

GREY HIGHLANDS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Policy Type: **Human Resources**
Policy Title: **Health and Safety**

Policy Number: **#17-13**
Policy Approval Date: - **17-APR-2013**
Policy Review Date:

The Grey Highlands Public Library Board and CEO are committed to the establishment of a healthy and safe workplace and to the integration of health and safety practices in all areas of the workplace. The underlying principal of the policy is the responsibility of all personnel in maintaining a safe workplace which is best achieved through consultation and co-operation between management and employees.

Section 1: Legislative Requirements

1. The **Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHS)** requires those who have any degree of control over the workplace to ensure a safe and healthy work environment.
2. The requirements of the **OHS** apply to every worker who is being paid, regardless of the location where the work is performed. If workers work at home and are being paid or are driving and being paid en route, they are covered under the Act.
3. If a paid worker suffers a critical injury, the **OHS** requires that the employer must immediately notify the Ministry of Labour Health & Safety Contact Centre and the workplace Health and Safety representative. The employer and the employee health and safety representative (see Section 4) must prepare a report in writing, and forward within 48 hours to a director of the Ministry of Labour. See Appendix A.
4. The library complies with the **OHS** which sets out duties with respect to workplace safety, and materials and equipment in the workplace. Section 25(2) of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* requires employers to prepare and review at least annually a written occupational health and safety policy and develop and maintain a program to implement that policy.

Section 2: Rights of the Worker

1. A worker has the following rights:
 - a) to participate in the process of identifying and resolving workplace health and safety concerns
 - b) to know about potential hazards to which he or she may be exposed
 - c) to refuse work that he or she believes is hazardous to either his or her own health and safety or that of another worker
 - d) all other rights indicated in the **Occupational Health and Safety Act**

Section 3: Responsibilities

1. The Grey Highlands Public Library Board is responsible for complying with the OHS and Regulations and for funding a health and safety program for staff.
2. The board delegates authority to administer and direct health and safety to the CEO.

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3. The CEO is responsible for:
 - a) ensuring adherence to the principles of this policy
 - b) ensuring compliance with all applicable health and safety legislation
 - c) ensuring training and procedures for effective health and safety program management, including adequate allocation of funds and resources
 - d) investigating all accidents involving personal injury and reporting incidents to proper authorities when required
 - e) addressing employees safety concerns promptly
 - f) ensuring that health and safety infractions are addressed
 - g) advising and keeping the board updated as appropriate

4. Supervisors are responsible for :
 - a) making sure that work is done safely
 - b) ensuring employees are aware of hazards and how to protect themselves
 - c) maintaining an orderly and uncluttered work area
 - d) providing adequate training to employees in order to protect their health and safety
 - e) investigating refusals to work in the presence of the employee health and safety representative or, in the event that he/she is not available, a fellow employee.

5. Staff members are responsible for:
 - a) knowing procedures to follow in the case of accidents or sudden illnesses
 - b) reporting any known hazards to their supervisor
 - c) reporting any accidents or injuries to their supervisor
 - d) understanding the hazards associated with any materials used by the staff and all relevant safety information regarding their use
 - e) reporting any missing or defective equipment
 - f) maintaining an orderly and uncluttered work area
 - g) operating any equipment in a way that will not endanger any staff member
 - h) knowing the location of the first aid kit
 - i) knowing the locations and use of the fire extinguishers as well as the location of emergency exits
 - j) participating in fire drills and other emergency evacuation procedure

Section 4: Health and Safety Representative

1. The OHSA requires that a workplace with fewer than 20, but more than five employees, have a Health and Safety Representative. In accordance with [Section 8](#):
 - a) staff will appoint one health and safety representative from among the workers who does not exercise managerial functions and has powers as set out in Section 8(11) of the **OHSA**
 - b) the library will pay the representative while carrying out his or her duties

2. The Health and Safety Representative will:
 - a) identify workplace hazards [\[section 8\(10\)\]](#)
 - b) inspect the workplace at least once a month [\[section 8\(6\)\]](#)
 - c) be consulted about workplace testing [\[section 8\(11\)\]](#)
 - d) make recommendations to the CEO [\[section 8\(10\)\]](#);
 - e) investigate work refusals [\[section 43\(4\)\]](#) and serious accidents [\[section 8\(14\)\]](#)

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- f) maintain a health and safety bulletin board which will include but not be limited to:
 - i. the most recent version of the Minister of Labour's poster, "**What You Should Know About The Ontario Employment Standards Act**",
 - ii. a copy of the **Occupational Health and Safety Act**
 - iii. **HR-09 Health and Safety Policy**, and **HR-08 Prevention of Workplace Violence Policy**
 - iv. The Workplace Safety and Insurance Board's poster entitled "**In Case of Injury--1234**"
- g) be trained in basic first aid by an accredited agency
- h) maintain the first aid box which meets the requirements of the **Workplace Safety and Insurance Act Regulation 1101** See Appendix B

Section V: Volunteers

While the Occupational Health and Safety Act provides protection for workers, that is, persons at the workplace who receive money for their work, the Grey Highlands Public Library is committed to providing a safe work environment to persons visiting or volunteering in their workplaces.

Staff will:

- a) Ensure that volunteers receive appropriate health and safety instruction as part of the orientation.
- b) Make sure that volunteers are aware of and follow established safety practices at all times.
- c) Ensure young and new volunteers are closely supervised and get the training they need to perform their tasks safely.

Volunteers and visitors will:

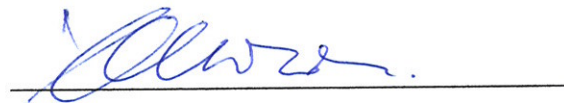
- a. Ask for training and a demonstration of new tasks assigned.
- b. Say no if the task is beyond his/her capabilities.
- c. Immediately report any unsafe conditions or practices observed to the supervisor
- d. Report all injuries to the supervisor, no matter how minor they may seem

Related Documents:

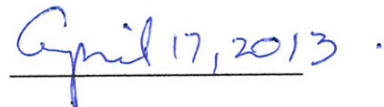
Grey Highlands Public Library. **Civility in the Workplace Response to Bill 168**

Grey Highlands Public Library, Working Alone Policy

Grey Highlands Public Library, Personnel Policy



Signature- Chairman



DATE