

WORKING SMART AND SAFE



EVERY YEAR, ONE-THIRD of Canadian workers between the ages of 15 and 24 are injured on the job. Please don't become one of them.

The Workers Compensation Board of Manitoba (WCB) hopes to reduce workplace injuries by 25 per cent over the next five years. One of the ways the organization plans to accomplish this goal is through promotion.

You've probably seen the SAFE Work public awareness campaign that includes television, radio, print and billboard ads. "SAFE Manitoba encourages people to think of safety at work and in all aspects of life," says WCB director of communications Warren Preece. "This approach to safety is applicable from the board room, to the shop floor, to the playground, to a farmer's field." SAFE Work is a joint venture between the WCB and the Workplace Safety and Health Division of Manitoba Labour.

Don't become a statistic. According to Kerilyn Zielinski, an assistant co-ordinator with the Workers of Tomorrow Safety Centre, there are many things you can do to be safe at work.

"Make sure you are given safety training when you begin your job," she advises. "Also be alert and learn to recognize hazards and report any dangerous situation to your supervisor."

Ensuring your safety also involves following safe work practices like wearing protective equipment. "Most importantly, don't be afraid to ask questions about anything you don't understand," concludes Zielinski.

For more information on workplace safety, go to:

www.safemanitoba.com
www.workersoftomorrow.com
www.wcb.mb.ca

PROFILE

OVERCOMING OBSTACLES

CRYSTAL PETERS, a Shaftesbury High School graduate who was also enrolled in Winnipeg Technical College's office skills and technology program, was the 2004 recipient of the Yes I Can! technology award from the Manitoba Council for Exceptional Children.

Peters not only received the provincial award, but also went to New Orleans to receive international honours.

Peters has cerebral palsy and has made significant gains by using technology to learn, including a head motion controlled infrared mouse. Using this amazing innovation, she can work with a computer.

"In addition to her computer abilities, everyone who met Crystal was amazed at her confidence, tenacity, and sense of humour," says Bev Ball, WTC's office skills and technology Instructor. "She was an excellent student and a joy to be around."

Peters is excited about receiving the awards and is looking ahead to her future. "Winning the Yes I Can Award has been great," says Peters. "Some of my attributes that I have seen grow are my independence, confidence, and responsibility. The head-mouse has really opened up the door of opportunity for me."



POWER PLAY

CRYSTAL PETERS

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