

Role of the Health and Safety Officer

The physical environment in which we work plays a great role in how we feel and how we perform our tasks. Our teachers have the right to work in a safe and healthy environment.

It is the responsibility of the Health and Safety Committee to ensure that teachers' concerns regarding such issues are brought to the attention of the employer and to ensure that our workplace is deemed to be "safe" as required under Ontario Law and any contract agreements.

The aim of the Health and Safety Officer is to have a "qualified" person in each school who understands the Occupational Health and Safety Act; is able to raise valid concerns about unsafe working conditions within our schools; and promote improved Health and Safety conditions within our contract.

Responsibilities of the Health and Safety Branch Officer:

1. The prime concern is the Health and Safety of the teachers.
2. To educate teachers in safety awareness and teacher rights as per the Occupational Health and Safety Act.
3. Identify and deal with concerns brought by our members. As necessary, refer the concerns to the OSSTF Health and Safety Chair.
4. Attend all Health and Safety Committee meetings (approximately five (5) District meetings) and all Joint Health and Safety Committee meetings (approximately five (5) meetings) at which they represent the OTBU members.
5. Bring OTBU concerns to the attention of the Chair.
6. Contribute to school safety audits as required.