The Union Safety Effect

Ontario construction unions and their contractor partners make workers safer, and create workplaces that reduce critical injuries and lost work days. This is according to the first ever scientific Canadian study to investigate the union safety effect in Ontario’s industrial, commercial and institutional (ICI) construction industry.

What’s causing the union safety effect?

- Programs and practices that more effectively identify and reduce construction work hazards
- A safety net that allows union workers to report accidents without fear of repercussions
- Ongoing skills training programs that provide a foundation for safer skilled work throughout one’s career
- More effective role in influencing government regulations designed to improve workplace health and safety

Investments in early apprenticeship training last a lifetime

- Apprentices in unionized environments:
  - Are more likely to attend the technical in-school portion of apprenticeship training
  - Are more likely to complete their training
  - Begin their apprenticeships with higher than average levels of education
  - Are more satisfied with their employers and working environment

Fact

- In 2013, $528,802,470 in workers’ compensation claims from the construction sector were paid to Ontarians for current and prior year injuries.
- Between 2006-2012, ICI Ontario construction unions:
  - Reported 23 per cent fewer injuries requiring time off work compared to non-union firms
  - Experienced 17 per cent lower rate of musculoskeletal injuries
  - Reported 29 per cent lower rate of critical injuries that put workers’ lives in jeopardy

In 2013, 4,752 Ontario construction workers had to miss work in 2013 to recover from an injury.

By 2020, 45,000 unionized ICI apprentices will graduate from specialized training programs.

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Invested annually in specialized apprenticeship, upgrade and safety training or resources

$260 Million
Investment in over 45 union-member training centres and facilities

In 2013, $40 Million was invested in specialized apprenticeship, upgrade and safety training programs.

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