

## HALIFAX REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD

### Occupational Health & Safety – Quarterly Update – Q3 2013 July 1, 2013 to September 30, 2013

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

**BACKGROUND:** Reporting on a quarterly basis is part of a due diligence process so the Board is aware of HRSB OHS significant statistics and activities.

**CONTENT:** Please see Appendix A - Occupational Health & Safety Quarterly Update, Q3 2013, July 1, 2013 to September, 2013.

**COST:** n/a

**FUNDING:** n/a

**TIMELINE:** n/a

**APPENDIX:** Appendix A - Occupational Health & Safety Quarterly Update, Q3 2013, July 1, 2013 to September 30, 2013.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Board accept the report for information.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** n/a

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**To:** Board: January 22, 2014

Occupational Health & Safety  
 Quarterly Update  
 Q3 2013  
 July 1 to September 30, 2013

School Insurance Program (SIP) – Reported Incidents

SIP informed that the incident summary is at present unavailable for this period.

Nova Scotia Teacher’s Union (NSTU)

*This group of employees is not covered by WCB.*

NSTU	Injury On Duty applications received		
	Reporting Quarter	Year Before Quarter	Preceding Quarter
	Jul 1 to Sept 30, ‘13	Jul 1 to Sept 30, ‘12	Apr. 1 to Jun. 30, ‘13
Injuries on Duty	6	1	6

OH&S Division of Department Labour and Workforce Development

Workplaces Inspected:	Workplaces with Compliance Orders Issued:	Total Compliance Orders Issued:
1	0	0

A workplace inspection occurred in response to an injured student incident. No report or compliance orders were issued.

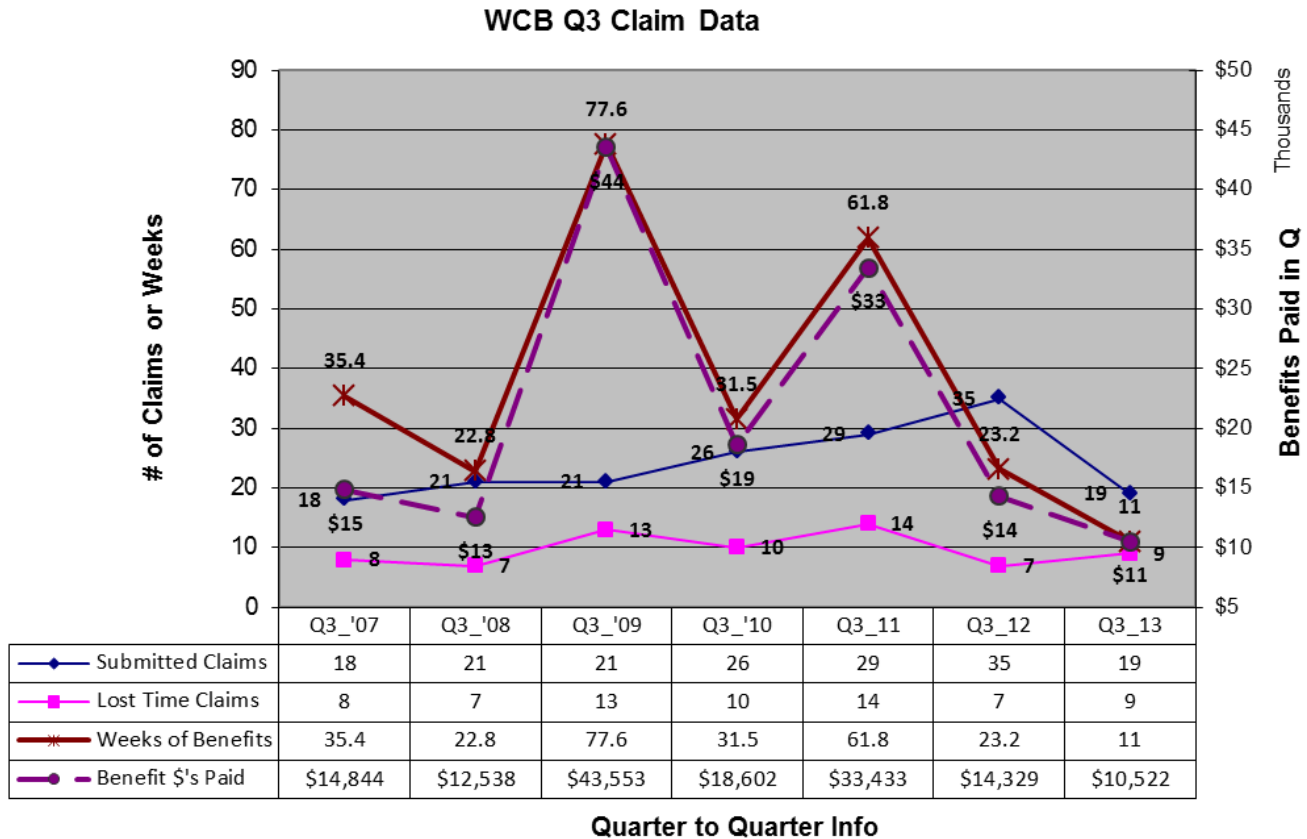
Workers’ Compensation Board (WCB) Claims

19 claims were submitted to the Workers’ Compensation Board, a decrease to the number of submitted claims during the same period last year. Four of the submitted claims had no resulting medical expenses or benefits paid as at the reporting time.

The paid benefits costs (reflecting the weeks of lost time and health care costs) are close to the lowest since 2007.

Submitted to WCB	Submitted	No Claim	Med Costs Only	Benefit Weeks +/- Med costs (LT Claim)	Weeks of Paid Benefits	SEVERITY (Weeks / LT Claim)
CUPE	4	1	0	3	5	1.7
NSUPE	13	1	6	6	6	1.0
NSGEU	0	0	0	0		
EXCEL / Lunch	1	1	0	0		
PEG	1	1	0	0		
Totals	19	4	6	9	11	1.2

The following graph shows 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2013 WCB data in relation to previous 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter data.



Data was downloaded as of 16 October 2013; the claims continue to mature until they are closed.

The Workers' Compensation Board of Nova Scotia rates for 2014 have been set. Halifax Regional School Board has a cost ratio higher than the average cost ratio of our rate group and will therefore have a demerit on the 2014 assessment rate. Our rate group is comprised of elementary and secondary schools in Nova Scotia.

If the 2014 experience continues its positive trend, we would anticipate a reduction in premiums effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015.

Year	Industry Rate	ER Merit/Demerit	Total Rate
2014	\$3.83	\$0.10	\$3.93
2013	\$3.85	\$0.02	\$3.87
2012	\$3.47	\$0.17-	\$3.30
2011	\$3.26	\$0.25-	\$3.01
2010	\$3.11	\$0.24-	\$2.87

Total for 2012 injuries \$261,714.92 aged one year.  
 Total for 2011 injuries \$722,650.33 aged two years.  
 Total for 2010 injuries \$259,263.93 aged three years.

### Training

Principals attended seven coaching sessions on hazard assessing and incident investigation between October 4<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. The related procedures, as revised by the DOER's committee, were introduced and implemented.

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

### Requests For Action

A request for action regarding indoor air odours and comfort levels from the previous period remains unresolved but investigations continue.

There were four Request for Action (RFA) forms received in the period:

- 1) A situation relating to an unsafe window was addressed.
- 2) Lack of water delivery was identified as a safety issue at a school. Water was delivered and measures put in place to minimize further disruption.
- 3) A lack of cell phone and police radio reception on one floor of a school was identified as an issue should there be an emergency. An alternate emergency notification system has been implemented.
- 4) One form, sent by a staff member rather than the occupational health & safety committee, addressed class climate issues. School administration was requested to address the concerns. The RFA was withdrawn.