

New Website Helps Canadians Work Safely in the Sun

Toronto, September 14, 2016 – Sun Safety at Work Canada (SSAWC) is launching its website sunsafetyatwork.ca to support workplaces in helping protect their employees from the dangers of exposure to sunlight.

The new website supports the development of a sun safety program as part of an occupational health and safety management system. More than 70 free resources on sun safety are available to download from the website. A range of resources are also available in French, with Spanish and Punjabi resources to come.

According to CAREX Canada, approximately 1.5 million Canadians are exposed to sun at work. The largest industrial groups exposed to the sun in Canada are construction, farming, and building care and maintenance. Outdoor workers have up to a 3.5 times greater risk of skin cancer than indoor workers – and at least 5,000 skin cancers each year are attributed to occupational sun exposure.

“Sun exposure is a serious occupational hazard. It is the leading cause of skin cancer and can cause other health issues including sunburn, cataracts, skin and eye damage, and heat stress,” says Dr. Thomas Tenkate, Project Lead. “The good news is that the health outcomes from sun exposure are largely preventable, but not all employers have the resources to put in place a sun safety program. We developed a six-step [process](#) to help workplaces build their own program and made all supporting materials readily accessible on sunsafetyatwork.ca.”

The SSAWC project involved partnering with 17 workplaces across Canada to help develop sun safety programs. The learnings from these workplaces as well as a review of best practices from Canada and other countries were the foundation for the website.

The success of this project is largely attributable to the involvement of national, provincial, regional organizations across Canada. The full list of contributors is available at sunsafetyatwork.ca/about-us.

About Sun Safety at Work Canada

Sun Safety at Work Canada (SSAWC) is enhancing sun safety for Canadian workplaces. The sun is a workplace hazard that can cause skin cancer, heat stress and eye damage. These conditions are preventable.

Applying sun safety at workplaces can be challenging. The purpose of Sun Safety at Work Canada is to raise awareness of the importance of sun safety and to help workplaces implement sun safety programs within their existing occupational health and safety management systems.

Sun Safety at Work Canada is funded through financial support from Health Canada through the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer as a Coalition Linking Action and Science for Prevention (CLASP).



For further information about SSAWC please contact:

Dr. Thomas Tenkate
Project lead
Ryerson University
(416) 979-5000 ext.6158
thomas.tenkate@ryerson.ca

For further information regarding the CDA please contact:

Nimmi Sidhu, Coordinator, Communications
Office: 613-738-1748 x 228
nsidhu@dermatology.ca

Suzanne Joyal, Senior Marketing Strategist
Office: 613-738-1748 x 222
sjoyal@dermatology.ca