

Ministry of Education

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MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education
Director of Provincial Schools
Supervisory Officers and Secretary-Treasurers of School
Authorities

FROM: Barry Pervin
Assistant Deputy Minister

DATE: January 16, 2013

RE: **Release of Ministry of Labour (MOL) School Inspection Results**

As you know from previous correspondence*, between September 2011 and June 30, 2012, the Ministry of Labour (MOL) inspectors conducted almost 2,000 field visits to elementary and secondary schools in Ontario. The results of the inspections will be publicly available tomorrow on the MOL website at: <http://www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/>

MOL and the EDU have prepared questions and answers that may be useful to you as we will be directing inquiries about board or school level results to individual school boards (see attached Qs and As).

As you know, MOL inspectors visited schools to assess compliance with the requirements of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA)* and the regulations made under the OHSA. The inspections focused on secondary schools and elementary schools (grades 7 and 8) with technological education facilities and science labs.

Particular focus was placed on compliance with chemical storage, housekeeping, equipment maintenance and safe operation of equipment, as well as availability of appropriate personal protective equipment, eye-wash stations and dousing showers.

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*<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/policyfunding/workplace.html>

Approximately 6,600 non-compliance orders were issued to school boards during the inspections. Many school boards have taken swift action in response to the orders issued including conducting additional inspections during this past summer. I understand that the vast majority of the deficiencies have been attended to. Some, however, are still outstanding and require immediate attention.

The MOL safety inspections have helped to raise awareness about occupational health and safety and have promoted positive changes in the safety culture of schools. This report does, however, highlight the need for all school boards to make injury prevention a priority.

I am pleased that EDU, in partnership with school boards and CODE, has committed to continuing its work with MOL to advance the collective goal of safety in the classroom for everyone.

I am confident that you will make every effort to uphold your obligations to ensure that this is an on-going priority for you, your fellow school leaders and educators.

Sincerely,

Barry Pervin

Attachments: Q's & A's

cc: Ministry of Education Regional Managers
Frank Kelly, Executive Director, CODE