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THE WORKPLACE SAFETY & HEALTH ACT SUBMISSION // JULY 2017

The Canadian Red Cross and Heart & Stroke represent Canada's leading not-for-profit First Aid and CPR training agencies in Canada. As such we welcome this opportunity to provide input into Manitoba's five year review of The Workplace Safety and Health Act (the WSHA).

In Canada we train more than 1.5 million people in First Aid and CPR every year and are committed to delivering the most current evidence-based first aid to all Canadian citizens.

In 2013, the Canadian Red Cross brought together workplace representatives from each province and territory to start a dialogue to explore strategies for creating safer workplaces across Canada. These representatives were responsible for administering workplace first aid legislation.

Working together, these representatives helped form a Workplace Injury Reduction Collaborative to discuss the creation and implementation of a first-ever national standard for workplace first aid competencies. The team invested more than 1,000 hours in this process.

In early 2014 Canadian Red Cross approached CSA Group to see if this was a standard that CSA could develop.

CSA produced a briefing paper outlining the three phases involved in developing such a standard. It was - presented and unanimously approved by the Workplace Injury Reduction Collaborative members and the Canadian Association of Administrators of Labour Legislation – Occupational Safety and Health (CAALL – OSH) in the spring of 2014.

Phase I was to understand the market needs through a stakeholder's consultation workshop; Phase II standards development; and Phase III application of standards.

Phase I was hosted by CSA Group and Canadian Red Cross in Toronto in October 2014. During this time the original Collaborative membership had grown to include representatives from the federal labour program, Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC), Paramedic Association of Canada, St. John Ambulance, Canadian Centre for Occupational Health & Safety, Heart & Stroke, and Workplace Safety North.

As a result of this workshop a stakeholder's report was released in December 2014 on the CSA Group and Canadian Red Cross websites for public comment. The report can be found at:

- <http://www.redcross.ca/training-and-certification/publications>



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In May 2015, Phase II started with a call for membership for the technical committee as well as a call for financial support as CAALL – OSH had provided only partial funding to support the initiative. The CSA's Technical Committee drew from the diversity and expertise of its 36 members from across Canada, who were selected according to their skills and experience, as well as their representation of one of three groups: User Interest, Regulatory Authorities, or General Interest.

The Technical Committee members came from government, worker insurance boards, training agencies, labour, Employer's, Health Care and school boards. Together, they undertook the responsibility of creating this standard.

The Technical Committee started out with three goals in mind:

- 1) Offering the highest quality evidence-based first aid training to meet the needs of Canadian workplaces
- 2) Reducing workplace injuries
- 3) Addressing workplace injuries and fatalities

In April 2017 they completed their work with the publication of *Standard CSA Z1210-17, First Aid Training for the Workplace—Curriculum and Quality Management for Training Agencies*. A companion standard was started later into the development of CSA Z1210-17 to address workplace first aid kits. *Standard Z-1220-17 First Aid Kits for the Workplace* was published July 21, 2017.

The new standard seeks to **harmonize first aid content** and competencies across Canada by:

- Improving universal practice by first aid personnel in the workplace
- Improving course design and delivery
- Simplifying accreditation portability
- Setting best practices for workplace first aid programs
- Setting best practice guidelines for the qualification of workplace first aid personnel

The standard issues specific guidance on workplace first aid training, including:

- Program design
- Competency levels (by topic and for each training level)
- Quality management requirements

Canadian Red Cross and Heart & Stroke offer the following recommendations to strengthen and improve the WSHA:



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We propose that part 5 First Aid, of the WSHA be amended to adopt CSA Z1210-17, *First Aid Training for the Workplace—Curriculum and Quality Management for Training Agencies* into the Workplace Safety and Health Act (WSHA).

And further,

We propose that part 5 First Aid, of the WSHA be amended to adopt CSA Z1220-17, *First Aid kits for the workplace*.

Ian Fitzpatrick
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