

Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development

Prevention Works: Occupational Illness

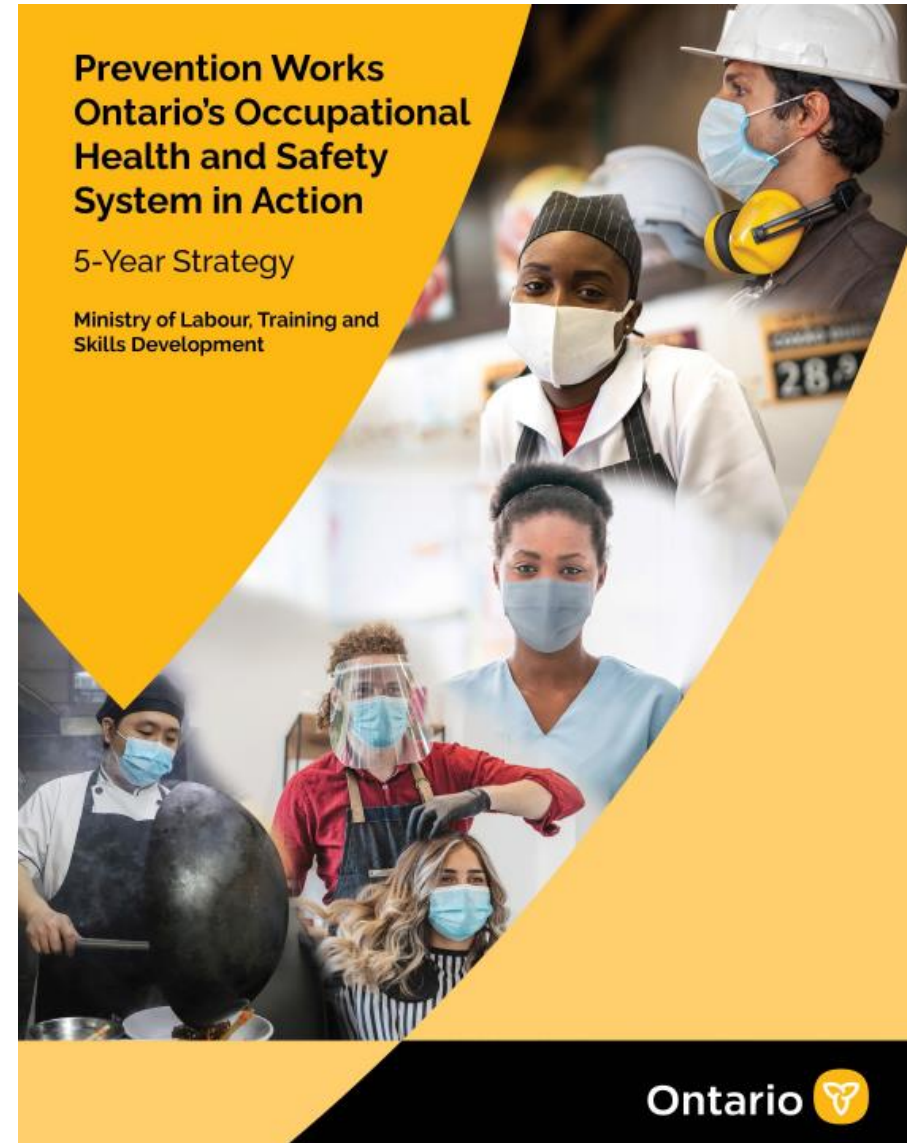
Updates from the Occupational Illness
Prevention Steering Committee (OIPSC)

November 15, 2022

Refresher:

Prevention Works

- Ontario's 5-Yr OHS Prevention Strategy
- 4 Objectives:
 - Data & Evidence
 - Knowledge & Practices
 - Roles, Responsibilities, & Excellence
 - Small Business
- 2 Areas of systems focus:
 - **Occupational Illnesses**
 - Work-related mental health and workplace violence and harassment



Refresher:

ODAP → OPISC

The Occupational Disease Action Plan (ODAP)

- Active from 2017 – 2020 with numerous accomplishments
- Activities were recognized by the Auditor General

Occupational Illness Prevention Steering Committee (OIPSC)

- Alignment with Prevention Works and other recommendations by the AG
- Goal of **collective impact** with evidence-based performance measures
- Mandate:
 - Improve the recognition and control of priority **exposures**, and
 - Improve recognition and reporting of **occupational illnesses**



- to reduce the burden of occupational illness in Ontario, per the Occupational Illness Area of Systems Focus of the Prevention Works strategy

OIPSC

Activities to achieve our mandate:

Surveillance
& Research



Education &
Training



Workplace
Tools



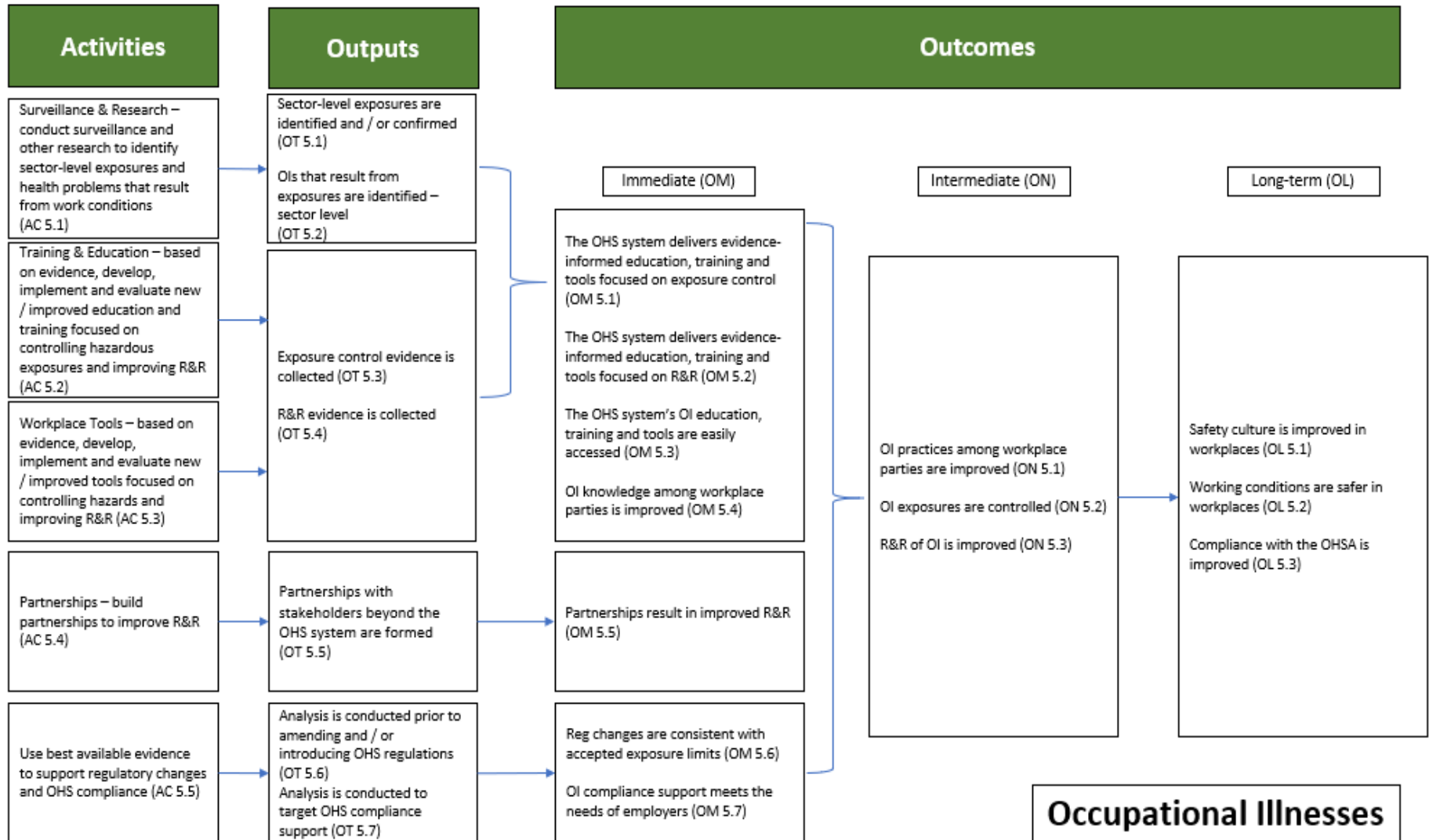
Strategic
Partnerships



OHS Reg. &
Enforcement



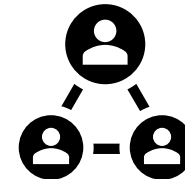
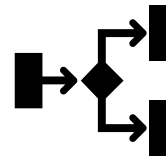
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OIPSC: Accomplishments

Year 1

- TOR, Governance, Priority Hazard Setting
- Identified outputs, outcomes, and indicators for each of the 5 pillar activities (i.e., the development of a fully fleshed out Logic Model to achieve the SC's mandate)
- Improved reporting, collaboration, and cross-promotion
 - OCRC: Surveillance Advisory Committee
 - CROSH: Diesel Emissions in Mining: A Knowledge Transfer/Exchange Evaluation



OIPSC: Accomplishments

Year 1

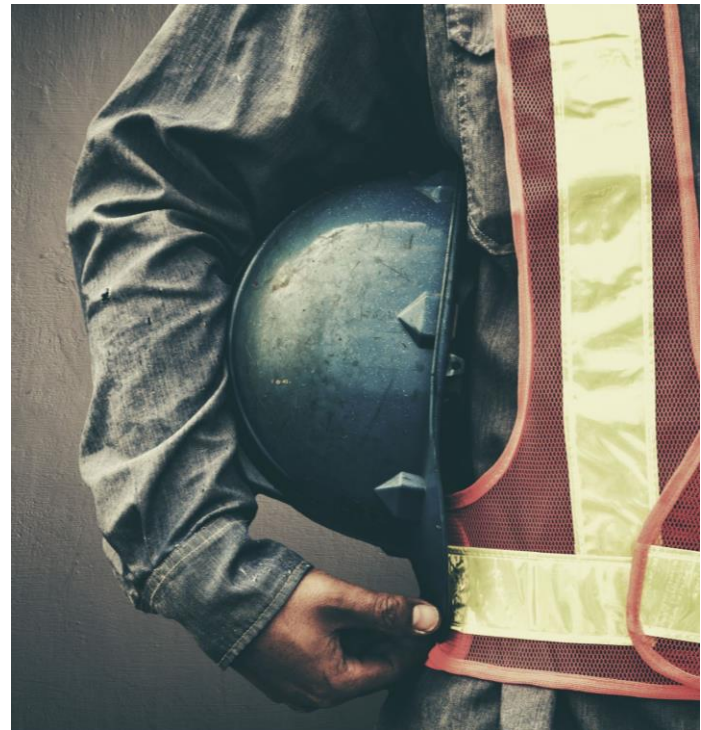
- Stakeholder participation in the independent OHS System OD Review (MAP Center for Urban Health Solutions):
<https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1002014/ontario-working-for-workers-by-launching-first-ever-review-of-occupational-illnesses>
- The identification the first new collective impact program for the committee: The Silica Control Tool, (with the accompanied workplan)
 - Need for the program
 - Theory of Change
 - Logic Model
 - Performance Measurement Framework



Silica Control Tool

Context: Workplace Tools

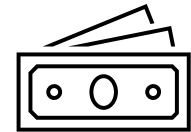
- Based on the evidence, the system intends to develop, implement, and evaluate new/improved tools focused on controlling Occupational Illness hazards, and improving recognition and reporting.
- Implementing the Silica Control Tool (SCT) in Ontario aligns with activity 3 and is the OIPSC's proposed new program for 2022-2023, with implementation in 2023-2024.



Need for the program

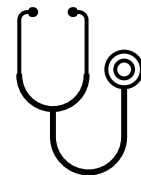
- The average cost per claim associated with silicosis and silica exposure is higher than most other allowed OIs. This speaks to the severity of silica-related illnesses.

(WSIB OD Data 2010-2019)



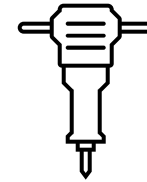
- While these claims make up a small percentage of all allowed OI claims, it has been estimated almost **100,000** workers are exposed to high levels of silica each year, and that some **200** lung cancers can be prevented each year in Ontario by reducing occupational exposures to silica.

(2016, CAREX Canada Silica Occupational Exposures; 2017, OCRC – Burden of Occupational Disease in On)



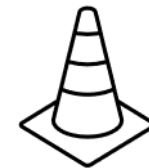
Need for the program

- Silica exposure is prevalent in multiple industries, including construction, manufacturing, mining, transportation and warehousing.



Problem statement:

- *Many workers continue to be exposed to silica at high levels due to a lack of awareness and adequate exposure monitoring. This creates a significant health and financial burden to workers and the province. The silica control tool is an easy-to-use tool to assist employers, particularly those in construction, in assessing and controlling the risks associated with working with silica.*



History and Previous Success

- The Silica Control Tool (SCT) was created by the British Columbia Construction Safety Alliance (BCCSA) in 2017 to assist employers in conducting appropriate risk assessments and implementing effective controls and safe work practices where Respirable Crystalline Silica (RCS) dust may be an occupational hazard.
- The data set that supports the regression model used in the tool is composed of ~5100 data samples (and growing).
- >3800 registered users (April 2022), and >7600 completed exposure control plans
 - 82% in the construction sector;
 - 22% among small businesses (<20 workers)
- With success in other jurisdictions (BC, AB), we believe the same success can be seen here in ON.

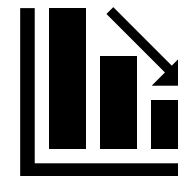
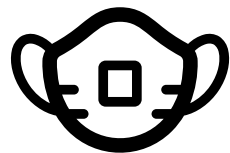
Objective and intended outcome

- **Objective:**

To increase Ontario construction employers' knowledge of silica hazards and controls, increase exposure risk estimates of Respirable Crystalline Silica (RCS) in the construction industry, and ultimately reduce hazardous exposures of RCS among Ontario construction workers.

- **Intended outcome:**

A reduction in hazardous RCS exposure among Ontario construction workers, while collecting additional data on the prevalence of potential RCS hazards in Ontario.



Partners

- The SCT – Use in Ontario project is led by the Occupational Health Clinics for Ontario Workers (OHCOW) with support from the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development (MLITSD).
- Key partners included in the project, who provide industry expertise, evaluation expertise, and relevant support include:
 - Infrastructure Health and Safety Association (IHSA)
 - Centre for Research Expertise in Occupational Disease (CREOD)
 - University of Toronto, Dalla Lana School of Public Health (UofT)
 - Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS)
 - British Columbia Construction Safety Alliance (BCCSA)



Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development Prevention



Welcome to the Ontario Pilot Silica Control Tool™

This project is made possible through funding by



Occupational Health Clinics for Ontario Workers Inc. Centres de santé des travailleurs (ses) de l'Ontario Inc.

With support from



ONTARIO PILOT SILICA CONTROL TOOL™

Welcome back! Please sign in to your account:

Username:

Password:

[Show Password](#)

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Acknowledgement

By signing in, you certify that you have read and understand the [Terms of Use](#) and [Privacy Policy](#), and agree to be bound by both.

For more information about this tool, [click here](#)



Exposure Control Planning

Breaking Concrete with a Jackhammer

Outside for 4 to 8 hours

Jobsite at
Lougheed Town Centre
June 27th, 2016 to October 10th, 2016

- INTRODUCTION
- SILICA PROCESS
- SILICA EXPOSURE (NO CONTROLS)**
 - Get prepared
 - Exposure analysis (No Controls)**

- EXPOSURE CONTROL
- SILICA EXPOSURE (WITH CONTROLS)
- RESIDUAL EXPOSURE CONTROL
- DOCUMENTATION
- CONCLUSION

Exposure Analysis (No Controls)

RESULTS DETAILS SAVE

EXPOSURE MONITORING DATA EQUIVALENT		
Est. Exposure Level (No Controls)	Exposure Limit	Action Level
0.136 mg/m³	0.1 mg/m³ Est. Exposure Level exceeds by 136%	0.025 mg/m³ Est. Exposure Level exceeds by 544%
Risk Classification		
HAZARDOUS LEVEL		
We recommend to proceed as HAZARDOUS exposure level or perform an air sampling test.		

WARNING

This exposure risk must be controlled:

- The estimated exposure level is above the exposure limit by 136%.** To be able to perform this work activity at this jobsite, the OHSR requires the exposure level be *below* the exposure limit. The risk must be reduced below the exposure limit by applying control measures that are appropriate, consistent, and recognized as effective systems and strategies under normal conditions.
- The estimated exposure level is above the action level by 544%.** The OHSR requires provisions be initiated to protect workers from the expected RCS dust risk. These provisions include development and implementation of an ECP. An OHSR-compliant ECP will address all of the required provisions under normal conditions.
- As crystalline silica is linked to cancer, the OHS Regulation requires workplace exposures be reduced to levels that are *as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA)*.

Details Save