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## **SAFETY FIRST! ON TAKE OUR KIDS TO WORK DAY** *Workplaces Should Promote Safety To Visiting Students*

QUEEN'S PARK – Employers will have a good opportunity to demonstrate workplace safety on Wednesday to thousands of Grade 9 students who will be participating in this year's *Take Our Kids to Work* event, Labour Minister Brad Duguid said today.

“It’s vital for employers and parents to take this opportunity to talk to young people about the importance of health and safety in the workplace,” said Duguid. “Students should get a complete picture of the workplace – and that includes an overview on how to stay healthy and safe at work. New workers of any age are more than four times more likely to be injured in their first month on the job than at any other time.”

*Take Our Kids To Work Day*, developed by The Learning Partnership, is a one-day job shadowing experience involving Grade 9 students across Canada. On Wednesday, November 7, students will travel to work with a parent, relative or friend to observe the complexities of the workplace. Students will gain valuable insight into the value of work generally, and safe work practices in particular.

Employers should provide a comprehensive health and safety orientation at the start of the day. Orientation should include a tour of the workplace and an overview of potential hazards. It should cover emergency procedures, workplace safety rules everyone must follow, general requirements for personal protective equipment, first aid provisions and all other essential health and safety facts.

The Ontario government is continuing to raise awareness on workplace health and safety among young workers:

- In the spring of this year, the Ministries of Labour and Education and the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) distributed safety tip sheets for young workers to all students in Ontario in Grades 7 to 12
- In May, the WSIB launched a dramatic, hard-hitting workplace safety ad campaign aimed at 15- to 19-year-olds. It features animated ads that are shown in movie theatres, on public transit and online
- The successful *Live Safe! Work Smart!* program, which provides teachers with resources to help to prepare high-school students for the job-specific safety training every employer must provide, is now being extended to elementary school students

- The Minister’s Action Group on Vulnerable Workers Under Age 25, which has been working to identify issues and offer solutions affecting young vulnerable workers, submitted its final report in May. The Group presented eight recommendations in two categories:
  - Protecting young people by making sure vulnerable youth have the information and resources they need to recognize unsafe situations and have the confidence to refuse unsafe work
  - Improving safety in workplaces that employ vulnerable youth.

“The government is committed to protecting Ontario’s future by ensuring our youth work in the healthiest and safest environments,” said Duguid. “Employers, unions, workers, parents and the government need to work together to raise youth awareness about workplace health and safety.”

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**For further information:**

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[www.labour.gov.on.ca](http://www.labour.gov.on.ca)

Additional resources

Ontario Ministry of Labour — (Young Workers portal)  
<http://www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/site/youngworkers/index.html>

Ontario Ministry of Education — <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca>

The Learning Partnership — <http://www.thelearningpartnership.ca>

Workplace Safety and Insurance Board — <http://www.wsib.on.ca>

Live Safe! Work Smart! — <http://www.livesafeworksmart.net>

Occupational Health and Safety Council of Ontario —  
<http://www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/news/2007/07-18b2.html>