSIB has identified MSDs as one of four high-priority hazards due to the overall volume of associated claims. Back and shoulder injuries -- and MSDs as a whole -- will be better prevented by putting an emphasis on the issue of guidelines for workplace parties,

A number of different jurisdictions around Canada and the world have developed guidance documents, codes of practice, bulletins, etc. that address MMH. CRE-MSD is hosting this symposium on MMH to help Ontario advance the prevention of MSDs beyond the initial MSD program that was developed through the *MSD Prevention Guideline for Ontario* AND to recognize and support the Tony Dean Panel's recommendation (#9) to consolidate system materials and increase consistency of content and improve availability. At this forum, we will learn from the experience of other jurisdictions and from there begin to develop an Ontario MMH guidance document.

Invited speakers will share with us their experiences on the design, dissemination, and workplace implementation and evaluation of their MMH guidance approaches, and the responses they received from workplace parties during their processes. The forum will include speakers from the Health and Safety Executive in the UK, the State of Victoria in Australia, Washington State, and WorkSafe BC in Canada.

We expect a number of useful outcomes from the conference including a CRE-MSD report on the proceedings, and making a contribution to any forthcoming strategy initiatives to prevent MSDs in Ontario.