

**Halifax Regional School Board
Occupational Health & Safety – Update
July 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016**

Purpose

To inform the Governing Board of Occupational Health & Safety (OHS) matters for the period July 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016.

Background

This report is prepared twice per year to inform the Governing Board of OHS statistics and activities.

Content

Please see Appendix A - Occupational Health & Safety Update, July 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016.

Funding Details

N/A

Timeline

N/A

Appendices

Appendix A - Occupational Health & Safety Update, July 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016.

Recommendations

It is recommended the Governing Board receive the report for information.

Communications

AUDIENCE	RESPONSIBLE	TIMELINE
Governing Board	Tracy O’Kroneg	March 8, 2017

Contact

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OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY UPDATE
July 1 to December 31, 2016

I. SCHOOL INSURANCE PROGRAM (SIP) – REPORTED INCIDENTS

Group	Jul 1 to Dec 31, 2016	Jul 1 to Dec 31, 2015
Employees*	143	174
Students and other**	1215	1531
Total	1358	1705

* Employee incidents resulting in a lost time injury or medical attention may also be reported under Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) or Injury on Duty below.

** SIP Incident Report forms are submitted by school administrators for incidents occurring to school community members during school related activities.

II. INJURY ON DUTY - TEACHERS ONLY*

*Teachers are not covered by WCB.

Injury On Duty Applications Approved		
Jul 1 to Dec 31, 2016	Jul 1 to Dec 31, 2015	Jul 1 to Dec 31, 2014
13	19	8

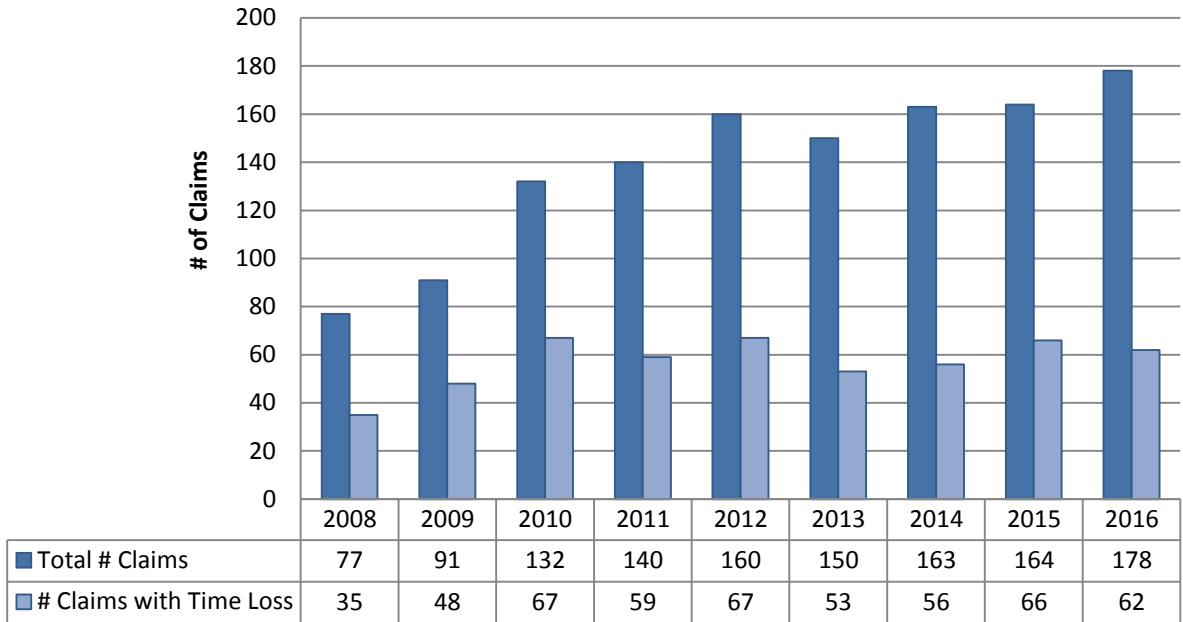
All teachers who had claims approved during this period returned to work during this period, with the exception of one, who remained off work at the end of the reporting period (this teacher did return to work on January 9, 2017). Two claims had a time loss of 14 days, while the others were five days or less.

III. WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD (WCB) CLAIMS

Group	Submitted	No Cost	Medical Costs Only	Lost Time Claims
CUPE	34	10	12	12
NSUPE	30	5	13	12
NSGEU	3	0	3	0
EXCEL	10	1	7	2
LUNCH	3	0	3	0
PEG	2	0	1	1
Totals	82	16	39	27

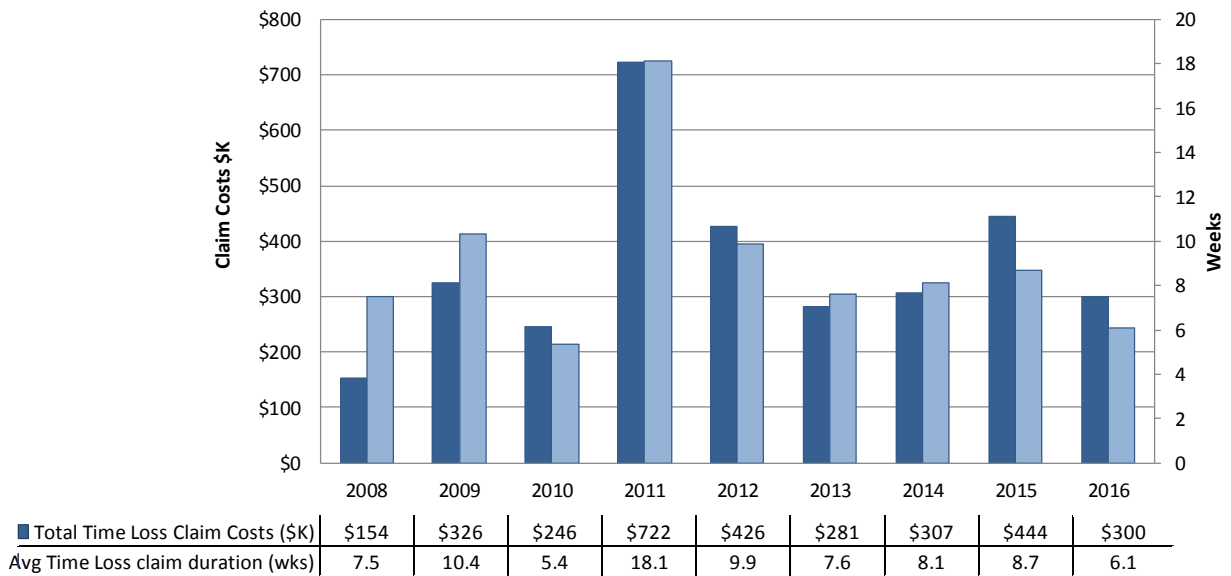
Twenty-seven (27) claims resulted in time lost from work and payment of wage benefits. Of these lost time claims, eight employees remained off work at the end of the reporting period, three were working toward returning to full hours and the remaining had successfully returned to full duties.

Number of Claims



The total number of submitted claims (WCB reported incidents) is higher for the 2016 year over 2015 by 14 claims. However, the total number of Time Loss claims is lower in 2016 than 2015 by 4 claims.

Claim Costs and Avg Time Loss Duration



Some 2015 claims continued to mature, as the employees had not yet finished treatment and/or had not yet fully returned to work. This resulted in an increase for the Time Loss Claim Costs and the

average duration for 2015 claims into 2016. Employees working partial hours/duties contribute to claim costs until they have fully returned to work. For the same reason, claims costs for 2016 claims will also continue to mature into 2017. It is also important to note that there are some concussion related claims, as well as bone fractures, that contribute significantly to the duration of claims, as the rehabilitation is typically a longer process.

Durations of time loss make the most impact on the costs of the claims. Although the number of claims has increased from 2015 to 2016 the average weeks of time loss per claim, and therefore the associated costs per claim (and overall), have decreased.

The WCB assessment rate for 2017, although lower than the average for the entire rating group (consisting of all schools boards in the province), has increased from \$3.84 in 2016 to \$4.11 in 2017.

IV. OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY (OHS) DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR AND ADVANCED EDUCATION

Workplaces Inspected	Reports Written	Recommendations	Total Compliance Order(s) Issued
0	0	0	0

V. HEALTH & SAFETY TRAINING

Nonviolent Crisis Intervention (NVCi): Safe Schools facilitated five sessions, training 68 school-based teachers in NVCi and Student Services facilitated eight sessions, recertifying approximately 175 Educational Program Assistants.

Emergency First Aid: Five sessions were attended by 82 Educational Program Assistants and school-based secretaries.

VI. REQUESTS FOR ACTION(S)

Four OHS-related requests for action(s) were received during the period, regarding:

- ✓ Ventilation system of a “portable” classroom
- ✓ Replacement acoustic panels in a gymnasium
- ✓ Accessibility parking
- ✓ Sound levels in a classroom adjacent to a wood production lab
- ✓ Sufficient outdoor lighting at night
- ✓ Low water flow/pressure in washroom and staffroom (hygiene)

Acoustic panels have been ordered for the gymnasium. Other issues have been investigated and addressed.

An Indoor Air Protocol was initiated at a school as odours were detected in a specific room and possible air quality symptoms reported in other areas. After site inspections were conducted, it was determined that removal and modification of a worn/damaged piece of an air handling unit was required to address these concerns. This has been completed.

VII. WORK REFUSALS

None reported.