

Workers Health & Safety Centre (WHSC) invites students to apply for 2008 Scholarships

There are many reasons why young workers face an increased risk of being injured at workage is not one of them. Research continues to point to a lack of experience, lack of training and hazardous working conditions as the reason why young and new workers are injured at rates exceeding others. Consequently, the WHSC annual scholarship program seeks to raise awareness among students about their occupational health and safety rights and the legal duties placed on employers to prepare all workers for work and to provide a safe and healthy work environment. This year, applicants seeking a WHSC scholarship are being asked to share their ideas on 'How employers can better ensure the safety of their young or new workforce?' According to research and the experience of our constituents, many workers, both new and experienced, are not receiving the training they need or even the minimum training mandated by law, says Dave Killham, executive director, WHSC. And judging again by the experiences of workers and their representatives hazardous working conditions continue to place the health and safety of all workers at risk. Here in Ontario, employers have many general and specific legal duties to ensure workers are not placed in situations where their health or safety is at risk. For instance, the Occupational Health and Safety Act requires employers to: provide information, instruction and supervision to a worker to protect the health or safety of a worker, and take every precaution reasonable in the circumstances for the protection of a worker. Ontario health and safety law also mandates general and specific training requirements including training to address issues related to Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS), forklifts, confined spaces, transportation of dangerous goods and Certification. Applicants for the 8th Annual WHSC Scholarship

Initiative will have the option of writing an essay or creating a poster related to this year's topic. Any student residing in Ontario and beginning their first year of full-time or part-time studies leading to a degree, diploma or certificate from any publicly-funded Ontario college or university is eligible to apply. Submission deadline is Friday, June 6 at 4:00 pm. Successful applicants will be contacted in September 2008. A portion of the proceeds from the annual WHSC/Cliff Pilkey Invitational Golf Tournament are used to fund these scholarship opportunities. Want to know more about the 2008 WHSC Scholarship Initiative? Want an application? For further information please contact Sandy Warden at 1-888-869-7950.

http://www.whsc.on.ca/pdfs/Scholarship%20Rules08_updMar18.pdf