

PROCLAMATION REQUEST FOR NORTH AMERICAN OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY WEEK (NAOSH WEEK)

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Legal and Administrative Services and City Solicitor, in consultation with the Director of Human Resources, recommends:

That the week of May 3, 2009, be proclaimed as “**North American Occupational Health and Safety Week**”.

Economic Impact

Not applicable

Communications Plan

The Corporate Communications Department posts proclamations issued by the City on the City's website under “Events – Proclamations”. Publishing proclamations on the City Page depends on space availability.

Purpose

To acknowledge North American Occupational Health and Safety Week within the City of Vaughan.

Background - Analysis and Options

North American Occupational Safety and Health Week was first launched in June 1997, marked by an agreement between Canada, the United States and Mexico.

The responsibility of NAOSH Week is managed through an effective partnership with the Canadian Society of Safety Engineering (CSSE), the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS), Human Resources and Social Development Canada's (HRSDC) Labour Program and the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE). Together many safety partners now throughout North America work hard to promote and encourage the goals of NAOSH week.

The goal of NAOSH Week is to focus attention of employers, employees, the general public and all partners in occupational safety and health on the importance of preventing injury and illness in the workplace, at home, and in the community.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020

Increase service excellence by enhancing employer, employee and the general public's understanding of occupational health and safety and to promote safe practices in the workplace and the community at large.

Regional Implications

Not applicable

Conclusion

The Commissioner of Legal and Administrative Services and City Solicitor, in consultation with the Director of Human Resources, is recommending that the week of May 3, 2009, be proclaimed as "**North American Occupational Health and Safety Week**" and that the proclamation be posted on the City's website and published on the City Page, space permitting.

Attachments

1. About NAOSH week

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Respectfully submitted,

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Safety & Health: A Commitment

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Why you should get involved?

NAOSH Week presents an excellent opportunity to focus, reinforce and strengthen commitment to occupational safety and health. Participation and involvement in NAOSH Week has been shown to:

- **improve attitudes towards safety**
- **increase understanding of the importance of occupational health & safety**
- **foster a safety-minded culture**
- **increase cooperation**
- **raise awareness**
- **assist in team building, and improve communication between employees, safety committees and safety professionals**

About NAOSH Week

The success of NAOSH Week is rooted in a community-based approach. Across the country, NAOSH Week events and activities are coordinated by local, provincial and/or regional committees, comprised primarily of volunteers, who share a focus and vision of safer workplaces and communities. Partnerships with government, business, suppliers, CSSE Chapters, community health organizations and other safety groups provide the support, resources and network necessary to manage the NAOSH Week plans.

History of NAOSH Week

NAOSH Week - North American Occupational Safety and Health Week - was first launched in June 1997, marked by an agreement between Canada, the United States and Mexico. CSSE's Canadian Occupational Health and Safety Week (COHS) had been observed for ten years previously (1986-1996). During the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) talks between the governments of Mexico, United States, and Canada, workplace safety within the boundaries of all three nations was discussed by government labour department representatives. Canada's representative at these talks was familiar with Canada's COHS Week and suggested to his Mexican and American counterparts that their countries may wish to become involved in a similar endeavor.

Subsequently, CSSE was approached for permission and support to expand the COHS Week format and experience to Mexico and the United States. After many meetings between Labour Canada and the CSSE COHS Committee in 1995, the proposal to expand the COHS format into the North American arena was formalized with the CSSE Board of Directors at their spring 1996 meeting. It was agreed that CSSE would adopt the North American concept and implement it in place of the Canadian Week. Labour Canada agreed to ensure that CSSE was the officially recognized safety organization responsible for NAOSH Week. Labour Canada would also play the lead political role for North America for three years, after which there would be a review. CSSE was responsible for all management, marketing, policy, administration, etc. related to NAOSH Week, and was deemed the proprietor and governing body.

NAOSH We



three hands for an equilateral triangle
the three participants: Canada, the United States, and Mexico - and symbolize a joint venture, cooperative commitment to shared goals shared by all three sides of the partnership of countries in occupational health and safety venture, as well as partnerships between labour and government connected hands assistance and cooperation many levels of interpersonal relationships the workplace to exchange

In September 1996, the agreement was taken to the NAFTA meeting and all parties agreed to the proposal. NAOSH was established. NAOSH Week was implemented under this agreement between 1997 and 2000.

Since 2000, the responsibility and management of NAOSH Week has continued under CSSE's leadership. Partnering with the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health & Safety (CCOHS) and the Labour Program of Human Resources and Social Development Canada (HRSDC), CSSE works hard to promote and encourage the goals of NAOSH. Along with the efforts of the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE), NAOSH Week continues to be a truly continentwide event.
