



DID YOU KNOW?

AN INFORMATION SHEET FOR ST. JOHN AMBULANCE MEMBERS

DID YOU KNOW that young people (ages 15 – 29) represent one in every four injured workers in Canada?

With spring just around the corner, our young people will be looking for summer jobs to give them extra cash. Along with the extra money comes the risk of work place injury. More than half of all young people 15 to 19 are employed, mostly at part time jobs.

Youth are very much at risk of being injured on the job. Young workers are so happy to have a job that they will do almost anything to keep it. At what cost? Their attitude, although great, hinders their safety. Indicative of their age group, young people think they are invincible, and lack experience and good judgment. It's common for teens to work in jobs that have inherent dangers, e.g. boiling grease at the fast food restaurants, construction site dangers, etc. Whether the job is outdoor maintenance, retail, office, construction, etc., all jobs have their risks. *Awareness is key.*

What can we do to protect our youth at work?

To increase awareness of work related injuries and preparation for possible incidents on and off the job, St. John Ambulance offers education and training with our *first aid, babysitting* and *the W.H.M.I.S. program*. The SJA Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System educates the public about the WHMIS program, recognizing and understanding WHMIS labels, safety data sheets, different classes of controlled products and the main hazards associated with each class. SJA first aid and babysitting courses prepare youth to handle incidents that may occur at the work place or in the home.

Safe Communities' Foundation of Canada initiated *Passport to Safety*, a health and safety testing program, which shows young people how to become active members of a program that includes a lifetime membership, online safety challenge test, great resources, fresh information and printable and updateable certificates that are recognized by employers and valued by government and compensation boards across Canada. This program confirms youth have gained a basic understanding of what they need to know to protect themselves at work. *Passport to Safety* does not replace job specific health and safety training required under Canadian legislation but it provides a framework for workplace health and safety awareness for youth newly entering the workforce. More information on this program can be obtained from their website www.passporttosafety.com.

Youths have three basic rights in the workplace to safeguard themselves against workplace injury and it our responsibility to ensure they are aware of these:

The **right to know** – about what hazards there are in the workplace and what precautions must be taken to prevent injuries from these hazards. Although teens are reluctant to ask their employers how to do their job safely for fear of losing their job or appearing incapable, most employers welcome the positive attitude and concern for safety.

The **right to participate** – in safety and health activities in the workplace without fear of any form of discriminatory action such as discipline

The **right to refuse** – work that one reasonably believes can be dangerous to oneself or others.

Canada's National Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) www.ccohs.ca and provincial Workers Compensation Boards; are also excellent resources on how to keep safe on the job.