

HALIFAX REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD
Occupational Health & Safety – Quarterly Update – Q3 2014
July 1, 2014 to September 30, 2014

PURPOSE: To inform the Governing Board of Occupational Health & Safety (OHS) issues.

BACKGROUND: Reporting on a quarterly basis is part of a due diligence process so the Governing Board is aware of the Halifax Regional School Board's OHS significant statistics and activities.

CONTENT: Please see Appendix A - Occupational Health & Safety Quarterly Update, Q3 2014 - July 1, 2014 to September 30, 2014.

COST: N/A

FUNDING: N/A

TIMELINE: N/A

APPENDIX: Appendix A - Occupational Health & Safety Quarterly Update, Q3 2014, July 1, 2014 to September 30, 2014.

RECOMMENDATION: The Board accept the report for information.

COMMUNICATIONS: N/A

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Occupational Health & Safety
Quarterly Update
Q3 2014
July 1 to September 30, 2014

School Insurance Program (SIP) – Reported Incidents

Group	Incidents		
	Reporting Quarter	Year Before Quarter	Preceding Quarter
	Jul 1 to Sep 30, 2014	Jul 1 to Sep 30, 2013	Apr 1 to Jun 30, 2014
Employees:	34	N/A	106
Other, incl. students:	315	N/A	674

Nova Scotia Teacher’s Union (NSTU)

This group of employees is not covered by WCB.

NSTU	Injury On Duty Applications		
	Reporting Quarter	Year Before Quarter	Preceding Quarter
	Jul 1 to Sep 30, ‘14	Jul 1 to Sep 30, ‘13	Apr 1 to Jun 30, ‘14
Injuries on Duty	3	6	9

OH&S Division of Department Labour and Workforce Development

Workplaces Inspected:	Workplaces with Compliance Orders Issued:	Total Compliance Orders Issued:
0	0	0

Workers’ Compensation Board (WCB) Claims

Thirty-three (33) claims were submitted to the Workers’ Compensation Board. Nine of the submitted claims had no associated costs. Eleven claims resulted in some time lost from work and payment of wage benefits, a similar number to the previous Q3 although the weeks of benefits increased.

The custodial group had zero claims over the summer in relation to floor stripping activities, one of our historically most hazardous activities. This is a great success and may be attributed to the focus on this activity by the DOERS Committee and ongoing emphasis managers place on accident prevention. “Tool Box” talks were developed and delivered, additional training and also the provision of anti-slip footwear to every employee involved in this activity. However, there was a single incident, the result of a slip on a wet floor that resulted in an extended claim accounting for 11 of the 26 weeks of time loss in the quarter.

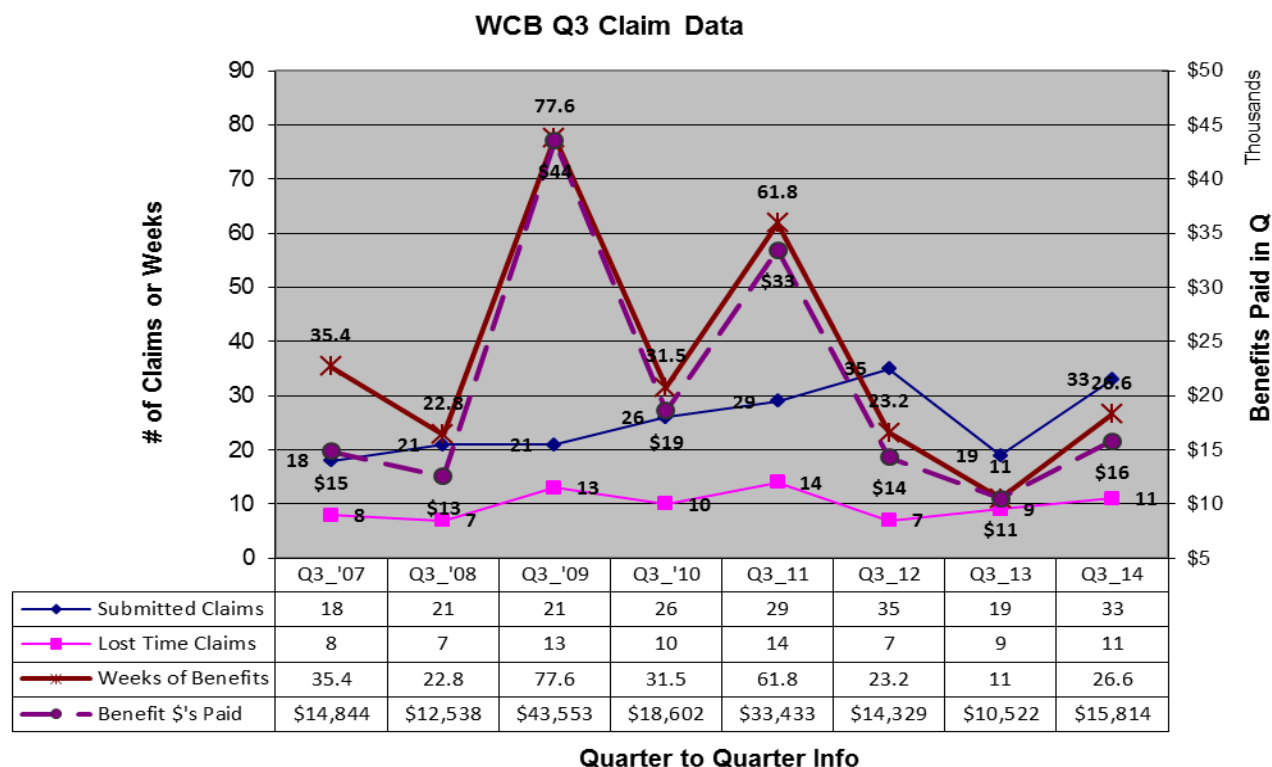
A new type of dolly was introduced into schools prior to summer clean-up. The custodial group and an ergonomics team piloted different dollies, selected one and suggested a simple modification. These dollies are in use with multiple tasks and reduced loads on the user, ultimately reducing muscular skeletal / soft tissue injuries.

Submitted to WCB	Submitted	No Claim	Med Costs Only	Benefit Weeks +/- Med costs (LT Claim)	Weeks of Paid Benefits	SEVERITY (Weeks / LT Claim)
CUPE	12	8	2	2	2.8	1.4
NSUPE	15	1	7	7	19.2	2.7
NSGEU	0	0	0	0		
EXCEL / Lunch	6	0	4	2	4.6	2.3
PEG	0	0	0	0		
Totals	33	9	13	11	26.2	2.4

One claim, the result of a slip, accounted for 11.2 weeks of lost time. One worker suffered a concussion due to a strike to the back of the head by a student. All of the employees injured during the period have returned to work, two of which are working part-time until they are able to resume full duties.

There is also a correction to the reported WCB claims for the previous quarter. Seven claims reported in Q2 2014 actually occurred in July, and therefore are now reported in Q3 2014. Statistical tables and graphs have been adjusted and will be reflected in future reports.

The following graph shows 3rd quarter 2014 WCB data in relation to previous 3rd quarter data.



Data was downloaded as of October 20, 2014. The claims continue to mature until they are closed.

Training

School Administration Supervisors and members of the DOERS safety group facilitated professional development sessions on hazard assessment and incident investigation for all Vice-Principals.

Student Services facilitated Non-Violent Crisis Intervention training for fifty-six (56) EPA's.

Trades and Custodial groups continued with weekly "Tool-Box" talks or Five Minute safety talks.

Several first aid recertification sessions and Nonviolent Crisis Intervention training sessions are scheduled in October and November.

Requests For Action

None were received in the reporting period.

Regulation

The regulations under the *Nova Scotia Occupational Health and Safety Act* are currently under review and the consultation period will end February 27, 2015. Additional information will be provided in a future report.