



Ministry of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety

Annual Report Highlights from 2010-11

Message from the Minister



*The Honourable Don Morgan, Q.C.
Minister of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety*

I am pleased to present the 2010-11 highlights for the Ministry of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety (LRWS).

Since the Ministry was established in June 2010, we have worked to develop strategies, involve stakeholders and deliver services that ensure a safe, fair and productive labour environment throughout the province.

This document provides an executive summary of the more detailed annual report and highlights the Ministry's most notable accomplishments in 2010-11, including:

- encouraging healthy, safe and productive workplaces by setting, promoting and enforcing employment and occupational health and safety standards;
- fostering a positive labour environment by working with entrepreneurs, employers, employees, unions, and labour organizations to promote the use of best practices; and
- working in partnership with organized labour, the private sector, public sector and relevant community-based partners to reduce incidence and severity of workplace injuries.

For more information on the Ministry's results, please see the Ministry's 2010-11 Annual Report, or visit the Ministry's website at www.lrws.gov.sk.ca.

Ministry Overview

The Government of Saskatchewan established the Ministry of LRWS on June 29, 2010. Prior to this date, the functions of LRWS were attached to the Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour (AEEL)—now Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration (AEEI).

Over the past year, the Ministry has worked to develop strategies, involve stakeholders and deliver services that ensure a safe, fair and productive labour environment throughout the province. The Ministry achieves its desired outcomes by encouraging, promoting and enforcing safe work practices and employment standards and by fostering an employment/labour environment that respects the rights, duties and responsibilities of employees and employers.

LRWS is responsible for labour standards, occupational health and safety, labour relations and mediation services and advocacy on behalf of injured workers.

The Ministry consists of five divisions: Central Services, Labour Relations and Mediation, Labour Standards, the Office of the Workers' Advocate and Occupational Health and Safety.

VISION

A secure and prosperous Saskatchewan, leading the country in economic and population growth, while providing a high quality of life for all.

Our 2010-11 Significant Achievements

Securing Saskatchewan...

- In January 2011, the Labour Standards Division began offering training webinars to the public on six employment standards issues: overtime, public holiday pay, annual holiday pay, discharges and layoffs, special provisions, and pay deductions and records. In total, the webinars attracted 405 participants from various parts of Canada as well as the United States.
- In 2010-11 there were 2,429 labour standards related complaints filed and 2,447 (includes those carried over from previous year) completed investigations.
- At the end of the fiscal year, the Office of the Workers' Advocate (OWA) had assigned 360 files to advocates and closed 339. On the 248 appeals filed against Workers' Compensation Board decisions, the OWA achieved an 80 per cent success rate.
- The Workers' Compensation Act Committee of Review was appointed to undertake consultations and make recommendations for improving the workers' compensation system in Saskatchewan.
- The Saskatchewan time-loss injury rate for the 2010-11 fiscal year was 3.12 per cent, which represents a 9.3 per cent decrease from the previous year. This exceeds the WorkSafe 2010 goal of 3.3 per cent and the 2011 goal of 3.2 per cent.
- The number of Occupational Health and Safety inspections performed during 2010-11 was further increased from 2009-10 to 4,851.

Sustaining Economic Growth...

- In June 2010, Saskatchewan business and community leaders declared their commitment to health and safety at a public signing event of Saskatchewan's first Health and Safety Leadership Charter.
- ~ Along with more than 150 private sector representatives, signed a charter on behalf of the public sector.

LRWS By the Numbers:

The work done by LRWS staff across the province contributes to better workplaces and better lives for Saskatchewan people.

The following statistics provide a small snapshot of those activities.

- 4,352** Number of youth who completed the Young Workers Readiness Certificate Course in 2010-11.
- 37,703** Calls handled by the Hosted Contact Centre in 2010-11. Another 1,054 emails were also handled.
- 4,851** Number of Occupational Health and Safety inspections performed during 2010-11 – an increase of 1,193 (33 percent) since 2007-08.
- 463** Stop Work Orders issued by OHS inspections in 2010-11. In addition, 81 prosecution files were sent to the Ministry of Justice, resulting in 52 convictions.

	2010-11 Budget (000s)	2010-11 Actual (000s)	Variances (000s)
Expenditure			
Central Management and Services	\$ 3,078	2,435	(643)
Occupational Health & Safety	\$ 7,325	7,178	(147)
Labour Standards	\$ 2,418	2,611	193
Labour Relations Board	\$ 978	760	(218)
Labour Relations and Mediation	\$ 738	789	51
Worker's Advocate	\$ 639	570	(69)
Budget Appropriation	\$ 15,176	14,343	(833)
Capital Asset Acquisitions		(413)	(413)
Amortization of Capital Assets	\$ 21	26	5
Total Revised Estimates and Expenses	\$ 15,197	13,956	(1,241)
FTE Staff Complement	149.1	138.0	(11.1)

